

London Borough of Bexley

News Release

For Immediate Release

17 January 2018 / PR 9618

Bexley plays key role in developing innovative partnership for young people and families

Keeping vulnerable families together and preventing young people from being taken into care is the focus of a new innovative Positive Families Partnership that Bexley has helped to develop.

This ground-breaking initiative, the first programme of its type in London, has been jointly commissioned by the five London Borough Councils of Bexley, Merton, Newham, Sutton and Tower Hamlets, with support from the Big Lottery Fund using National Lottery funding.

Over the next three years, Positive Families Partnership will work with more than 350 young people involved in serious anti-social behaviour and/or substance misuse, who have been identified as being at risk of going into care. These vulnerable young people and their families will be offered access to intensive, holistic, therapeutic programmes designed to help address the young person's behavioural issues and improve how the family functions. This has been made possible thanks to a unique collaboration between the social sector, local government and social investors.

Positive Families Partnership will work with three specialist delivery partners, who collectively bring over 25 years' experience of implementing evidence-based programmes across the UK: Family Psychology Mutual, Family Action UK, and the South West London & St George's Mental Health NHS Trust. They will also benefit from management support from Social Finance UK and Bridges Fund Management, with the latter also providing over £4.5m of funding to cover the up-front costs of the programme.

Bexley's Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Cllr Philip Read said: "We welcome this scheme which we believe will have a real impact on some of the Bexley young people and families who are most in need of help and support.. Through detailed partnership work with five other boroughs a programme has been developed that can make a real tangible difference. Bexley is once more in the forefront of new thinking and I am proud to be taking this forward. "

ENDS

Notes to editors -

The programme will be managed by the London Borough of Sutton, and operate initially in the five London Boroughs. If successful, the partners hope to scale up their innovative work by rolling it out to other boroughs.

The programme has been structured as an outcomes contract, which means Positive Families Partnership will be paid only if it succeeds in keeping the young person with their family and out of care.

About Big Lottery Fund

Big Lottery Fund uses money raised by National Lottery players to help communities achieve their ambitions. From small, local projects to UK-wide initiatives, its funding brings people together to make a difference to their health, wellbeing and environment. Since June 2004 it has awarded £8.5 billion to projects that improve the lives of millions of people.

Please contact: Jane Parson on 020 3045 4868
communications@bexley.gov.uk

Attachments

- Bexley play key role in developing innovative par [Bexley play key role in developing innovative par](#)

