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**REPORT TO: CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICE COMMITTEE ON  
30 OCTOBER 2019**

**SUBJECT: THE COST OF THE SCHOOL DAY PROJECT WORKERS**

**BY: DEPUTE CHIEF EXECUTIVE (EDUCATION, COMMUNITIES AND  
ORGANISTIONAL DEVELOPMENT)**

**1. REASON FOR REPORT**

- 1.1 To inform the Committee of the success in securing funding to provide capacity within Education to support work to tackle poverty and the cost of the school day.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section III (D) (1) of the Council's Scheme of Administration relating to all the functions of the Council as Education Authority.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

**2.1 It is recommended that the Committee:-**

- (i) welcomes the success of this bid to add capacity with the appointment of two project workers; and**
- (ii) approves the formation of an Education Poverty Steering Group, led by the Education Officer (Pastoral Care) to take the child poverty agenda forward in Education over the next two years.**

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 School costs can put pressure on low-income families and put children at risk of missing out on opportunities and feeling different, excluded and unhappy. The Cost of the School Day (COTSD) Project is delivered by the Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG). CPAG is a registered charity that collects evidence from families living in poverty and push forward achievable and long-term solutions to tackling poverty. The COTSD project involves children and young people, parents/carers and school staff in identifying financial barriers and taking action to remove them. Since 2014, CPAG has worked with schools and local authorities across Scotland in a range of ways including direct work in schools, training, resource development and practice gathering and sharing. The work to date has been funded through the Scottish Attainment Challenge and has been focused on delivering a 3 year project with Dundee

schools (as they were a Scottish Attainment Challenge authority) whilst still providing support and training to a range of other local authorities.

- 3.2 To expand the Cost of the School Day Project to rural areas in Scotland, the Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG) submitted a bid to The National Lottery Community Fund. They were successful in their bid which will be a three year project with funding for two 0.8 Project Officers posts over two years. Seventeen authorities expressed an interest in hosting COTSD staff and working in partnership with CPAG, but Moray was selected due to the work already going on.
- 3.3 These posts will build on the actions identified at the Cost of the School Day Moray Conference in February 2019, the interventions or supports schools have put in place using funding from the Pupil Equity Fund (PEF) and actions in the Moray's Child Poverty Action Plan.
- 3.4 The following activities will be part of the project:
- Direct work in 35 schools over two years beginning in December 2019: poverty proofing audits and action plans with children, staff and parents alongside support for other schools in the area to consult on the cost of their school days. The schools will be identified once the two project workers are in place.
  - Cost of the School Day professional learning for school staff and input to Parent Councils, focusing on the impact of child poverty and school costs - wider awareness raising via relevant local groups and forums
  - Local authority wide Cost of the School Day report with recommendations, drawn from findings across schools
  - Local Practice Networks and Regional Practice Networks to share current practice and challenges and plan further action
  - Development of tools and resources based on learning from direct work in schools, hosted on CPAG online Practice Hub and relevant local channels
- 3.5 To support this work and the actions within Moray's Child Poverty Action Plan, an Education Poverty Steering Group, led by the Education Officer (Pastoral Care), will be established in October to drive work forward in this area for education over the next two years. The Education Officer is a member of Fairer Moray Forum and will report to them the progress being made in education with regards to the child poverty agenda.

#### **4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

##### **(a) Corporate Plan and 10 Year Plan (Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP))**

The report was informed by the priorities within the Corporate Plan and 10 Year Plan and in particular to Ambitious and Confident Children and Young People and A Growing and Diverse Economy.

##### **(b) Policy and Legal**

The Child Poverty (Scotland) Bill is an Act of the Scottish Parliament to set targets relating to the eradication of child poverty; and to make provision about plans and reports relating to the targets.

The Moray Poverty Action Plan 2018-2021 which incorporates the statutory requirements of the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act and the local implementation of *Every Child, Every Chance*

**(c) Financial implications**

The employment and management of the two practitioners will be directly through the CPAG.

**(d) Risk Implications**

There are no risk implications arising directly from this report.

**(e) Staffing Implications**

There are no staffing implications arising directly from this report.

**(f) Property**

Moray Council will accommodate the project workers centrally in offices allocated for education use.

**(g) Equalities/Socio Economic Impact**

An Equality/Socio Economic Impact Assessment is not required as this report is to inform Committee on performance.

**(h) Consultations**

Chief Executive, Senior Officers in Education and Social Care, Paul Connor, Principal Accountant, Equal Opportunities Officer, Human Resources Manager, and Tracey Sutherland, Committee Services Officer have been consulted and are in agreement with the contents of this report as regards their respective responsibilities.

**5. CONCLUSION**

**5.1 That the Committee welcomes the success of this bid for the appointment of two project workers in Moray as it is a welcome opportunity to develop the council's approach to identifying financial barriers and taking action to remove them.**

**5.2 That the Committee endorses the formation of the Education Poverty Steering Group led by the Education Officer (Pastoral Care) to take the child poverty agenda forward in education over the next two years**

Author of Report: Lynne Riddoch, Education Officer

Background Papers:

Ref: