

DRAFT SAVINGS PROPOSAL

London Borough of Tower Hamlets
Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021-24

Proposal Title:	Children's Social Care - Changes to Edge of Care Service		
Reference:	SAV / CHI 008 / 21-22	Savings Type:	Service transformation
Directorate:	Children & Culture	Savings Service Area:	Children Social Care
Directorate Service:	Children's Social Care	Strategic Priority Outcome:	2. Children and young people are protected so they can realise their potential
Lead Officer and Post:	Richard Baldwin; Divisional Director, Children's Social Care	Lead Member and Portfolio:	Cllr Danny Hassell, Cabinet Member for Children and Schools

Financial Impact:	Current Budget 2020-21	Savings/Income 2021-22	Savings/Income 2022-23	Savings/Income 2023-24	Total Savings/Income
Budget (£000)	N/A	100	100	80	280

Staffing Impact (if applicable):	Current 2020-21	FTE Reductions 2021-22	FTE Reductions 2022-23	FTE Reductions 2023-24	Total FTE Reductions
Employees (FTE) or state N/A	N/A	-	-	-	TBC

Proposal Summary:

Currently our Edge of Care Service is delivered through two different service models, outlined below.

The Positive Family Programme (PFP) is funded through a 'Payments By Results' arrangement via a consortium that is run by the London Borough of Merton. The current commissioning arrangement does not expire until the 23/24 financial year, but we propose to use this time to develop a model that allows LBTH to bring this element of the team "in-house". The current projections for the usage of this service and potential reduction in the numbers of referrals should enable us to realise 100k saving in 21/22 and then a further £100k in 22/23. The third year of savings proposed in this bid will come through staff and delivery efficiencies associated by the switch to delivering this ourselves, although that is subject to further strategic review and planning.

The in-house Edge of Care Team focuses on preventing young people who are at risk of entering care by working directly with them and their parents to assist them to remain at home. In addition the team also work with some young people who have recently come into care to assist them to return home again within the first six weeks of being in foster care. Research shows that if young people remain in care for longer than 6 weeks the chances of them quickly returning home again diminish significantly.

Currently we use the commissioned element of the service to work with the more complex young people. We will use the period until the end of the current contract to initiate conversations with partners to look at how we can establish our own "in-house" team to work with these more complex cases, and the savings amounts here are subject to these conversations.

Risk and Mitigations:

Any changes to the Edge of Care service need to be managed carefully in order to continue to secure good outcomes for young people.

However, by using the time remaining until the end of the current arrangements we should be able to assemble a suitably resourced and effective team to take over from the current arrangements.

Resources and Implementation:

There should be minimal resource implications to assist in developing this new part of the service.

SAVINGS PROPOSAL – BUDGET EQUALITY ANALYSIS SCREENING TOOL

Trigger Questions	Yes / No	If Yes – please provide a brief summary of how this impacts on each protected characteristic as identified in the Equalities Act 2010. This will need to be expanded in a full Equality Analysis at full Business Case stage.
Does the change reduce resources available to address inequality?	No	
Does the change reduce resources available to support vulnerable residents?	No	
Does the change involve direct impact on front line services?	No	
Changes to a Service		
Does the change alter who is eligible for the service?	No	
Does the change alter access to the service?	No	
Changes to Staffing		
Does the change involve a reduction in staff?	Not at this stage.	
Does the change involve a redesign of the roles of staff?	Not at this stage.	

Summary:	
To be completed at the end of completing the Screening Tool.	
Based on the Screening Tool, will a full EA will be required?	No

Additional Information and Comments: