Purpose of this briefing: This briefing is intended to provide bidders to the DWP ESF Support for Families with Multiple Problems programme with relevant background information on the South Gloucestershire Authority area.

DWP have asked local authorities to provide bidders with an overview of the authority and current work involved in supporting these families. Furthermore, we have been asked to share with bidders our thoughts on where there are gaps in provision and how we might engage with the provider. This briefing is a short introduction with links to further reading and/or contact information.

Bidders are invited to book individual sessions with representatives of South Gloucestershire Council at a briefing session organised for the West of England authorities at The Park Centre, Daventry Road, Bristol. BS4 1DQ on the 4th and 5th of August. For further details please contact Mike Wheeler (mike.wheeler@bristol.gov.uk), tel. 0117 9039782.

About South Gloucestershire

Area
With a total land area of 497 sq km, (53,510 hectares) South Gloucestershire is the largest Unitary Authority of the ten in the South West stretching from the Severn Estuary in the west to the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in the east. Its southern boundary borders Bristol, abuts the River Avon and extends almost to Bath. Both the first and second crossing of the River Severn lie within South Gloucestershire and the area is well served by both motorway and rail links. The district has a rich natural and cultural heritage and is an area of diversity and contrast with a variety of communities, characterised by the special relationship between town and country. Attractive and historic landscapes link unspoilt market towns, villages and established rural and urban communities with major new residential areas, industrial and commercial developments.

Population
The population of South Gloucestershire is 264,800 (ONS 2010 mid year estimate). This accounts for 5% of the total population of the South West. Much of the population is concentrated in the expanding northern and eastern urban fringe areas of Bristol. Yate / Chipping Sodbury and Thornbury are the largest freestanding settlements with populations of 35,000 and 14,000 respectively. There are approximately 109,384 households in South Gloucestershire. ONS data for 2009 shows that 12.8% of households are workless (http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_labour/worklesshouseholdarea.xls). The population structure is very similar to the national average, with 20% aged under 16 years, 65% aged 16-65 years and 15% in the 65 years and over age group. The proportion who are in employment is however higher than the national average (83% compared to 74%), reflecting the strong economy of the area.

Economy
South Gloucestershire has been one of the fastest growing areas in the country with a population increase of 8.5%, around 162ha of employment land developed, 38,000 jobs created and 12,000 homes built in the last decade. The area has well established manufacturing industries such as aerospace and newer commercial development. Many high technology companies are now based in South Gloucestershire and a high profile Science Park is in development with Public and Private Sector investment and the Universities of Bristol, Bath and the West of England. Substantial growth has also taken place in recent years in the East Fringe of Bristol at Longwell Green and Emersons Green and beyond the Green Belt at Yate/Chipping Sodbury. South Gloucestershire’s employment rate is currently 79.1% of the working age population – one of the highest employment rates in the country. The latest
The unemployment rate for South Gloucestershire is 4.9% of the economically active 16+ population compared with the South West at 5.9% and the UK at 7.6%.

Gross Value Added (GVA) measures the wealth created by business that contributes to the economy of the United Kingdom. GVA is calculated locally for a region that consists of South Gloucestershire, Bath and North East Somerset and North Somerset. For 2008, the GVA per head was £21,640, higher than the South West (£18,682) and England (£21,049). (Source: Regional Accounts, ONS Local Profiles)


The South Gloucestershire Sustainable Community Strategy is available here: http://www.southglos.gov.uk/_Resources/Publications/CEX/08/0200/CEX-08-0021

The South Gloucestershire Local Economic Assessment is available here: http://www.southglos.gov.uk/businesmatters

**Priority Neighbourhoods**

South Gloucestershire Council and its partners identified five Priority Neighbourhoods (Cadbury Heath, Filton, Kingswood, Patchway and Staple Hill) in October 2006 as areas which needed additional support in order to improve the quality of life for local residents and make the areas safer and stronger. In July 2009 the council also agreed that west Yate and Dodington should also become a Priority Neighbourhood. These areas have been selected based on coming within the bottom 20% of the national Indices of Deprivation for England including cumulative multiple deprivation and individual criteria on income, education, skills & training, employment, health & disability, crime, living environment, barriers to housing & services, income & children and income & older people. Profiles for each of these Priority Neighbourhoods can be found here: http://www.southglos.gov.uk/NR/exeres/d0bd86b9-d243-4ff4-ada4-11feb32b6bd0

Each of these Priority Neighbourhoods has a community lead group who is responsible for developing a local delivery plan that contains the issues and actions for each area.

