



**REPORT TO: EDUCATION, CHILDREN'S AND LEISURE SERVICES
COMMITTEE ON 8 JUNE 2022**

SUBJECT: WHOLE FAMILY WELLBEING FUND

BY: CHIEF OFFICER, HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE MORAY

1. REASON FOR REPORT

1.1 This report is submitted to the Committee to homologate the decision made by the previous Chair and Council Leader on the spend of the money made available to families in Moray.

1.2 The 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 an Education Authority.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

i) agree to homologate the decision made by the previous Chair and Council Leader with regards to the spend on the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund, within social work as Section 12 (Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 and Section 22 payments (Children (Scotland) Act 1995) for families in financial and immediate need; and

ii) note that a paper will be prepared for the Scottish Government on how the money has been distributed.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The Scottish Government have pledged to give £500 million for Whole Family Wellbeing Fund over the course of the next 3 years, and a particular part of the fund, totalling £37,000 is available for Moray immediately. This part of the fund has been given to social work departments, and is based on population and the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (**Appendix 1**).

3.2 The £37,000 was awarded to address immediate and financial need for families in Moray, with a view to it being used to support fuel, food and clothing/ household poverty. As this funding is to be delivered through Section

12 and 22 payments, the responsibility sits with social work who have authority to distribute this fund.

- 3.3 On the basis that there would be no immediate committee meeting at which to ratify spend of this fund due to the local government elections, and to avoid any delay in supporting families in immediate need, the Interim Head of Children and Families and Justice Social Work requested agreement to enact the spend from the outgoing Committee Chair and Council Leader.
- 3.4 Social workers identified families who they understood to be experiencing particular financial hardship, particularly with a focus on fuel poverty. Work continues to ensure the Council have equity as work progresses to the point of releasing payments to individual families.

4. **SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

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

The issue of poverty and financial hardship is one of the high level priorities within Moray's Children's Services Plan 20-23.

This recommendation is sighted on and committed to upholding the principles of keeping The Promise and the UNCRC Incorporation Bill. There are no contraventions of child's rights to consider as part of this report.

(b) Policy and Legal

There are no policy or legal implications. We are acting within a national framework.

(c) Financial Implications

Funding is being provided centrally and we will only distribute within the parameters of the allocation.

(d) Risk Implications

There are no specific risk implications associated with this report.

(e) Staffing Implications

There are no staffing implications associated with this report.

(f) Property

There are no property implications associated with this report.

(g) Equalities/Socio-Economic Impact

The funding supports the ongoing work to tackle inequalities with a focus on poverty and hardship.

(h) Climate Change and Biodiversity Impact

There are no climate change or Biodiversity implications associated with this paper.

(i) Consultations

Chief Officer Health and Social Care, Equal Opportunities Officer, Senior Human Resources Advisor, Principal Accountant, Head of Governance, Strategy and Performance and Tracey Sutherland, Committee Services Officer.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 The purpose of this report is to request that the Committee homologate the decision made to spend of the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund tranche that is intended to be distributed by the social work department.

5.2 A paper shall be prepared to report to the Scottish Government on how the money has been distributed.

Author of Report: Tracy Stephen, Interim Head of Children, Families and Justice Social Work

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