

Overview

1. The first 16 Community Budget areas are working to implement their plans to support over 10,000 families in new ways, in line with the Prime Minister's ambition. This paper provides an update and seeks the Group's agreement to finalise arrangements for continuing to support the 16 first phase areas – helping to tackle key issues and barriers identified during implementation.

Purpose

2. The Group is asked to:
- Agree the arrangements for continuing to support first phase areas;
 - Note progress and encourage regular informal contacts – to help the teams at both local and national levels ensure related pieces of work are joined up;
 - Identify any issues that need to be flagged up to Baroness Hanham's Group;

Consideration

3. The 16 first phase areas are leading the way on Community Budgets. The stocktake highlighted the importance of continued access to Whitehall, and the role of Whitehall Champions and strong political leadership. Areas have said that issues and barriers are likely to be identified during implementation.

Baroness Hanham's Group

4. The Group agreed at its first meeting on 5 April to focus on four work streams:
- i. Data sharing – led by Manchester;
 - ii. Innovative finance – led by Birmingham and Westminster;
 - iii. Simplified assessment – led by Essex, Bradford, Manchester and Barnet;
 - iv. Governance and leadership – led by Hull, Swindon and Leicestershire.

5. The second meeting is on 24 May. In line with the joint letter from Rob Whiteman and David Prout of 20 April (Annex A) the focus will be on the progress on each workstrand - with each lead setting out progress, problems faced and potential solutions identified. The work overlaps other work e.g. exemplar project work, in particular data sharing.

Exemplar Projects and Investment Fund

6. Annex B provides details on the exemplar projects and investment fund (advances of Early Intervention Grant). Discussions with areas to support the development of their project plans are underway. LG Group is arranging a workshop for areas to explore how to maximise opportunities with the investment fund – two of the 5 areas have expressed concerns about whether clawback can be achieved by 2014/15.

Data Sharing

6. The data-sharing workshop on the 14 April noted that there are a number of related pieces of work going on which need to be joined up with duplication avoided to make effective use of everyone's resources. The four areas taking forward their information sharing exemplar work (DfE lead is Nicola Doyle) are holding their first

meeting on 16 May – and will link to BH Group work lead by Manchester (Barron Frankel). The Group will be updated at the meeting.

DWP Workshop

7. CB places met with Chris Grayling (Minister of State for Employment) and DWP officials on 14 April. They made progress and agreed the following actions:

- To issue to Local Authorities information / guidance relating to ESF audit rules and requirements - **DWP**
- CB good practice to be shared with Local Authorities - **LGA**
- To arrange a meeting with JCP District Managers to discuss CB - **DWP**
- To arrange a future CB DWP workshop - **DWP**

Graham Allen Review

8. Graham Allen MP met early intervention places (8 are CB areas) on 9 May, connections were made to Community Budgets – Eric Pickles and Lord Bichard attended. The review team intends to provide these LAs with a draft report to comment by end of next week.

Supporting First Phase Community Budgets Areas

9. The Group has agreed that first phase areas should continue to be supported but the details have not been finalised. LG Group has committed to provide a paper to the Group on the support they will be making available to CB areas. DfE, in discussion with LG Group are developing a 'prospectus' setting out the specialist and evaluation support for areas developing provision for families with multiple problems they will making available via their voluntary sector and research funding. DfE is also in discussion with the Group and the Association of Directors of Children's Services on funding a local authority in each region to establish a 'Dissemination Hub' to support the dissemination of effective local practice on working with families with multiple problems and earlier intervention.

10. The Group is asked to endorse continued engagement by Whitehall Champions and Whitehall Lead Officials (the latest list along with leading contacts in the 16 Areas is supplied as background information) with all lead officials and champions tasked to continue regular keep in touch conversations / catch ups until April 2012. In addition to assisting on any new issues identified etc, they should seek to understand progress made and outcomes achieved – enabling the Group to be provided with regular updates - co-ordinated by DCLG. The achievements by the 16 areas should be a critical element of the narrative to assist national implementation of CB for FMP (see paper 4).

ANNEX A: Joint Letter from Rob Whiteman and David Prout

Dear members of the Community Budgets Political Leadership Group

COMMUNITY BUDGETS POLITICAL LEADERSHIP GROUP

Thank you for coming to the first meeting of this group chaired by Baroness Hanham on 5 April. The minutes of the meeting are attached.

We thought it was a positive and constructive meeting enabling us to identify and agree the issues that need to be tackled to enable all areas to deliver ambitious Community Budgets. As Baroness Hanham set out at the meeting, this group has been pulled together to provide political leadership to remove barriers that are getting in the way of Community Budgets. Baroness Hanham is keen, therefore, that the group should make rapid progress with a view to making recommendations before the summer.

We agreed to take forward four strands of work:

Workstrand

1. Data sharing
2. Innovative finance (including virtual and actual pooling, payment by results and social impact bonds)
3. Governance and leadership (including health reforms and Police and Crime Commissioners)
4. Simplified assessment

Lead Areas

Manchester
Birmingham and West London group
Hull, Swindon and Leicestershire
Essex, Bradford, Manchester and Barnet

In order to make rapid progress, we propose that areas:

- Quickly pull together a short note setting out the scope and likely timeframe for their workstrand and circulate it by the end of April to the group to ensure all the key points are being covered;
- Develop short papers for the next meeting of the group (likely to be held towards the end of May) which clearly set out the problems and potential solutions.

We suggest that the scoping notes could usefully set out:

- Scope – what is in and being considered and what is out and not within scope;
- other relevant activity the workstrand will take into account e.g. workshops on virtual pooling (run by DWP on 13 April), data sharing (14 April) and health reforms workshop (to be arranged);
- Who the lead authority is and a lead contact as well as confirmation of the other authorities involved;
- A very high-level timetable and project plan to give an indication of when this group may be able to discuss the issue.