FYI: prioritynieghbourhoods@southglos.gov.uk

**Families with multiple problems**

DWP have estimated that there are potentially between 270 and 320 families with multiple problems in South Gloucestershire. This data is indicative and is based on the overall index of multiple deprivations and children’s well being index. South Gloucestershire Council has no specific data with which to compare this estimate.

Information exists, primarily in relation to children’s services and housing, which bidders may find useful in evaluating need in the area:

Child Poverty figures are available on page 60 of the Children and Young Peoples 2010 Needs assessment: http://www.southglos.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/4A7F1B9D-E814-4E50-AD41-A3CC1B3DC1DB/0/out.html. These are the latest figures from 31st August 2008. Source data is the HMRC small area statistics: http://www hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/child_poverty.htm

Children in workless households data is available from the Department for Education as at 31st May: http://www.education.gov.uk/b0066347/child-poverty-data. The first link for “2010” contains the latest available data set.
Child Poverty slides and comprehensive data sets are available for all local authorities from the child poverty toolkit: http://www.childpovertytoolkit.org.uk/Data-Tools

For information on level 3 qualifications age 19+ see table B2 here: http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000995/sfr04-2011tb1tb5.xls


Maps of the two locality areas for Children & Young People’s Services are attached as appendix 1

Deprivation links with health in particular – see chapter on ‘Be Healthy’: http://www.southglos.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/4A7F1B9D-E814-4E50-AD41-A3CC1B3DC1DB/0/out.html


The Common Assessment Framework (CAF) is a common approach to assessing needs of children and young people where there are concerns, developing coherent multiagency action plans and the development of an appropriate multiagency ‘Team Around the Child’ (TAC). All practitioners (including health/education/social care/voluntary sector) working with children and young people are expected to use CAFs. 216 new CAFs were undertaken in the period April 2010 – March 2011 and this figure is rising. Among these figures are an increasing number of Family CAF episodes which highlight families with multiple needs.

We are beginning to gather data on known risk factors within the families subject to CAF, which currently include that 9% have concerns around low income, 8% about parental separation and 12% about single parents. At present we have no data on unemployment specifically as part of these concerns, but anecdotally it is known that this is a factor for some families, and may contribute to the above figures. Data collection in the future will include unemployment numbers for adults subject to CAF. Any support that can be given to unemployed adults subject to CAF would be most welcome as a resource for Team Around the Child/Family TAC/F) meetings to use / refer to as part of a CAF action plan to prevent increasing needs. Further CAF statistics can be obtained from Heather Churchill CAF manager: integratedworking@southglos.gov.uk.

**Known interventions**

There are 15 Sure Start Centres within South Gloucestershire that offer families with young children an information, advice and guidance service. Family Information Advisers provide a link to local services and community provision, such as library services, toddler and pre-school groups, local childminders etc. Kiosks are available in every centre to provide information on health services, training and jobs, debt advice, benefit entitlements and much more. Further information on Sure Start Centres in South Gloucestershire can be found here: http://www.southglos.gov.uk/ChildrenYoungPeopleFamilies/ChildrenCentres/ProposedCentres/

South Gloucestershire has continued to fund a Family Intervention Project (FIP) from the Early Intervention Grant. The FIP provides intensive support to vulnerable families with multiple problems and in particular those facing legal actions, evictions, or who are affected by longstanding worklessness and poverty. The FIP model was part of the previous government’s ‘Think Family’ initiative. A dedicated key worker works intensively with the whole family. Through multiagency whole family support plans and assertive working methods the FIP seek to reduce the likelihood of legal sanctions and help families to address their problems. The package of support offered to vulnerable families often includes accredited parenting programmes and a co-ordinated programme of support from other services such as health or drug treatment which responds to the needs of different family members. The FIP aims to work with up to 12 families. Referrals come from a range of agencies including Children’s
Social Care, Antisocial Behaviour Team, the Education Welfare Service and the Youth Offending Service. Family Intervention Project across the LA: steve.waters@southglos.gov.uk

South Gloucestershire Council Family Support Services - service works intensively with parents via a range of parenting programmes. We are regularly meeting parents whose overall presentation includes issues around long term unemployment for a variety of complex reasons. As parents engage with our service, some of these issues come more to the fore as factors that are impacting on parenting and require attention and intervention. Closer strategic and practice relationships with any services/initiatives for adults (most of whom, statistically, will have caring responsibilities for children) would be very welcome.
Fred Ehresmann, Parenting Consultant, Family Support Services fred.ehresmann@southglos.gov.uk 07775 406275

South Gloucestershire Council also gives individual support to children, young people and families with multiple problems, who needs have met social care thresholds. This is provided through an Adolescent Support Team and Under 11s Team who deliver packages of support to address assessed needs. Support includes family work, parenting, individual support, supervising contacts between parents and children geri.palfreeman@southglos.gov.uk 01454 863152
Statutory social work across the LA nick.lowe@southglos.gov.uk

Within the voluntary sector in South Gloucestershire, support services for families are provided by Barnardos South Gloucestershire including Parent Support Advisors and Family Group Conferences. Barnardos in South Gloucestershire: pat.wiltshire@barnardos.org.uk 0117 9679341

Southern Brooks Community Partnership provides a range of services for families including Family Support Workers and Integrated Family Intervention Advisers. The organisation provides targeted support for young people age 8-12 at risk of offending or anti social behaviour in the Severn Vale and Yate areas i.e. the “Step Up” project. A “Dreamscheme” project was also established to get young people involved in community activity. Another service is family intervention work funded by Merlin Housing Society to support Merlin tenants. Julie Close, Director julieclose@sbcommunitypartnership.org.uk 01454 868570
www.sbcommunitypartnership.org.uk

Breakthrough Mentoring, South Gloucestershire Council, supports over 200 of South Gloucestershire’s most vulnerable people each and every week. The programme has a team of 60 skilled mentors who work to deliver bespoke support to individuals facing a range of complex needs. Typically Breakthrough works with an individual weekly for around 1 year. However in some instances support can take the form of several sessions a week and can last longer than a year. Breakthrough is the current UK mentoring programme of the year and has very strong links across the West of England area to public bodies, third sector organisations and the private sector. The programme aims to build sustainable capacity and support networks for individuals so they can achieve their own goals and become positive members of the community. Steve Spiers, Community Services, South Gloucestershire Council: steve.spiers@southglos.gov.uk 01454 864616

South Gloucestershire Council’s Community Learning Service targets those who are below Level 2 qualifications to provide them with skills and qualifications to enable them to begin the process back to work. The service concentrates its work primarily within the priority neighbourhoods. community.learning@southglos.gov.uk 01454 864613

CVS South Gloucestershire is the umbrella body for the voluntary and community sector (VCS) in South Gloucestershire and is able with partners to organise meetings and events for Prime Contractors to meet with potential VCS delivery partners; publicise opportunities or provide details of Prime Contractors for the VCS to contact through our website and e bulletins. www.cvs-sg.org.uk or 01454865205 (Helen Black)
There are a number of social housing associations operating in South Gloucestershire who provide family based interventions. For example, Merlin Housing Society provides a number of services to support vulnerable families including:

