
Report To:	Education and Communities Committee	Date:	21 January 2020
Report By:	Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development	Report No:	EDUCOM/10/20/MR
Contact Officer:	Michael Roach	Contact No:	01475 712824
Subject:	Updates on the Looked after Children Attainment Fund and the Tier 2 Mental Health Strategy		

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this report is to outline updates in the Looked After Attainment Fund and the Tier 2 Children and Young People's Mental Health Service.

2.0 SUMMARY

2.1 There are currently 213 looked after children in Inverclyde all of whom require to have their child's plan reviewed on a recurring 12 week cycle. Of these there are currently 41 looked after pupils (LAC) in the S4 cohort of 2019/20. Of these, more than half are looked after at home. This is double the number of pupils we have had in S4 in recent times. Nationally research is highlighting that it is these children who are more likely to experience the poorest outcomes of all looked after children who as a group experience poorer outcomes of all children.

2.1.1 In order to fully meet the needs of this cohort and ensure that they make maximum progress and achieve as they should, it is proposed to increase the capacity of the Corporate Parenting Team on a temporary basis. The previously agreed direction of travel for this funding stream has been to allocate funding on a self-directed support model. There is currently an underspend in this budget in 2019/20 that can support the proposals contained in this report. The Health & Social Care Committee of 9 January 2020 will be asked to agree to the proposal to allocate a portion of the underspend in this budget to facilitate the temporary appointment of an additional LAC teacher and child's planning reviewing officer for a six month period.

2.2 Inverclyde HSCP and Education Services have committed to improve Children and Young People's Tier 2 Mental Health in Inverclyde based on a collaborative model. This will be via the development of a quality 3rd sector commissioned service for 5-18 year olds. It will be funded jointly through the Scottish Government Programme for change monies to be awarded from 2019-2023 for access to counselling services through schools and supplementary funding from the Inverclyde IJB.

2.2.2 The tender for the provision of a Tier 2 Children and Young People's Mental Health Service in Inverclyde is being prepared for advertising. As in all cases with Social Care service provision, the quality of the care service is of paramount importance. In light of this, it is recommended that the Tier 2 Children and Young People's Mental Health Service contract is awarded on a 60% Quality and 40% Cost of Service weighting split to help ensure the required quality of service and best value cost of service can be procured. This is a reversal of the weighting split in Contract Standing Order 13.2.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Committee is asked to note that the Health & Social Care Committee on 9 January 2020 will be asked to allocate a portion of the underspend in the Looked After Children Attainment Fund to facilitate the temporary appointment of an additional LAC teacher and child's planning reviewing officer for a six month period.
- 3.2 The Committee is asked to note that the Health & Social Care Committee on 9 January 2020 will be asked to approve the use of a 60% Quality and 40% cost of service weighting in the forthcoming tender for the Tier 2 Children and Young People's Mental Health Service, requiring the suspension of Contract Standing Order 13.2.

Ruth Binks
Corporate Director
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4.0 BACKGROUND - LOOKED AFTER ATTAINMENT FUND

- 4.1 The Corporate Parenting Team has a total teaching complement of 3.6FTE. This includes a full time Principal Teacher.
- 4.2 The current Corporate Parenting Team are already stretched with a total cohort of 163 across P1 – S6. Having triaged the 41 S4 LAC pupils, it is clear that the majority have a level of need which means that they need the input of a LAC teacher and so the team are stretched to meet these needs based on their current staffing. Within the cohort the attendance of a number of pupils is lower than we would hope and whilst this is being addressed, the Corporate Parenting Team play a significant role in supporting these pupils to keep abreast of their learning.
- 4.3 Similarly across the population of children looked after , children looked after at home are least likely to have a robust care plan developed and reviewed at regular intervals In particular they are less likely to have a focus on the health and wellbeing elements of the broader wellbeing dimensions.
- 4.4 The Head of Education and Head of Service for Social Work, have discussed the matter and it is proposed following CMT agreement that a temporary teacher will be funded on a full- time basis for 6 months to boost capacity. Similarly the temporary appointment of a reviewing officer for a period of 6 months will facilitate the development of full robust care plans for all children looked after at home bringing them into line with their counterparts who are looked after away from home. Both posts will be funded from the underspend in the 2019/20 Looked after Children's Attainment Fund
- 4.5 The Corporate Parenting Team provide both direct teaching support / 1:1 tuition for these pupils, as well as a level of pastoral support. This includes liaising with the child's family or care team as well as the staff linked to their school.
- 4.6 It is already known that in 2018/19 the percentage of LAC pupils achieving in line with their non-LAC peers was below average, thus a significant gap exists.
- 4.7 Within the 2018/19 S4 LAC cohort (23 pupils), the % of LAC pupils cared for at home achieving a level 4 SCQF was well below that of their peers cared for either in foster care or residential placements i.e. 53% vs 100%. At SCQF level 5 the picture was starker with 0% of pupils cared for at home achieving this standard vs 55% of those cared for in residential placements or foster care.
- 4.8 The need to reduce this gap is urgent and given the number of pupils in the cohort the Corporate Parenting Team will struggle to meet need and hence have an impact on closing the gap.
- 4.9 Children looked after at home are less likely to have a robust care plan and the plan is less likely to have been reviewed at the agreed frequency. Notably this group of children are more likely to have missed annual health assessments and to have less parental involvement in the care plan overall. A dedicated focus on this group will support a reduction in this gap for these children.

