

Report To: Health and Social Care Committee **Date:** 26 April 2018

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Inverclyde Health and Social Care
Partnership (HSCP) **Report No:**
SW/27/2018/SMcA

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Subject: Big Lottery: Early Action Systems Change Fund

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Health and Social Care Committee of the outcome of a submission made to the Big Lottery Early Action System Change Fund.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 On 2nd October 2017, the Health and Social Care Partnership completed an Expression of Interest for the Early Action Systems Change Fund hosted by the Big Lottery in the area of Women and Criminal Justice, which was one of the three designated themes.
- 2.2 The purpose behind the Early Action Systems Change is to help make a fundamental shift towards effective early intervention in Scotland. The Fund recognises that to achieve this, systems of services and support that are in place now will have to change. The grants, where successful, are intended to fund the first steps towards this change.
- 2.3 The Inverclyde HSCP submission aims to achieve a step change in the response to women in the criminal justice system. It seeks to build this response around the women themselves and the community, ensuring their voices shape how the HSCP moves forward. The ambition is to provide women with the support they need at a time and in a way that is right for them.
- 2.4 There were two competitive stages to the assessment and application process, the first involved a Funding Officer visit to meet with key partners and to talk through in detail the feasibility of the proposal. The Inverclyde HSCP visit took place on 6th December 2017. Thereafter a further sift occurred, with a limited number of applicants being invited to present to the decision making panel early March 2018. Inverclyde HSCP gave its presentation on 6th March 2018.
- 2.5 On 8th March 2018, Inverclyde HSCP was advised that it had been successful and that formal communication of this would be announced on 5th April with an accompanying press briefing.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 It is recommended that the Health and Social Care Committee:

- a. Notes the content of the report and approves the strategic direction presented within the Early Action Systems Change submission.
- b. Requests a further report that updates how the HSCP is progressing with the project.

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4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Commission on Women Offenders (2012) provided a catalyst which re-energised the debate on the specific impact of the criminal justice system on the lives of women. It championed the establishment of Women's Centres, aimed at improving consistent access to a range of specific services focused on the needs of women.
- 4.2 From the HSCP's own work with women involved in the criminal justice system, the top four issues affecting women were found to be:
- Relationships
 - Domestic Abuse
 - Mental Health
 - Social Isolation
- 4.3 This work has also shown that many of the women supported have been visible to services for many years and their trajectory recognised. Their reason for engaging with services often relates to high levels of vulnerability and complex needs, rather than presenting a high risk of harm to others. In addition, their engagement with services is typically crisis driven and chaotic.
- 4.4 This suggests that a broader conversation is needed, one which is not limited solely by a focus on justice. Indeed it points to a radical shift being required to the lens applied to women in the justice system, to one that encompasses a public health perspective and requires a whole systems approach.
- 4.5 This experience has been further supported by work undertaken by the Inverclyde Community Justice Partnership, within which the HSCP has a leadership role. Here, through profile and data analysis a picture is beginning to be built up of how current systems and structures, more broadly, constrain early help. The Partnership's recent work in the area of domestic abuse is one illustration of this.
- 4.6 It is within this context that the HSCP, supported by the Inverclyde Community Justice Partnership, decided to express its interest in making a grant application to the Big Lottery Early Action System Change Fund in the area of Women and Criminal Justice. The purpose behind the Fund is to help make a fundamental shift towards effective early intervention in Scotland. Applications are required to demonstrate a commitment which embraces approaches that are: people-led, strength-based and connected.
- 4.7 The Inverclyde submission looks to develop a local response to the needs of women that captures and builds on the evidence from the Commission on Women Offenders. The aim is to provide non-stigmatising, whole systems support to Inverclyde's most vulnerable women as early as possible and in ways that reflects what women tell us they need.
- 4.8 Following a competitive assessment and application process, the HSCP was advised on 8th March 2018 that its application for £607,250, with an additional £75,000 test of change monies had been successful. This will be formally communicated by the Big Lottery on 5th April with an accompanying press briefing. The Inverclyde submission has been chosen to be one of the applications that will be highlighted in the briefing.

5.0 PROPOSALS

5.1 The funding secured covers a five year period and is split into two parts. The first is awarded to develop and research a plan for service redesign and the second part is awarded to begin transition and implementation and is conditional on developing a viable and adequately funded design for services. The Inverclyde submission proposed employing three staff (a project manager, a community worker and a graduate apprentice) to provide additional capacity to bring about this whole system change.

5.2 The intermediate goals for the project are:

Connected: Clear understanding of how women currently engage or not with services and the wider community.

Strength Based: A data informed understanding of women's experiences in Inverclyde.

People Led: Co-design pathways to better meet the needs of women built on improved partnership working and community engagement.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

Finance

6.1 Projects are expected to realise a shift in their organisational expenditure from acute services to early action approaches of somewhere in the region of 5%.

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report £000	Virement From	Other Comments

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact £000	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments

Legal

6.2 There are no specific legal implications in respect of this report.

Human Resources

6.3 The grant will fully fund the three posts identified in the submission. Finance colleagues having been involved in the costings of these, and the posts themselves will be temporary in nature.

Equalities

6.4 Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES (see attached appendix)
√	NO – This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

Repopulation

6.5 There are no specific repopulation issues.

7.0 CONSULTATION

7.1 Both statutory and third sector partners were consulted and in some instances directly participated in the assessment and application process of the HSCP submission.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 None