

Children’s Trust Joint Committee

1st May 2024

Report Title	Circle to Success Programme Update
Report Author	David Watts, Executive Director of Adults, Health Partnerships and Housing (DASS) & Director of Children’s Services (DCS) (interim), NNC, David.watts@northnorthants.gov.uk Rebecca Wilshire, Director of Children’s Services (acting), WNC, Rebecca.wilshire@westnorthants.gov.uk Richard Woodward, Head of Business & Performance (NNC)/Intelligent Client Function Programme Lead, richard.woodward@northnorthants.gov.uk
Executive Member	Cllr Fiona Baker – Cabinet Member for Children, Families & Education, WNC Cllr Scott Edwards, Executive Member for Children, Families, Education & Skills, NNC

Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there public sector equality duty implications?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information (whether in appendices or not)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Applicable paragraph number/s for exemption from publication under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972	

List of Appendices

Appendix A Circle to Success Highlight Report Apr 24

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. The purpose of the report is to provide an update on Northamptonshire Childrens Trust’s (NCT) Circle to Success Programme.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. The Circle to Success Programme was established in February 2023 chaired by the Director of Children’s Services in WNC.

- 2.2. The Councils agreed invest to save funding of £1.816m in 2023/24 and £1.690m in 2024/25
- 2.3. The Circle to Success Programme has brought significant additional capacity to NCT from Innovate Therapeutic Services and IMPOWER embedding the Valuing Care approach in the delivery of services in NCT.
- 2.4. The programme delivered £3.722m of savings in 2023/24 and, as reported to the Transformation & Efficiency Board in February 2024, is forecasting savings of £8.072m in 2024/25 which is an increase of £4.023m above that included in the Contract Sum.
- 2.5. The Councils and NCT agreed to transition the oversight of the Circle to Success Programme to the Transformation & Efficiencies Programme from 1st March 2024.
- 2.6. The Transformation & Efficiencies Board will continue to monitor the Circle to Success Programme and track the delivery of its forecasted savings.
- 2.7. Further updates on Circle to Success will be brought to the Childrens Trust Joint Committee through the Transformation & Efficiencies updates.

3. Recommendations

3.1. It is recommended that the Committee:

- a) Note the success of the programme in 2023/24 and the delivery of the £3.8m savings target and delivery of positive outcomes for 41 children and young people to date.
- b) Note, as reported to the Transformation & Efficiency Board in February 2024, the forecast savings of £8.072m in 2024/25 which is an increase of £4.023m above that included in the Contract Sum.

3.2. Reason for Recommendations

To ensure that as owners and commissioners of the Childrens Trust the Councils maintain oversight of NCT's delivery of the Circle to Success Programme, support the Trust to realise its full potential and fully embed the approach into its business as usual by 31st March 2025.

3.3. Alternative Options Considered

To do nothing – however this is not recommended. The recommendations set out in this report will allow the Councils to maintain oversight of the Circle to Success Programme via the Transformation & Efficiencies Board.

4. Report Background

- 4.1. As part of developing the Northamptonshire Children's Trust Contract Sum for 2023/24 it was agreed to establish the Circle to Success Programme.
- 4.2. Included in NCT savings proposals for 2023/24 was £3.8m of savings to be delivered through the Circle to Success Programme for which the Councils agreed a mixture of one off invest to save funding of £1.3m outside of the Contract Sum.
- 4.3. Of this £0.968m was passed directly to NCT to commission additional delivery capacity from Innovate Therapeutic Services at a cost of £0.848m with the remainder used by NCT to fund time limited programme management capacity.
- 4.4. £0.324m was retained by the Councils to commission IMPOWER's Valuing Care approach for 5 months, which has a proven track record of delivering improved outcomes for children and families and reducing the costs of service delivery. The Councils successfully bid for and received £0.330m of grant funding from the DfE to part fund this.
- 4.5. In June 2023, following a request by NCT, the Councils agreed to additional investment in IMPOWER for a second phase of work at a cost of £0.516m taking the total invest to save funding to £1.816m which is reduced to £1.516m when taking the DfE grant into consideration.
- 4.6. Reporting into the Children's Trust Operational Group the programme board was established in February 2023, chaired by the Director of Children's Services in WNC, supported by the Assistant Director for Commissioning & Partnerships in NNC as vice chair. Additional members of the board consisted of key staff from NCT, Innovate Therapeutic Services and IMPOWER.
- 4.7. The Circle to Success Programme has brought significant additional capacity to NCT from Innovate Therapeutic Services and IMPOWER to support them to embedding the Valuing Care approach in the delivery of services.
- 4.8. Embedding the Valuing Care assessment approach has enabled NCT to better understand the needs of children to improve support and sufficiency resulting in significant reductions in spend and demonstrable improvements in need.
- 4.9. NCT have completed Valuing Care Assessments for 320 children across two cohorts identifying possible alternative care pathways through assessment and scoring across thirteen domains of need.
- 4.10. Commissioning Innovate Therapeutic Services to provide support to NCT with dedicated managed social work and therapeutic interventions has enabled NCT

to deliver on the opportunities identified from the Valuing Care assessments improving outcomes for children and reducing cost to the Councils.

