

ANGUS COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE - 1 JUNE 2023

GRANT FUNDING – WHOLE FAMILY WELLBEING

REPORT BY MARK ARMSTRONG, DEPUTE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

ABSTRACT

The Whole Family Wellbeing Fund was announced in September 2021 and forms part of the Scottish Government's 'Keeping the Promise' implementation plan. The Whole Family Wellbeing Fund will cause a significant level of funding to come to local authorities on behalf of children's services planning partnerships, between 2022 and 2026, the purpose of which is to enable growth in the range of supports and services available to families in their local communities. The aim of the fund is to enable families to remain together, where it is safe to do so, and to prevent children coming into the care system. This report updates members on the allocation of the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund in Angus and seeks approval to accept the grant and establish a spending plan in line with local need.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Children and Learning Committee:

- (i) Note the content of the report and the progress towards developing and supporting community whole family wellbeing services
- (ii) Accept the grant allocation for 2022/23 and 2023/24 and note that this funding comes to the council but is to be directed by the Angus Integrated Children's Services Partnership (AICSP)
- (iii) Delegate decision making to the Depute Chief Executive
- (iv) Note that reports on the use of this fund will be submitted to the AICSP with information reports brought to a future Children and Learning Committees once the full programme is established.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE COUNCIL PLAN

2.1 This report contributes to the following local outcomes from the Angus Community Plan 2017-2030 and the Council Plan 2023-28:

- Children are given the best start in life
- Physical, mental and emotional health and wellbeing is improved
- There are more opportunities for people to achieve success

2.2 It aligns to the following Children's Services Plans/Strategies:

- [Tayside Plan for Children, Young People and Families](#) 2021 - 2023
- [Connected Tayside](#); Emotional Health and Wellbeing Strategy

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 [Whole Family Wellbeing Fund](#) (hereon referred to as 'the fund') aims to transform the way family support is delivered by ensuring families can access seamless and holistic support that is wrapped around their individual needs. The full aspiration of the fund is set out in [Holistic Family Support and Blueprint for Change](#).

- 3.2 Funding is committed over 4 years (2022 – 2026) with the ambition that by 2030, at least 5% of community-based health and social care spend should be going towards preventative whole family support measures. The guidance states that local areas will receive annual notification of the level of funding award.
- 3.3 The fund is to be spent and delivered according to the collective agreement and direction of the local Children's Services Planning Partnership (CSPPs) with accountability resting with each strategic Children's Services Planning governance forum. If individual CSPPs wish, they may request that a portion of the funding be awarded directly to other parties such as Third Sector Interfaces (TSIs) via grant funding.
- 3.4 Year 1 funding for Angus (2022-2023) is **£657,000**. The fund can be carried forward. Year 2 funding has just been notified and is a further **£657,000**. The initial year of funding is intended to be flexible to support CSPPs to assess local gaps and opportunities and to plan activity accordingly, with a view to laying the groundwork for scaling up transformational activity in subsequent years of the fund. It may also be used to scale up the provision of transformational services that can evidence a positive outcome for children and families. Beyond this framework, there is no set expectation about how CSPPs should choose to deploy their allocation.
- 3.5 The expectation is that this early phase of development will focus on supporting those families most in need, including the six priority family types identified in the Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan;
- Lone parent families
 - Families which include a disabled adult or child
 - Larger families
 - Minority ethnic families
 - Families with a child under one year old
 - Families where the mother is under 25 years of age

The longer-term ambition is that holistic whole family support will be available to every family who needs it.

4. CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 Angus Integrated Children's Services Partnership (AICSP) is well established and reports to Angus Community Planning Partnership. Whole family wellbeing is an identified priority for AICSP and activity has commenced on refreshing a strategic needs assessment to inform the work.
- 4.2 AICSP have received reports on whole family wellbeing and have agreed, in line with the fund guidance, to progress two temporary posts, one in Voluntary Action Angus and one in the local authority, to build the capacity needed to plan, deliver and evaluate whole family developments across the partnership (see paragraph 3.4). At the time of writing, the posts are in the process of being recruited to. Costs will be met from year 1 funding.
- 4.3 A key stakeholder engagement event was held in December 2022 to inform our local whole family priorities. The event was well attended by a range of professionals from the partnership including Angus third sector, the local authority, and NHS Tayside. This provided an excellent opportunity to explore how we are currently delivering services, how we engage with families on what works locally and identify key workstreams.
- 4.4 On the basis of the engagement work undertaken, consideration of the Tayside Plan for Children, Young People and Families and the current work of AICSP, three workstreams have been identified and agreed:

Workstream 1 – Right Help, Right Time

Ensuring families who identify the need for help, are supported to access help in a seamless and timely way without the need for professional and/or complex referrals. This work is being led by Voluntary Action Angus with engagement from the wider third sector partners.

Workstream 2 – Flexible Family Support Services

Extending community-based intensive family support services to support families out with traditional hours and in ways that meet the differing needs of families. This work will initially support pregnant women and families with children under the age of five and is being led by the local authority. Learning from the Glen Clova Project and gender specific service delivery is being considered alongside our local 'Involving Dads' initiative, early years parenting and nurture approaches. Third sector and health partners are fully engaged.

