
Report To:	Health & Social Care Committee	Date:	10 January 2019
Report By:	Louise Long Corporate Director, (Chief Officer) Inverclyde HSCP	Report No:	SW/07/2019/SMcA
Contact Officer:	Sharon McAlees Head of Children's Services & Criminal Justice	Contact No:	01475715282
Subject:	SCOTTISH ATTAINMENT CHALLENGE – CARE EXPERIENCED CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE FUNDING		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise the Health and Social Care Committee about additional funding for care experienced children and young people aimed at improving education outcomes through the *Scottish Attainment Challenge – Care Experienced Children and Young People Funding*.
- 1.2 The report outlines the spending allocation for Inverclyde in conjunction with the implementation and governance arrangements.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Getting It Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) approach underpins the Scottish Attainment Challenge to improve outcomes and support the wellbeing of children and young people affected by poverty and deprivation across Scotland.
- 2.2 The Care Experienced Children Attainment Funding is designed to enable local authorities as corporate parents to make decisions that improve the attainment of care experienced children and young people. It provides the opportunity for the Chief Social Work Officer and Chief Education Officer to work collaboratively to deliver additional interventions and resources specifically targeted at care experienced children and young people. The funding cannot be used to replicate existing provision but should be utilised where an additional provision would enhance a care experienced child or young person's capacity, and readiness to learn.
- 2.3 It is recognised that in order to improve attainment, support may be required in all aspects of a child's wellbeing and as such, the strength of the funding is that it is located within the child's planning process. The child or young person's social worker (who is the Lead Professional) and the Child's Planning and Improvement Officer will have a pivotal role in ensuring that attainment is clearly addressed within planning and review processes. Regular reviews will provide the forum to evaluate the impact of this funding on each child or young person.
- 2.4 It is proposed to establish a Participatory Support Board (PSB) which will be a sub-group of Inverclyde's Champions Board. The PSB will be made up of a Participation Assistant, Education Psychologist, Quality Improvement Officer Education Services, Children's Rights Officer and Continuous Improvement Officer Children's Services. It will meet monthly or more frequently if required to review applications based on how this supports readiness to learn. Further information is detailed in the attachments in section 7.
- 2.5 The PSB, as well as being a screening group to allocate funding, will also be the responsible forum that tracks and measures the impact of this spending.

- 2.6 Inverclyde Corporate Parenting Group and Champions Board will receive regular reports from the Participatory Support Board on the impact of the funding to support readiness to learn and improve education outcomes. The Chair of this Group will also provide updates as required to the Scottish Government.
- 2.7 The governance arrangements outlined in this report may be subject to change once guidance from the Scottish Government is published.
- 2.8 Measuring the impact of this funding on attainment outcomes will be both quantitative and qualitative. The existing data through the Attainment Challenge will be used as a baseline, with children and young people's experiences of this spend being triangulated with the impact on outcomes in the Child's Plan. The role of the Child's Planning and Improvement Officer is pivotal through their chairing of 3 monthly and six monthly reviews to what changes have brought about an improvement.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Health and Social Care Committee is asked to note the content of the report and endorse the development of the Participatory Support Board.

Louise Long
Corporate Director (Chief Officer)
Inverclyde HSCP

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Reducing inequalities is the cornerstone of making Inverclyde one of the best places to live in Scotland. Building confidence and participatory experiences to access learning are important to this vision, with attainment being the key to promoting opportunities that can address inequalities through having choices.
- 4.2 Learning, achievement and skills for life are one of Inverclyde's four Corporate Parenting priority areas. This funding stream enables the Chief Social Work Officer and Chief Education Officer to make strategic decisions around how best to improve the attainment of care experienced children and young people.
- 4.3 In June 2018 the Scottish Government announced additional funding via the Scottish Attainment Challenge to provide additional support for looked after children to improve education outcomes. The allocation methodology and funding agreement reached with COSLA is based on the annual Scottish Children Looked After Survey (CLAS) specific to children age 5- 15 years As at 31st July 2017, this amounted to 144 children. For this part financial year the allocation amounts to £800 per child and thereafter £1,200 per child.
- 4.4 Local Authorities will be accountable for the allocation of funding and will be required to report on the spending and outcome measures based on a test of change to improve outcomes for our most vulnerable population. It is of interest to note that 'children in the most deprived 10% of small neighbourhoods in Scotland are nearly 20 times more likely to be looked after in care or on the child protection register than children in the least deprived neighbourhood' (Child Welfare Inequalities Project, June 2017).

In order to help address this need, the following process will be in place:

- The Lead professional (social worker) will have carried out an assessment of need and the outcome of this will be included in the Child's Plan.
 - The Lead professional with the child and family will formulate a plan to use the additional support and will apply to the PSB using the attached application form.
 - The PSB as outlined is a multi-agency partnership that will allow the Child's Plan to be shaped from a range of sources including the ASN Forum, where appropriate.
 - On receipt of funding, the Child's Planning and Improvement Officers will be informed of the decision making of the PSB. Their role is pivotal to review the impact of this spending through the Child's Plan.
- 4.5 This first year of the funding will operate utilising a test of change methodology and will be developed by the PSB in partnership with the Lead Professional, representatives from Education Services and the Child's Planning and Improvement Officers.
 - 4.6 The Lead Professional and Child's Planning and Improvement Officers will feedback to the Participatory Support Board quarterly, and they will report to the Champions Board annually. Reporting templates will be developed at the first PSB meeting.
 - 4.7 The strength of this process is an inclusive partnership with children, young people and their families that aims to empower them to be more involved in the individual goals that aim to enhance the attainment journey.
 - 4.8 Inverclyde's Champions Board was formally launched on 10th September and this event provided the platform to announce the funding to corporate parents and young people.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

Finance

- 5.1 Additional funding of £115, 000 for the duration of the Parliament. Future allocation methodology will be subject to further discussion with COSLA.

Financial Implications:

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

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

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

Legal

5.2 There are no legal issues within this report.

Human Resources

5.3 There are no human resource issues within this report.

Equalities

5.4 There are no equality issues within this report.

Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES (see attached appendix)
√	NO -

Repopulation

5.5 No implications

6.0 CONSULTATIONS

6.1 Consultation took place with the Proud2Care Group, social workers who consulted with their families and the Child's Planning and Improvement Officers. Independently, there was a coherence of feedback that included assisting children and young people to engage in clubs and buy additional equipment to assist this. The underpinning value of this is to enhance their confidence by children and young people having opportunities to develop their sense of what they liked to do and enjoy by having additional experiences of new activities.

7.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 Participatory Support Board Protocol and Attainment Funding Application