- 4.11. Up to March 2024 Circle to Success has delivered positive interventions to 41 children and young people delivering actual savings of £3.722m. Appendix A Circle to Success Highlight Report Apr 24 provides a detailed update on the delivery of the programme and its impact.
- 4.12. The Councils and NCT agreed to transition the oversight of the Circle to Success Programme to the Transformation & Efficiencies Programme from 1st March 2024.
- 4.13. As part of agreeing the Contract Sum for 2024/25 in November 2023 the Councils agreed a further £1.28m invest to save funding to allow the continuation of support from Innovate Therapeutic Services and a reduced level of support from IMPOWER. At the same time savings of £4.049m were also agreed and top sliced of the contract sum.
- 4.14. On 1st February 2024 the Transformation & Efficiencies Board agreed to fund further one-off funding of £0.410m to sustain the IMPOWER elements of the Circle to Success programme to ensure that the full £8.072m could be delivered. This additional funding was conditional on NCT ensuring that the programme activity is transitioned into its business as usual operations by 31st March 2025.
- 4.15. This takes the total invest to save funding agreed for 2024/25 to £1.69m.
- 4.16. The Circle to Success programme is currently forecasting savings of £8.072m in 2024/25 which is an increase of £4.023m above that included in the Contract Sum.

5. Issues and Choices

- 5.1. Following the successful delivery of the Circle to Success Programme including the positive impact on outcomes for 41 children and the achievement of the savings target of £3.8m in 2023/24 a further period of investment to build on this success was agreed.
- 5.2. The strategic significance of the programme and its positive impact merits oversight by the Transformation & Efficiencies Board which is jointly chaired by the Chief Executives of the Councils.

6. Next Steps

- 6.1. The Transformation & Efficiencies Board will continue to monitor the Circle to Success Programme and track the delivery of its forecasted savings.

- 6.2. Further updates on Circle to Success will be brought to the Childrens Trust Joint Committee through the Transformation & Efficiencies updates.

7. Implications (including financial implications)

7.1. Resources, Financial and Transformation

- 7.1.1. The financial implications are considered throughout the previous sections of this report.

7.2. Legal and Governance

- 7.2.1. The relationship between NCT and the Councils is governed by a series of contractual and legal agreements.
- 7.2.2. The recommendations set out in this report will allow the Councils to fulfil their responsibilities as set out in the Service Delivery Contract.

7.3. Relevant Policies and Plans

- 7.3.1. NNC has identified 'Brighter, Better Futures' as a key priority in its Corporate Plan recognising that children, young people and their families may need help at different stages in their lives. They will aim to provide help as early as possible and provide the right support, at the right time in the right way to ensure that children are safeguarded and get the best start in life.
- 7.3.2. WNC has identified 'Improved life chances: Best Start in Life' as a key priority of its Corporate Plan, including a focus on early help services to ensure children have the best start in life and parents have the right support at the right time from the right service, to enable families to thrive.
- 7.3.3. Both NNC and WNC's identified priorities will be achieved by supporting NCT to provide higher standards of support.

7.4. Risk

- 7.4.1. Both Councils have identified the failure of Northamptonshire Children's Trust to deliver services to the agreed standards and to sustain improvement in children's social care services as a risk on their strategic risk registers.

7.5. Consultation

- 7.5.1. This report has not been subject to any consultation.

7.6. Consideration by Executive Advisory Panel (NNC)

- 7.6.1. This report has not been considered by NNC's Executive Advisory Panel.

7.7. Consideration by Executive Leadership Team (WNC)

7.7.1. This report has been considered by ELT.

7.8. Consideration by Scrutiny

7.8.1. This report has not been considered by the overview and scrutiny committees of either NNC or WNC.

7.9. Equality Implications

7.9.1. There are no specific equality implications arising from this report.

7.10. Climate and Environment Impact

7.10.1 There is no specific climate impact arising from this report, however as NNC and WNC committed to considering impact on the environment which is managed via the individual strategic lead partnership organisation via organisational policy and commitments.

7.10.2 NNC, WNC and NCT are aware there are emissions associated with publishing web content and will seek to minimise the impact where possible.

7.11. Community Impact

7.11.1. There is no specific community impact arising from this report.

7.12. Crime and Disorder Impact

7.12.1. There is no specific crime and disorder impact arising from this report.

8. Background Papers

8.1. None