5.0 BACKGROUND TIER 2 MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

- 5.1 Inverclyde HSCP and Education Services have committed to improve Children and Young People's Tier 2 Mental Health in Inverclyde based on a collaborative model. This will be via the development of a quality 3rd sector commissioned service for 5-18 year olds. This will be funded jointly through Scottish Government Programme for change monies awarded 2019-2023 for access to counselling services through schools and supplementary funding from the Inverclyde IJB.

- 5.2 The service to be commissioned is to address the Tier 2 service gap locally and align with the Mental Health Strategy for early help and prevention in respect of children and young people.
- 5.3 Initially the project was named Children and Young People Early Help and Wellbeing Service and was approved to commence in March 2019 by the Senior Management Team. This was to address the Tier 2 service gap locally and align with Mental Health Strategy for early help and prevention in respect of the young people concerned. Transformation Board funding for £150,000 for 3 years was approved in March 2019. Following on from this the plan was presented to the IJB in June 2019 which took the decision to increase the award to £300,000. The IJB agreed these plans to align with the pending announcement and subsequent confirmation in September 2019 which details Inverclyde's allocation of the funding award notice for school-based counselling services for 10-18 year olds.
- 5.4 Joint funding from the IJB and Scottish Government will ultimately fund the new service over a four year period and will allow a 3rd sector commissioned service to be tendered.
- 5.5 The funding is being made available to enable the ambitions of the Scottish Government programme for 350 additional counsellors to be available across Scotland by September 2020. The Inverclyde model incorporates the theme of "Nurturing Inverclyde" and focus on early help and prevention as well as providing a quality assured single point of access, needs lead Tier 2 Mental Health Service for 5-18 year olds in Inverclyde that is child focused and community based.
- 5.6 A tender process is about to commence for the procurement of this new service which will be in place for the start of the new school year 2020. The Health & Social Care Committee will be asked to agree a 60% quality 40% cost weighting change which will ensure a quality service provision in a cost effective manner.
- 5.7 The service to be commissioned will include the provision of an integrated Tier 2 Mental Health Service for Children and Young People inclusive of counselling services in Schools supporting children and young people aged 5 and over, their parents, families, carers and teachers.
- 5.8 Tier 2 is illustrated in the diagram below



The commissioning of the service will involve a tender exercise as the initial scoping of the market has identified that there is potentially more than one provider interested and which could deliver the service. The Strategic Commissioning Team, Procurement and Legal Services are currently working with the Service to progress and prepare the Service Specification and timelines which are required for the tender exercise.

- 5.9 It is anticipated that the contract will be initially for a 2 year period with an option to extend one year and one year providing a 4 year option creating flexibility to update after a 2 year period (if required) and this will be in place in line with the Scottish Government timeline for the start of the new 2020 school year or sooner.

6.0 PROPOSALS

- 6.1 The Health & Social Care Committee will be asked to agree to the temporary increase in the capacity of the LAAC teaching and review teams. The cost of a full time teacher on a temporary basis from January to June would cost from £21.6k (SP1) to £27.3k (SP5). The cost of a review coordinator for the same period would be £28.8k. The Committee will be asked to note that this funding stream is being awarded on an annual basis and must therefore be considered as non-recurring. There is however an acceptance by the Scottish Government that funding will require to be planned spend across the academic year and therefore it is possible to phase this spend to June 2020.
- 6.2 The tender for the provision of the Tier 2 Children and Young People's Mental Health Service will be published in early 2020. As in all cases with social care services, the quality of the care service is of paramount importance and Health & Social Care Committee will be asked to agree a 60% quality 40% cost weighting for procuring this provision.

7.0 Finance

7.1 Financial Implications:

All costs are contained within the HSCP Committee budget

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
Education LAAC	Employee costs	2019/20	27		1 LAAC Teaching post SCP5 for 6 months
Social Care	Employee Costs	2019/20	29		1 Grade 10 (SCP80) for 6 months. Funded from attainment fund.

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

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

Legal

- 7.2 N/A

Human Resources

- 7.3 This proposal recommends creating two temporary posts.

Equalities

- 7.4 Equalities

(a) Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES
x	NO – This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, no Equality Impact Assessment is required

(b) Fairer Scotland Duty

If this report affects or proposes any major strategic decision:-

Has there been active consideration of how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome?

	YES – looked after children have much lower outcomes in term of attainment and this has a long term impact. Narrowing the gap between looked after and non looked after children seeks to address current and future inequalities
	NO

(c) Data Protection

Has a Data Protection Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES –
x	NO

Repopulation

7.5 N/A

8.0 CONSULTATIONS

8.1 The proposals in this report are supported by the CMT.

9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

9.1 None