

Families First

Families & Community
Regeneration
Newsletter

Issue 1
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BRADFORD
working in partnership

Welcome!

This is the first newsletter about Bradford District's Community Budget programme. Our aim is to provide a simple guide to what the Community Budget prototype is about, and to let you have regular updates on what is happening during the 2-year programme, which began in April 2011.

We welcome your views on this newsletter. The project team are happy to hear from you if you have any questions. Their contact details are given overleaf.

Mary Weastell

Strategic Director, Business Support Services
City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council

Julie Jenkins

Assistant Director, Children's Specialist Services
City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council

INTRODUCING....

Families First – Bradford's Community Budget approach

Bradford is taking an innovative and multi-agency approach to working with families with complex needs. Our ambition is to work with high risk individuals, their families and their neighbourhoods and communities, to change behaviours and improve their ability to act as agents in their own and their families' lives. We will also aim to work with less high risk families to deflect them away from further family problems, and *before* they experience family breakdown.

Bradford's Community Budget (CB) will build on existing good practice, such as the work of the Bradford Family Intervention Project, the Start2Finish Project and Worklessness Co-Design Project, and will improve the support and services that partners provide. This will be done by: removing inefficiencies, adding value to these services and driving cost out of the system whilst matching these services to what will create better outcomes to families with complex needs, and the communities and neighbourhoods around them.

What are we aiming to achieve through our CB?

Our Family First CB prototype will contribute to:

- Sustaining children in education and parents into employment
- Reducing the risk of eviction and homelessness and supporting people to sustain their tenancies
- Reducing anti-social behaviour (parents & children)
- Improvement in parenting skills
- Better financial management of debts and access to benefits
- Reducing the number of families who live in poverty
- Addressing alcohol, drug and mental health problems
- Reducing levels of crime and re-offending
- Reducing levels of repeat victimisation

Who is involved?

Local partners involved in the CB programme include the council, NHS, Jobcentre Plus, the police, probation, housing associations and the university, as well as very many voluntary and community groups.

Read more about the background to CBs →

BACKGROUND

In its **Comprehensive Spending Review** in October 2010, the government announced the launch of the Community Budgets programme, involving 16 local areas in developing place-based approaches to helping families with multiple or complex needs. This is part of a national campaign to turn around the lives of families with multiple problems, improving outcomes & reducing costs to welfare & public services.

Bradford District was selected as one of the **First Phase community budget places** to develop and deliver a community budget prototype by March 2013.

The **Bradford District Partnership** (BDP) was invited to submit a proposal outlining how we, as local partners, would like to take forward community based budgeting for families with complex needs in the district. Our baseline submission was prepared and submitted by the BDP to central government in April 2011, in line with the national timetable, and following consultation with a range of local partners.

This newsletter aims to give people working in local organisations, or with families, information about what is happening, who is involved, and what we are aiming to achieve during the two-year programme.

What has happened so far on the programme?

We have two years to develop and test out our CB prototype in full. Since April 2011 we have established our programme governance arrangements (see below), and started a three-month “discovery and design” stage. This included initial workshops during June with a wide group of practitioners and managers working with families, to explore the current position. This is being followed up in July by gaining customer insight by listening to families about what they think should change, and will round off in August with a “Forging our Future” workshop, to design our new ways of working. This will lead into a service redesign, reflecting a “whole systems” approach.

How is the programme being managed?

Bradford’s CB programme is being overseen by a multi agency, strategic Programme Board, supported by a Reference Group. This group’s role is to bring together leads from different agencies to ensure the operational delivery of the programme; the programme board has overall accountability and provides the senior level involvement from the key partner organisations. These governance arrangements sit within the broader Bradford District Partnership.

Q&A: Demystification! What do we mean by “Community Budgets”?

The term is slightly misleading as there is no new budget or additional funding involved. It comes from the notion of “place-based budgeting” – the idea of existing funding streams being aligned or pooled by different organisations within a defined geographical area or locality, to address particular issues or deliver particular services. It is based on the understanding gained through the national **Total Place** pilot, in which Bradford also took part, that there are many opportunities for not only streamlining processes and reducing waste and duplication, but also to achieve better results, by breaking down organisational barriers, and focusing on the shared goals.

Sometimes referred to as “Community Based Budgets” (or CBBs) it is also part of government’s local freedoms, flexibilities and self-regulation agenda, to give areas more direct control over local spending.

Further information and contacts

Further information is available on the BDP website: www.bradford.gov.uk/bmdc/BDP/community_budgets

You can also contact the CB Project Team in the Council’s Strategic Support Team by emailing carri.jovanovic@bradford.gov.uk or calling 01274 432408