

Gate 1 Business Case

Date: 20th April 2010

Project Title: Children's Social Care Demands

Directorate: CEF

Project Manager:
Barbara Foster

Business Owner:
Barbara Foster

Budget Holder:
Barbara Foster

Resource Requirements

Revenue funding in **existing** budget £
Revenue funding required – **new** **£450,000**

Phasing of expenditure 2010/11 **£450,000**
Full Year

Other resources required
(please specify)

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Baseline/Context

The Safeguarding Peer Review, as anticipated, has recommended that we urgently address the need for an up-to-date QA system, including specific child protection advisors and independent reviewing officers who will fulfil our statutory duties which have been enhanced with new regulations for children to be visited more frequently and meetings to take place more frequently.

The second urgent need is for Thurrock to enhance provision of services to prevent teenagers entering the care system which is a more expensive option with potentially poorer life chances as a result.

Growth Justification and Evidence (including benefits of growth and implications of not going ahead)

The local public sector reductions are likely to lead to increased demand for services; as preventative services are reduced demand on social care will increase. There are some critical weaknesses in the service which lead to a higher than acceptable level of risk to the council.

Risks

Despite financial pressures, the council must strengthen some critical core child protection and children in care functions to ensure it has an effective and modern structure in Children's Social Care.

Stakeholder Engagement

Thurrock Children's Trust will be fully engaged in the consultation process and will follow HR procedures for our own staff in addition to consultation with children and families