

ANGUS COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES – 25 OCTOBER 2022

GLEN CLOVA PROJECT EVALUATION

REPORT BY KATHRYN LINDSAY, DIRECTOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES & JUSTICE

ABSTRACT

This report presents the findings of the independent evaluation of outcomes achieved by the Glen Clova Project. The Project offers early help to women aged 16 and over who may be at risk of entering formal criminal justice processes, are pregnant or have children and need support, or are experiencing the effects of trauma, abuse, mental health or substance issues and who want to engage with support to recover. Glen Clova was established in 2019 using temporary additional funding from Angus Council to test whether extending supports to women at an earlier stage would generate positive benefit to individual women, their children and the wider community. Funding was initially provided for 3 years from 2019 and latterly extended to enable continuation of the service pending evaluation to the end of March 2023.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Policy and Resources Committee:

- (i) Consider the findings of the independent evaluation report of the Glen Clova Project and service information at Appendix 1 and 2, and acknowledge the successes and impacts reported within.
- (ii) Instruct the Director of Children, Families and Justice to develop costed proposals for embedding the learning from this successful pilot project into wider service provision.
- (iii) Note that any proposal to extend additional Council funding beyond the current financial year will be addressed through the Council's 2023/24 budget process.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE COUNCIL PLAN

This report contributes to the following local outcomes contained within the Angus Community Plan and Council Priorities:

- Local Outcome 4 - The best start in life for children
- Local Outcome 5 - More opportunities for people to achieve success
- Local Outcome 6 - Improved physical, mental and emotional health and wellbeing
- We want to maximise inclusion and reduce inequalities
- We want our communities to be strong, resilient and led by citizens

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 As part of the Angus Council, Finance and Change Plan 2019-2024 and in line with Council priorities, an initial investment of £650k over three years was made to pilot the Glen Clova Project. Reference is made to Report 15/21, Schedule 3 which provided an update to members on the operation of the project. The service was continued into 2022/23 utilising naturally occurring underspend, additional grant funding and an additional one-off contribution of £96k agreed as part of the budget setting process, Report 64/22 refers.

3.2 The service was established in recognition that women who have had traumatic life experiences are more likely to experience mental health crises, substance misuse, relationship and

accommodation difficulties. These can significantly affect the individual women, their families and their communities. The ethos of the Glen Clova Project is to work in a trauma responsive way to reduce the impact of these factors, support women to make safe choices and maximise the impact of other service supports.

- 3.3 The service goals are to provide support to women in Angus who:
- by reason of their behaviour, are at risk of entering the criminal justice system; and/or
 - are pregnant and require additional support (i.e., referral via Pre-birth Resource Allocation Meeting (PRAM)); and/or
 - have support needs in respect of parenting likely to result in an adverse impact on their children.

The service further seeks to engage a wider group of women who:

- have a history of poor/non-engagement with services; and/or
 - are aged 16-25 and are experiencing significant social disadvantage such as family relationship breakdown, homelessness, substance misuse, mental health difficulties, unemployment, and poverty; and/or
 - are aged 16-25 and at risk of abusive relationships, sexual exploitation, suicide or accidental death.
- 3.4 A range of personalised supports are delivered to women accessing the service, in their local communities for an average of 12 months. Work is based on establishing supportive and trusting relationships with a worker, who then engages with the woman to tailor supports to meet her needs. This can include advice and support with parenting, relationships, inclusion (or lack of) in the community, recovering from abuse, coping with stress and building self-esteem.

4. CURRENT POSITION

4.1 [Dr Briege Nugent](#) was commissioned by Angus Council to deliver an independent evaluation of the project. The report (Appendix 2) details the qualitative outcomes achieved and was carried out using sensitive enquiry with women who accessed the service and partner agencies. Information is also presented at Appendix 1 in relation to the quantitative analysis of cost related benefits and service reach.

4.2 The evaluation concludes that the service has delivered a cost-effective support to women with complex needs whose previous experience has been exclusion from services either because they do not meet the criteria of existing services or because their traumatic life experiences have impacted their ability to engage. Benefits are reported from the perspective of the women who have accessed support and are overwhelmingly positive about the life-changing supports.

4.3 The service is identified as a model that has the potential for significant impact at scaled up level. A trauma-informed, responsive and open approach to women, regardless of their status or circumstances, is shown to be successful and is further supported by other national research on women specific interventions reported by [IRISS \(2018\)](#). In operating an open-ended timescale for support, Glen Clova takes a different approach to many services which are often time limited, restricted by strict referral criteria and often delivered in ways that hinder the engagement of 'hard to reach' women. The requirement to be flexible, have services provided for as long as is necessary and for that support to be delivered in communities fits with the aspirations of contemporary national policy such as The Promise, Whole Family Wellbeing and Trauma Informed Approaches.

4.4 The evaluation highlights the value of core service delivery (what is being delivered now), articulates aspirations and suggested areas for further growth of the model in ways that might include extending into peer support models, groupwork provision, self-referral pathways and drop-in community access and recommends these are considered in relation to future service improvements.

5. PROPOSALS

It is proposed that Policy and Resources Committee consider the findings of the independent evaluation report and note the positive outcomes achieved through the Glen Clova Project. It is also proposed that costed proposals for embedding the learning from this successful pilot are

developed as part of the Council's 2023/24 budget process. Given the wider financial context of the Council, it will also be necessary to develop an appropriate exit strategy for the Glen Clova Project as a stand-alone service.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The project is currently funded on a non-recurring basis to the end of March 2023 and there are no immediate financial implications arising directly from this report. Recommendations do include the development of options for the embedding of learning from the pilot project which may result in financial implications for the revenue budget. Any such implications will be considered as part of the Council's 2023/24 budget process.

8. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

A screening Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out and a full assessment is not required at this stage. This is because the report is to inform members and seek further direction, rather than a decision about the service.

9. CONSULTATION

All relevant Directors have been consulted with in relation to the content of this report.

NOTE: No background papers, as detailed by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above report.

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List of Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Glen Clova Project Service Overview Report

Appendix 2 – Independent Evaluation of Glen Clova Report



Equality Impact/Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment Form

Step 1

Name of Proposal Glen Clova Project Evaluation

Step 2

Is this only a **screening** Equality Impact Assessment

YES

(A) If Yes, please choose from the following options **all** reasons why a full EIA/FSD is not required:

- | | |
|--|------|
| (i) It does not impact on people | Yes/ |
| (ii) It is a percentage increase in fees which has no differential impact on protected characteristics | /No |
| (iii) It is for information only | Yes/ |
| (iv) It is reflective e.g. of budget spend over a financial year | Yes/ |
| (v) It is technical | /No |

If you have answered yes to any of points above, please go to **Step 16**, and sign off the Assessment.

Step 16: Sign off and Authorisation. Please state name, post, and date for each:

Prepared by: Kirsty Lee, Service Leader, Justice, CP & Review 26.09.2022

Reviewed by: Doreen Phillips Snr Practitioner (Equalities) 26.09.22

Approved by: Kathryn Lindsay, Director Children, Families and Justice 30/9/2022