

**ANGUS COUNCIL**

**POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 2 FEBRUARY 2021**

**INFORMATION REPORT**

**REPORT BY KATHRYN LINDSAY, CHIEF SOCIAL WORK OFFICER**

**ABSTRACT**

This report provides information to members with regard to services in the Children, Families & Justice Directorate, albeit that a decision is not required in terms of the current Scheme of Delegation to Officers and the Order of Reference of Committees.

**1. BACKGROUND**

As a component part of the Angus Council, Finance and Change Plan 2019-2024 and in line with Council priorities, an investment of £650k over 2019/20 to 2021/2021 was made to extend the additional support available to certain vulnerable women as part of the existing Glen Isla Project, to a wider cohort of eligible women. Monies have been used to establish the Glen Clova Project. The purpose of this report is to inform members of the progress of the Glen Clova Project thus far.

**2. SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION - SCHEDULES**

The purpose of the Glen Clova project is to provide an enhanced support and co-ordination service for our most vulnerable women, including women in the following situations: -

- by reason of their behaviour, are at risk of entering the justice system
- have a history of poor/non-engagement with services
- are pregnant
- have support needs in respect of parenting likely to result in an adverse impact on their children
- are aged 16-21 and require additional support

Women who have had traumatic life experiences are more likely to experience mental health crises, substance misuse, relationship and accommodation difficulties which can significantly affect them and their communities. The ethos of the Glen Clova Project is to work in a trauma informed way to reduce the impact of these factors and support the women to make safe choices.

The Project is staffed by a Team Leader, a Resource Worker and 2 Family Support Workers and currently supports 36 women with the following:

- Attending appointments with other professionals and agencies
- Support to manage money, budgeting, finances and benefit issues
- Housing application and housing issues
- Counselling support to manage substance and alcohol use, improve mental health and manage past trauma
- Exploring social and leisure activities
- Parenting support and managing relationships
- Support to new and expectant mothers
- Keeping self and others safe

The participation model provides a structure to include women in all aspects of service delivery and development work. The team have developed three main workspaces located in Arbroath, Forfar and Montrose and made them safe, trauma informed spaces.

The team also completed a mapping report of current need across Angus and this is attached for members' information.

What we have seen is a high level of women voluntarily engaging with the project. The work undertaken is different for every woman, with some accessing short-term assistance, advice

and referrals and others requiring substantially longer-term engagement. Women with varied support requirements may need intensive and repeated supports, we may see personal achievements and progress one month but see a lapse or relapse the following month. The Project accepts repeat referrals and will positively engage with women as frequently, and for as long as, they require support.

As can be seen in Alice's story (appendix 1), it is difficult to 'measure' success or progress definitively, however by ensuring women have their health needs met and are receiving the right level of support for alcohol/drug issues, we can ensure that resources are accessed and utilised to their full potential thus reducing the need for expensive, longer term crisis intervention. Early intervention is financially beneficial and significantly more person focused and sustainable.

### **3. REPORT AUTHOR**

This report and associated schedules has been compiled by Alison Hendry, manager – Justice who can be contacted by emailing [anguscriminaljustice@angus.gov.uk](mailto:anguscriminaljustice@angus.gov.uk).

List of Appendices:

**Appendix 1** - \*Alice - Journey of one of our women

**Appendix 2** - The Glens Mapping Need – October 2020

**Appendix 3** - Short infomercial of the Glen Clova Project in our Forfar property