

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>EXECUTIVE CABINET</b>
<b>Date:</b>	27 July 2022
<b>Executive Member:</b>	Cllr Bill Fairfoull – Deputy Executive Leader Cllr Jacqueline North - First Deputy (Finance, Resources & Transformation)
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Paula Sumner – Assistant Director (Early Help and Partnerships)
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>REDUCED PARENTAL CONFLICT GRANT</b>
<b>Report Summary:</b>	The report sets out proposals to agree the spending for the continued RPC Grant which has been allocated to the Local Authority from the Department for Works and Pensions (DWP) to fund local authority in developing staff skills and capability to identify parents experiencing relationship difficulties, deliver interventions and provide support to reduce parental conflict. This is a continuation of the funding allocation received 2021.
<b>Recommendations:</b>	It is recommended that: (i) The extended Reducing Parental Conflict grant is accepted and approved (ii) Approval for spend of the allocated grant over the two years as follows:- (a) £48,974 to be spent on the recruitment of an RPC coordinator for 25 hours per week on a Grade F (b) £12,866 to be spent on training and evaluation
<b>Corporate Plan:</b>	Helps meet various strands of the Corporate Plan
<b>Policy Implications:</b>	There are no policy implications
<b>Financial Implications: (Authorised by the statutory Section 151 Officer &amp; Chief Finance Officer)</b>	The grant of £62,840 is a 2 year allocation to fund a coordinator role, training and evaluation of the reducing parental conflict work stream. The grant approved by DWP will cover the expected costs of the programme. If the grant is not accepted the council does not have budget set aside to continue with this program.
<b>Legal Implications: (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)</b>	As set out in the main body of the report, the Council is proposing to accept as grant to continue to deliver the parental conflict work stream.  The project officers need to ensure that the funding is managed in accordance with the terms of the grant agreement. In particular officers need to be aware of the clawback provisions in section 22 of the report.  Project officers should also ensure that advice is sought from human resources in relation to the appointment to the temporary post.  In addition if the spending of the funds involves the commissioning of any good and services then advice should be sought from the STaR procurement service.
<b>Risk Management:</b>	None other than those set out in the report.
<b>Background Information:</b>	The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting Lorraine Hopkins, Head of Early Help, Early Years &

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

### Reducing Parental Conflict Grant

- 1.1 In March 2022, the government announced that the Reducing Parental Conflict (RPC) programme, which has enabled the Local Authority to develop staff skills and capability to identify parents experiencing relationship difficulties will continue for a further two years
- 1.2 Initially, Tameside was allocated **£22,000** to deliver the requirements of the RPC programme 2021
- 1.3 The programme was successfully delivered in 2021. A full training offer was co-produced specifically designed for Tameside in relation to supporting practitioners to identify risk factors at an earlier time and enable the delivery of interventions with families around conflict and managing risks, to support reduction of escalation to statutory services.
- 1.4 The training offer and resources were rolled out to Local Authority staff and partners, such as schools, health, voluntary sector organisations and Active Tameside.
- 1.5 In March 2022 the DWP announced Local Authorities could apply for continued funding for 2022 and 2023.
- 1.6 Tameside were informed June 2022 that further funding was to be allocated to the TMBC for 2022 and 2023.
- 1.7 Tameside were awarded a total of **£62,840** for the two years. The grant is made up as follows:

Grant allocation            Year 1 £32,840.00

Total                            Year 1 £32,840.00

Grant allocation            Year 2 £30,000.00\*

Total                            Year 2 £30,000.00\*

\*Year 2 amounts are indicative and will be confirmed before the Year 2 funding period.

## 2. CONDITION OF GRANT APPENDIX 1

- 2.1 The Grant will be paid in arrears in accordance with the below table.

Payment	Amount (%)	Payment Date	Notes
Year 1 First	Up to 100% of Year 1 allocation	November/ December 2022	Payment issued on actual spend following validated MI return (with reference to your progress against the planned training detailed in your bid).
Year 1 Second	Up to 100% of Year 1 remaining allocation	February/ March 2023	Payment issued on actual spend following validated MI return (with reference to your progress against the planned training detailed in your bid).
Year 1 Third (Final)	Up to 100% of Year 1 remaining allocation	May/ June 2023	Payment issued on actual spend following validated MI return (with reference to your progress against the planned training detailed in your bid).

Year 2 First	Up to 100% of Year 2 allocation	August/ September 2023	Payment issued on actual spend following validated MI return (with reference to your progress against the planned training detailed in your bid).
Year 2 Second	Up to 100% of Year 2 remaining allocation	November/December 2023	Payment issued on actual spend following validated MI return (with reference to your progress against the planned training detailed in your bid).
Year 2 Third	Up to 100% of Year 2 remaining allocation	February/ March 2024	Payment issued on actual spend following validated MI return (with reference to your progress against the planned training detailed in your bid).
Year 2 Fourth (Final)	Up to 100% of Year 2 remaining allocation	May/June 2024	Payment issued on actual spend following validated MI return (with reference to your progress against the planned training detailed in your bid).

- 2.2 Any underspend on previous RPC grants, TMBC may offset this against these payments.
- 2.3 Grant Recipient shall use the Grant solely for the delivery of the Funded Activities.
- 2.4 The Grant Recipient may not make any changes to the Funded Activities. If circumstances necessitate a change, prior approval must be sought by initially contacting [LA-PED.LAGRANTSPROJECTTEAM@DWP.GOV.UK](mailto:LA-PED.LAGRANTSPROJECTTEAM@DWP.GOV.UK)

### 3. TAMESIDE OFFER

#### What we have achieved so far:

- 3.1 290 practitioners, across the children's workforce, including Children's' services, health, voluntary sector, Active Tameside and school staff, have been trained to recognise indicators of conflict and deliver interventions with families where parental conflict is a presenting factor.
- 3.2 Four training programmes have been established and delivered:-
1. Understanding parental conflict,
  2. Recognising parental conflict,
  3. Supporting families,
  4. RPC for managers to support staff.
- 3.3 In partnership with Greater Manchester, Tameside have created an RPC Handbook to support staff within their work.
- 3.4 There is now access to an online offer, 'Me You Baby Too', that families can access in their own time and practitioners for resources and toolkits to support families.

#### **Reducing parental conflict aims for next 24 months, aligned with the grant guidance (appendix 2)**

- 3.5 To employ a coordinator on a 2 year fixed term contact (25 hour post) to roll out the RPC training to all teams and services across Tameside.  
Year one - £24,487  
Year two - £24,487  
*\*based on mid scale pt 20*
- 3.6 This will be a new recruitment as the previous post holder finished contract March 2022.

- 3.7 To continue to build a network of RPC champions. This will be part of the role of the RPC coordinator, so no additional costs.
- 3.8 There is no cost for RPC champions, these will be from existing staff within teams, taking on a champion role.
- 3.9 This will enable an embedded and sustainable offer within Tameside across the partnership when funding ceases.

#### **4. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 As set out on the front of this report