We appreciate that this is an ambitious timetable but, if areas are able to do this, we will be able to use the next meeting of the group to consider a range of solutions for different workstrands and the evidence that underpins them.

As Baroness Hanham said at the meeting, Ministers across Whitehall are keen to work with you to co-design solutions to the four priority issues that have been agreed. It would be helpful to know if you need input from specific departments and from the Local Government Group to help you, so that we can broker this.

Our experience of busting barriers on Big Society Vanguards and Multi-Area Agreements shows that the more specific and sharper the problems and solutions are defined/specified the easier it is to have a conversation about them and negotiate a solution across Whitehall. Subject to what you say in your scoping notes about timescales, we suggest that for the meeting at the end of May there is a short paper for each workstrand that sets out:

- The specific problems that have been identified;
- Evidence of the impact of the problems;
- Potential solutions to the problem and what would need to happen to implement them;
- An indication of the evidence and rationale for why the solutions will make a difference; and,
- What will happen (or not happen) if no solution can be found or agreed.

We hope that this is a helpful way forward but are keen to hear your views about next steps for the group. If you have any thoughts on this then please do get in touch with Ashley Pottier (ashley.pottier@communities.gsi.gov.uk). Scoping notes should also be sent to Ashley for subsequent circulation to the wider group. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if we can help in any way.

Annex B - DfE-funded Exemplar projects

Discussions with areas below to support the development of their projects plans are underway

TITLE	CB Area	DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES
(a) Working Families Everywhere proposals - £730k per annum in 2011-12 and 2012-13.		
Working Families Everywhere	West London Group (Westminster) (£250k)	Three employment focused projects in conjunction with Working Families Everywhere
Working Families Everywhere	Hull (£220k)	
Working Families Everywhere	Blackpool (£220k)	
(b) Information Sharing proposals (we wish to discuss further with areas and develop a combined project) – up to £400k per annum for four areas in 2011-12 and 2012-13		
Data Sharing	Greater Manchester	DfE is to fund a combined project of this nature, potentially with Birmingham, Bradford, Manchester and Leicestershire
Outcome and performance monitoring data capture system	Birmingham	
Intelligence Hub	Leics	
Multi-agency service delivery Toolkit	Bradford	
(C) All other bids received, in priority order - £2.01m per annum in 2011-12 and 2012-13.		
Improving family support service for adolescents with complex problems	Islington (150k)	Combines two approaches - will offer a hybrid therapy and practical support model
Families ties for offenders	West London Group (Hammersmith & Fulham) (150k)	Team of Family Link Workers working across 4 local authorities to support reintegration of offenders into their families, linking to prisons.
Community solutions	Essex(150k)	Early intervention model focussing on substance abusing parents, including pregnant women.
Offender parents	Leics(150k)	Parenting programme focussing on father’s role in the family, linked to prisons.

Community Budgets Group (Meeting 17 May 2011)
Paper 3: Update on First Phase Community Budgets

Integrating intensive social work into Team around the Family (TaF) approach	<i>Swindon(150k)</i>	Expand scale and scope of family intervention programme.
Primary age high risk children	<i>Leics(150k)</i>	Have already established this model around Children's Centres .
Using Family Brokers and Family Based Budgets to tackle inter-generational worklessness	<i>Lewisham(150k)</i>	Will trial three approaches – pooled, discretionary and virtual budgets. and will draw in resources from other budgets
Reviewing cases in the looked after system to improve outcomes for children and families	<i>Hull(150k)</i>	Reviewing the situations of children currently being looked after.
Enhanced family resilience	<i>Croydon(150K)</i>	The aim is to reduce family violence, improve resilience, and prevent children entering care and criminal justice systems.
Breaking eviction and homelessness cycle	<i>Lincs(150K)</i>	Creating a Family Intervention Tenancy – aim is to undertake an intervention underpinned by the incentive of a secure tenancy with private and social housing landlords.
Teenage parent supported housing	<i>Blackburn and Darwen(150K)</i>	Continuation and expansion of a current pilot that finishes in March 2011.
Identification and early intervention	<i>Greater Manchester (150k)</i> <i>[Stockport]</i>	Police-led with Integrated Offender Management Services
Early years partnership model	<i>Greater Manchester (£150k)</i> <i>[Oldham]</i>	Developing Team Around the Family approach focused on children's centres to improve early intervention
Teenage gangs family approach	<i>Lewisham (60k)</i>	Family intervention with teenage gang members

Investment Fund in 2011-12.

DfE has agreed to advance future year grant payments to areas seeking to redesign services to deliver downstream savings. Areas were asked to identify when reductions in grant payments would occur, how investment to redesign had the potential to create savings and how the whole proposals would underpin the area's wider Community Budget approach. LGID is convening a workshop with areas in w/c 23 May to explore how to maximise opportunities with the Investment Fund.

PLACE	OBJECTIVE	AMOUNT SOUGHT	UPDATE
Croydon	To set up an analysis and information centre to track progress and monitor cost savings.		Croydon has expressed concern whether claw back can be achieved by 2014/15
Hull	To deliver training and development linked to redesign of services using locality teams for interventions.	£330k	Ending duplication of services among partners. Savings based on MoJ estimates using single assessment process. Reduce EIG by £110k p.a., 2012-15.
Kent	In development: using bottom up approach mapping customer journey to identify savings points for system redesign.	Upto £1m	TBC
Manchester	In development	£3m	TBC
Bradford	In development		Bradford has expressed concern whether claw back can be achieved by 2014/15