



REPORT TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE ON 12 FEBRUARY 2019

**SUBJECT: WHOLE SYSTEMS APPROACH IN YOUTH JUSTICE:
REINVIGORATION AND EXTENSION FOR CARE-EXPERIENCED
YOUNG PEOPLE**

**BY: ACTING CORPORATE DIRECTOR (EDUCATION AND SOCIAL
CARE)**

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Committee of redetermination funding that has been allocated by the Scottish Government to reinvigorate Whole Systems Approach, in Youth Justice.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section III (A) (2) of the scheme of administration relating to the consideration of Capital and Revenue Budgets and long term financial plans.

2. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Committee:

- (i) scrutinises the content of the report and notes the sum of £25,000 being paid by the Scottish Government in each of the financial years 2018-2020;**
- (ii) approves spend of £25k in 2018/19 and £25k in 2019/20, subject to the Council's financial planning process; and**
- (iii) notes the overall planning for how the sum will be used for the purpose of reinvigorating and extending the age range of young people who might benefit from this approach.**

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 It is reported that: -

- (i) Over the last 10 years, progress has been made to support better performance and positive impact of youth justice responses.
- (ii) This has been achieved through Scotland-wide strategic support at a local level around the essential elements of Whole Systems Approach (WSA), underpinning a preventative, diversionary approach to children and young people in and on the edges of formal systems, including the criminal justice system.

- (iii) This progress is evidenced by a significant reduction in the number of young people being dealt with by the children's hearings system and Court as well as those in custody.
 - (iv) A focus on prevention and maintaining the roll-out of WSA has underpinned this.
- 3.2 The WSA was rolled out in 2011 to address the needs of young people involved in or at risk of becoming involved in offending behaviour.
- 3.3 The approach focuses on tackling the causes of offending by young people and supporting them to change their behaviour with the aim of keeping young people out of the criminal justice system unless absolutely necessary.
- 3.4 It emphasises early action in response to offending rather than reporting processes and counterproductive escalation into formal, stigmatising systems.
- 3.5 Evidence suggests that the landscape of WSA implementation across Scotland is now very varied, and that work is required to reinforce and sustain the overall integrity and core values of the approach. Consistent with the initial roll out, the objective is to ensure prevention, early identification and targeted supports continue for young people involved in, or at risk of, offending.
- 3.6 The Minister for Childcare and Early Years and Cabinet Secretary for Justice have agreed in principle to £25,000 annual funding being made available to each of the 32 local authorities via the general revenue support grant. This sum will apply for the financial years 2018-20. A report on this was noted at the meeting of the Children and Young Peoples Services committee on 21 November 2018 (para 9 of the minute refers).
- 3.7 The funding is to support and re-energise WSA for children up to the age of 18, and extend this support, where appropriate to 21 and up to 26 for care experienced young people.
- 3.8 The funding for 2018-19 will be paid as part of the redetermination of General Revenue Grant funding at the end of this financial year.
- 3.9 The Scottish Government Justice Department required high level indication on how the funding would be used to support the overall aims: for outline details see **APPENDIX I**.
- 3.10 Key issues reported to the Children and Young People's Services Committee follow: -
 - (i) the intention to increase one staff member's hours.
 - (ii) to audit and refresh training in WSA.
 - (iii) to audit and refresh training in Restorative Justice practice.
 - (iv) to remain engaged with Community Justice Networks and support the development of WSA for Care Experienced People up to the age of 26 years.

- 3.11 In addition to the above key activities, within the context of need to appoint a new lead for WSA, together with increased opportunity to work with the head teacher of the social, emotional and behavioural service, it is intended that this money would part fund a new temporary post at Senior Social Worker level until March 2020: this funding for WSA is currently in place until that time. The post holder will become the WSA lead for Moray. One area of responsibility for the post holder will be to co-ordinate packages of support for looked after young people placed out of area, to support their educational attainment and their return to Moray.
- 3.12 The Financial Regulations of the Council require that any redetermination of general revenue grant – which is unrestricted in its application – is approved by this committee if under £50,000 and by full Council if over £50,000. Consequently the expenditure considered by Children and Young People's Service Committee in November 2018 falls due to be approved by this Committee. The Committee should note that the Council has not yet set its budget for 2019/20 and that this report looks at allocation of funding for 2019/20 as well as 2018/19. The redeterminations for 2018/19 and 2019/20 relating to Reinvigorating WSA have been treated as a new burden in the council's financial planning process i.e. it has been assumed that the funding will be allocated to Reinvigorating WSA. As the Scottish Government have requested officers to indicate high level plans for expenditure of this sum it is clear that this assumption has been prudent.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

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

This report relates to the following within the Corporate Plan 2018-2023:

- Where life is better for everyone.
- Provide a sustainable education service aiming for excellence.
- The vision being that our children have better educational and social outcomes and so are better prepared for life.
- Improved outcomes for those most in need of support.
- Our most vulnerable young people and families are safe and nurtured.
- Public and staff have confidence in all services we provide for children and young people.

And within the Moray – 10 year Plan – LOIP: -

- Building a better future for our children and young people in Moray.
- Raising aspirations – building a better future for children and young people in Moray.
- The outcomes being that children and young people thrive; have a voice; learn; can get about; have a home; feel secure, healthy, nurtured to be supported to reach their full potential.
- People are healthier and experience less harm as a result of alcohol use.

The related strategies: -

Moray Children's Services Plan
Moray Health and Social Care Partnership Strategic Plan 2016-2019
Community Safety Strategy
Moray Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan

(b) Policy and Legal

The Council has responsibilities to children in need and at risk through the Children (Scotland) Act 2015, the Children and Young People's (Scotland) Act 2014 and the Looked After Children (Scotland) Regulations 2009.

(c) Financial implications

The financial issue is the allocation of redetermination money of £25,000 each year 2018-20.

(d) Risk Implications

There are no risk implications associated with this report.

(e) Staffing Implications

There is the opportunity to secure a temporary Senior Social Worker post until end of March 2020. The current Senior Social Worker, for Youth Justice/Transitions and Out of Area placements, post is due to end at the end of March 2019.

(f) Property

There are no direct property implications associated with this report.

(g) Equalities/Socio Economic Impact

The allocation of this sum is to support preventative strategies for those most at risk.

(h) Consultations

Senior Officers within Education and Social Care, Senior Human Resources Adviser, Principal Accountant, Morag Smith, Senior Solicitor (Litigation and Social Care) and Tracey Sutherland, Committee Services Officer and the Equal Opportunities Officer have been consulted in the preparation of this report and are in agreement with the content relating to their areas of responsibility.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Committee of the allocation of funding for years 2018-20 to support the reinvigoration and extension of Whole Systems Approach and for this to be noted.**

Author of Report:

Background Papers:

Ref:

Corporate Parenting & Commissioning Manager