- A Financial Inclusion Team whose main priority is to work with families and other residents who are experiencing financial difficulties. This normally manifests itself when they have difficulty paying rent, but a more preventative approach seeking to provide advice, support and training around budgeting is being considered. This is a relatively new team.
- Work with different agencies ensures residents get support to maintain their tenancies. There are varying degrees of success and supporting people with mental health issues is one of the most challenging areas.
- Apprenticeships are offered through the DLO – Merlin Works
- Merlin has a Community Investment Team that contributes funds to groups and activities across the 6 priority neighbourhood areas – for example, supporting Southern Brooks family intervention work. Most of Merlin’s housing stock is concentrated in priority neighbourhoods.
- Merlin’s Operations Director jointly chairs the South Gloucestershire Housing Group. One of the actions on their action plan is about working together on financial inclusion and worklessness. Work has started by Sovereign to progress this.

For further information on Merlin Housing Association contact Amanda Meanwell (Amanda.meanwell@merlinhs.co.uk) 01454821221.

South Gloucestershire Council commissions Financial Inclusion Advice Services including welfare debt & benefit services. More information on local advice providers who are likely to support families with complex needs can be found on www.welfareadvicepartnership.co.uk or via rachael.williams-lock@southglos.gov.uk 01454 865838

DHI (Developing Health and Independence) is commissioned to take all referrals for people with alcohol and drug problems in South Gloucestershire. Their Throughcare and Aftercare services take into account diverse and complex needs of service users. This means they will offer support to service users to helping them back into meaningful activity including training and or employment. DHI acts as the single point of contact for Jobcentre Plus customers and have strengthened their links with the two jobcentres based in South Gloucestershire at Kingswood and Yate.
E mail info@dhi-online.org.uk 01225 329411

Battle against Tranquilizers is the other main drug treatment provider in the area and will be dealing with people with complex needs. www.bataid.org 0117 9663629

South Gloucestershire Council’s Anti Social Behaviour Team within the Safer and Stronger Division is involved with families including those with complex needs. Mechanisms to work with families include Family Behaviour Contracts and Acceptable Behaviour Contracts. philippa.isbell@southglos.gov.uk 01454 868748

In South Gloucestershire there are two community flats that encourage participation of the local community by offering services such as lunch clubs and activities for young people. They are situated within the priority neighbourhoods and aim to support families where they can – they could be in a good position to identify families with complex needs.

Our Place Community Flat: our.place@hotmail.co.uk 01454 868374

Kingsmeadow Community Flat: info@kingsmeadowflat.org.uk 0117 9048425 (Kingsmeadow Flats also ran a "Dreamscheme" project)
Potential gaps

Many voluntary and community organisations are reliant on shorter term project funding. Both Barnardos and Southern Brooks Community Partnership continually have to seek funding to run family support work. Southern Brooks has traditionally worked with families who do not meet the thresholds of other agencies. However as these thresholds are getting higher to cope with diminishing resources, the organisation finds it is working more and more with families with the more complex needs. Of course, both organisations want to work in partnership to ensure no duplication of service and they have particular strengths on which to build. It is acknowledged that there is the need to develop a range of voluntary sector family provision across all the priority neighbourhoods within South Gloucestershire.

It is the Kingswood, Staple Hill and Cadbury Heath areas where there is currently a significant gap in voluntary and community sector provision for family support.

Future relationship

Whilst there is no current single point of contact for referrals within South Gloucestershire, the Council would wish to work with other West of England authorities and the contract holders to both agree the criteria for referral and to develop the most appropriate referral processes.

From existing provision and interventions there is opportunity for potential sub-contracting by prime providers.

Further information
For further information please use the links provided or contact Antony Merritt, Economic Development Manager. 01454 864950, or email antony.merritt@southglos.gov.uk
Appendix 1

New Localities
(Ref 2010/11/018)

PROPOSED NEW LOCALITIES

Legend
- Children’s Centre
- Badminton Road Council Offices
- Youth Centre
- CYP Plan
- Priority Neighbourhood
- Ward Boundary
- Proposed Locality Border (SH & PM)

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<th>Proposed Locality</th>
<th>Total (9 to 18 YO)</th>
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<td>6,144</td>
<td>6,777</td>
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