

Task and Finish Specification

Accountable Organisation	Tamworth Borough Council and Families First Targeted Services
Descriptive Title	To improve the capacity and skills of parents, to support educational attainment for their children.
Statement of purpose	<p>A project is needed to address the following issues:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Raise awareness for parents of the importance in engaging with their children in home learning and how this leads to greater attainment for their child's learning and understanding of their role in their child's development. 2) Provide parents with level 1 accredited certification to develop their confidence in engaging with their children's learning. 3) Provide parents with knowledge of local support agencies and professionals to whom they can call upon for support and guidance. <p>The target audience will be parents who live within LST 9 (Belgrave), aged 18 – 25 and those who may have been identified as having learning difficulties and/or disabilities.</p> <p>This project will dovetail with Tamworth's strategic priority 8 – To increase aspiration and educational attainment.</p> <p>This project will also further develop integration of services such as SYPS Positive Activities, Barnardos, Children's Centres, Voluntary Sector, Tamworth Borough Council, South Staffs College, Primary Schools, Tamworth Locality Team at practitioner's level thus developing their knowledge and skills in working with this potentially vulnerable group of young parents.</p>
Background	<p>Tamworth Strategic Partnership has identified as one of its key priorities raising aspirations and attainment across the borough and therefore needs to address the capability and skills of parents. Most parents understand their responsibility for their children's development and educational attainment; however some parents may need reminding about how important supported learning is to raise the level of their child's early development. One particular group of parents who may require more supported interventions are parents with learning difficulties. There is anecdotal evidence that in Tamworth there are a higher percentage of adults with LDD compared to other districts with in the county.</p> <p>This is therefore the rationale in Tamworth to begin to address this issue to provide interventions and activities to support parents and carers to develop level 1 skills to support their confidence to support their children's learning experience</p>
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a baseline of early home learning carried out by parents. • Undertake an assessment of need identifying individual support needs for parents. • Develop a bespoke package of activities and interventions to support parents to engage in the programme. • Develop multi agency professional input on the programme to develop shared learning and cross cutting outcomes for each service. • Undertake an assessment of learning and personal development of parents and review their development at the end of the programme.

Accountable Organisation	Tamworth Borough Council and Families First Targeted Services
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dependant upon the success of the pilot, to consider widening the project to all identified parents in Tamworth.
Business Case	<p>The important role played by parents in taking an interest in their child's early learning, providing early learning materials and activities at home and spending time on helping their child to learn about letters and numbers is recognised in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).</p> <p>Research (Desforges and Abouchar, 2003; Feinstein et al, 2004) shows that supporting parents to improve the learning that goes on at home will have a major impact on child outcomes, including school readiness and attainment and achievement up to the age of at least 16. This study suggests that more effective help for parents of pre-school children can be achieved with a minimal input of resources from statutory and voluntary organisations, therefore a cost effective approach.</p> <p>There is qualitative and anecdotal data that suggested that children who come from homes where parents are not in employment for reasons of economic deprivation, or individual circumstances such as learning difficulties or long term illness actually do less early home learning. <i>(Department of Education)</i></p> <p>To support the business case for this project, it is not expected to secure additional funding, but to utilise existing resources within the borough by way of linking into core service delivery of organisations.</p> <p>The business case will be revisited and re-approved throughout the project before committing the project to be widened out across the borough.</p>
Implications for other work streams	The implications for organisations will be time resource to attend planning meetings and to deliver activities and interventions out of their existing core budgets, there will be no additional funding for payroll expenses etc.
Measures of Success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a baseline of early home learning carried out by parents at the beginning of the programme. • Review the baseline at the end of the programme to determine increase of home learning carried out by parents. • To carry out follow-up survey after three months to analyse changes in home learning both for the parent and the engagement of children and young people in increasing their learning levels e.g. increased reading levels.
Sponsor/ Champion on TSP Mandate	Tim Leese, District Commissioner TSP Board
Accountable Officer	Guy Jones, District Team Manager, Targeted Services, Tamworth