Workstream 3 – Transforming Services

Supporting growth and innovation in the third sector and ensuring whole family support underpins funding and support arrangements. This work includes ensuring wider tie-in with other strategic partnerships including the Angus Alcohol and Drug Partnership, Angus Third Sector Forum and VAA as our Third Sector Interface and Angus Employability Partnership.

5. PROPOSALS

It is proposed that the Children and Learning Committee:

- (i) Note the content of the report and the progress towards developing and supporting community whole family wellbeing services
- (ii) Accept the grant allocation for 2022/23 and 2023/24 and note that this funding comes to the council but is to be directed by the Angus Integrated Children's Services Partnership (AICSP).
- (iii) Delegate decision making to the Depute Chief Executive
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6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The costs of implementing the above proposed plans can be met from the ringfenced grant allocations. The funding allocated towards the 2 posts referenced above is no more than £100,000 to be met from year 1 funding. There are no other costs arising from these proposals.

7. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out and is attached.

8. CONSULTATION

Consultation on the proposals has taken place with a range of stakeholders as part of the Community Planning Partnership's Integrated Children's Services arrangements. The proposals emerged through that engagement with stakeholders, including feedback from parents, children and young people across Angus. Directors of Angus Council have been consulted as part of the preparation 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:
Equality Impact Assessment



Equality Impact/Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment

Name of Proposal

Funding to support children, young people and families

Is this only a **screening** Equality Impact Assessment No

If you have answered No to the above, please indicate the following:

Is this a full Equality Impact Assessment Yes

Is this a Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment No

(i)Lead Directorate/Service:

Children, Families and Justice

(ii)Are there any **relevant** statutory requirements affecting this proposal? If so, please describe.

No – guidance has been issued

(iii)What is the aim of the proposal?

To provide an update on new funding on Whole Family Wellbeing monies and the Angus allocation

(iv) Is it a review of e.g. an existing budget saving, report, strategy, policy, service review, procedure or function? No

Which people does your proposal involve or have consequences for?

Please indicate all which apply:

Employees No

Job Applicants No

Service users Yes

Members of the public No

List evidence/data/research used in this assessment:

Internal data

We are presently using the National Stakeholders Toolkit to assess local need in line with the criteria; this involves a number of multi-agency partners.

Internal consultation

Women accessing Glen Clova services for women
Angus Integrated Children's Services Partnership
Care experienced Children and young people

External data

National learning outcomes from Whole Family Wellbeing projects accessed via the National Children's Strategic Leadership Group.

External consultation

Integrated Children's Services Group
Angus Mental Health and Wellbeing Network
Tayside Collaborative

Evidence Gaps

Are there any gaps in the equality information you currently hold? Yes (addressed in the ongoing work)

Are there potential differential impacts on protected characteristic groups?

Age – **Impact** Positive

The extension of a range of family supports and services for young parents will enhance support.

Disability - **Impact** Positive

The provision of services will offer early intervention and support for children will be based on needs of individuals.

Gender reassignment - **Impact** Neutral

Marriage and Civil Partnership- **Impact** Neutral

Pregnancy/Maternity- **Impact** Positive

This is a key group that will benefit from increased services and supports with workstream 2 focussing on pregnant women and those with children under 5.

Race - (includes Gypsy Travellers) - **Impact** Positive

Religion or Belief - **Impact** Neutral

Sex - **Impact** Positive

Both women and men will benefit in the parenting role. There will be a gender specific focus on supporting women to parent including recognising the impact of domestic abuse and perpetrating domestic abuse as a parenting choice.

Sexual orientation - **Impact** Neutral

Consultation with any of the groups potentially affected

Consultation is planned with groups of parents including single parents; young parents and those of children with disabilities.

A father's specific consultation has already taken place.

If you have not consulted with any group potentially affected, how have you ensured that you can make an informed decision about mitigating action of any negative impact (Step 9)? - N/A

What mitigating steps will be taken to remove or reduce potentially negative impacts? - N/A

If a potentially negative impact has been identified, please state below the justification. - N/A

In what way does this proposal contribute to any or all of the public sector equality duty to: eliminate unlawful discrimination; advance equality of opportunity; and foster good relations between people of different protected characteristics?

By ensuring that families who require early help and support with can access this from a variety of different fora and are not further disadvantaged by rurality or service criteria, thus ensuring the right help is available at the right time.

Is there any action which could be taken to advance equalities in relation to this proposal?

Ensure information on services is made widely available to ensure reach cover all children and families including e.g., children home educated as schools are key agency for signposting to early intervention and support services.

What arrangements will be put in place to monitor and review the Equality Impact/Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment?

Regular reporting on the use of funds and delivery of services remains in place for the duration of the grant funding.

Where will this Equality Impact/Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment be published?

Online alongside committee relevant papers.

Sign off and Authorisation.

Prepared by: Kirsty Lee, Service Leader Partnership, Practice and Justice 29.04.23

Reviewed by: Karen Ross, Snr Practitioner (Equalities service rep) 29.04.23

Approved by: Kathryn Lindsay, Director Children, Families and Justice – 29.04.23