

REPORT TO: Cabinet

MEETING DATE: 14 May 2013

BY: Executive Director (Services for People)

SUBJECT: Children's Wellbeing Payments to Voluntary/Partner Organisations 2013-2014

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To seek approval for the payment to voluntary/partner organisations of the amounts specified in Appendix 1 , for the financial year 2013-2014.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Cabinet is asked to agree to award grants, for 2013-2014, as shown in Appendix 1.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Section 10 of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 allows local authorities to make grants to voluntary organisations whose sole purpose is to promote social welfare.
- 3.2 The Council also has the power to purchase certain services, which it is obliged to provide, from the independent sector using other funding streams. Under certain circumstances the council can tender for such services, for example 'Who Cares? Scotland' provide advocacy and support to children and young people who are looked after away from home, in foster care or residential care.
- 3.3 A summary of the organisations to be funded for 2013/14 is attached, along with the amount provisionally allocated.
- 3.4 Cabinet should note that the Children's Wellbeing budget for payments to voluntary organisations has reduced from £850,231 in 2012/13 to £768,231 in 2013/14.
- 3.5 Various models to achieve this budget efficiency were explored including a reduction of 11% to all partner agencies. However, after much consideration and a focus on essential core complimentary service provision, this was not a model proportionate to our strategic and operational service needs.

- 3.6 It is recommended that all of the efficiencies are met through a 49% reduction to our contract with Children 1st Young Families Outreach Project, from £185,000 to £95,000. Children 1st currently partner with us under a two separate 'service level agreements' which on introduction in 2009 addressed the core needs of the service at that time, however, our service requirements and priorities have varied in the intervening period. We have been working closely with Children 1st to agree the level of service required for 2013/14. We have agreed to amalgamate the funding to the Family Group Conference and the Young Families Outreach Projects to maximise financial and operational efficiencies and use staff skills flexibly between both projects. Children 1st will restructure their staffing in East Lothian as a result with some posts now working across their projects in East Lothian and Midlothian. Children 1st are committed to working creatively and constructively, co-located with us in Randall house, in 2013/2014 to provide early years and early intervention projects supporting these priorities in the Integrated Children's Services Plan and in the Children's Wellbeing Service Plan, continuing our established partnership with them.
- 3.7 All other organisations have been allocated levels of funding that were provided last year (2012-2013) and one organisation, Richmond's Hope, no funding. Richmond's Hope is a voluntary organisation providing a bereavement service for children. The organisation has approached Children's Wellbeing for funding for the fourth year, but again it has not been possible to award any grant in view of the service's budget allocation for 2013/14 and proposed allocation of funding to existing partner organisations. Children's Wellbeing have prioritised funding to those organisations providing specialised services for the children and families that are supported by the service. Efforts have been made and advice given to enable Richmond's Hope to explore option funding streams for this organisation.
- 3.8 It should also be noted that Children's Hospice Association Scotland (CHAS) have successfully made representations directly to COSLA for the past two years which has resulted in securing uplift on all local authorities' contributions to CHAS. A national funding agreement, which took effect part-way through 2012/13, has resulted in an increase to East Lothian's contribution from £3,460.00 to an expectation of funding to the sum of £11,887.00.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There is currently a short life working group looking at a One Council Approach to future grant funding chaired by the Head of Policy and Partnerships, Children's Wellbeing is represented on this group. A full report will be presented to Cabinet when the work of the group has concluded. It is anticipated a more efficient and equitable approach to and experience of grant funding will result and deliver best value. Some existing Children's Wellbeing service level agreements may be subject to respecification and retender in accordance with the Council's Procurement Policy as a consequence.

- 4.3 Staff directly involved in procurement are currently benefiting from comprehensive procurement training that links directly with the East Lothian Council Procurement Strategy 2012.
- 4.3 The East Lothian Children's Commissioning Strategy requires consultation with service users and engagement with providers to ensure that the services we are procuring from the voluntary sector meet the specific needs of the children and families we support. This has informed our commissioning of services for this coming financial year 2013-2014.
- 4.4 The Council will require to deliver services in a way that is person centred with the advent of Self Directed Support, which will impact on future commissioning of services. This is likely to mean that in future services will increasingly be commissioned by service users rather than by the Council. It is anticipated this legislation will be implemented in Spring 2014. Children's Wellbeing and Adult Wellbeing are jointly exploring this way of working which for Children's Wellbeing is particularly relevant for disabled children and their families and care leavers, and for partner organisations currently funded to provide services to them. It is anticipated a Services for People report about Self Directed Support will be presented to Cabinet later in the year.

5 EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment is not required.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.2 Financial: This report proposes awards of funding to voluntary organisations for 2013-2014, at a total cost of £768,231. The actual amounts finally payable to specific voluntary organisations (Children 1st and Aberlour) may differ from the figures detailed at Appendix 1 as discussions are continuing with regard to the use of previous years' carry-forwards. Resources to support the recommendations in this report are contained in the Children's Wellbeing budget for 2013-2014 and the budget available, as proposed for payment, is fully allocated.
- 6.2 Personnel - There are no personnel implications arising from this report.
- 6.3. Other - None.

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 Summary of financial assistance provided to voluntary organisations and sources of funding (Appendix 1).

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Grants to Voluntary Organisations – Children’s Wellbeing – Summary Position

Organisation and Service Description	2012/13 Award	2013/14 Award Sought	Recommended for 2013/14	Notes	Funding Source
ADOPTION					
<p>Scottish Adoption Association</p> <p>Scottish Adoption provides expertise in this complex aspect of family placement work. The agency focuses on the recruitment of prospective adoptive parents. They also provide Post Adoption Support. The independence they offer in some cases is extremely helpful.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide adoption placement for 1 child 0-8 years per annum at reduced rate to spot purchase price £27,000 • Adoption Counselling for adopted adults. • Positive feedback from staff. 	£25,000.00	£25,000.00	£25,000.00	Propose another annual Service Contract letter starting April 2013.	S10 - Children Ext Prov (5036)
<p>St Andrew’s Children’s Society</p> <p>St Andrew’s Children’s Society recruits Roman Catholic and non-Roman Catholic adopters and provides post adoption support. Legal requirement to give consideration to birth parent’s views regarding the religious upbringing of the child.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide adoption placement for 1 child 0-8 years per annum at reduced rate to spot purchase price. • Post placement support after one year is covered in placement price • Pre Adoption work with relinquishing women/parents with Roman Catholic heritage • After Adoption Support/Adoption Counselling can be spot purchased • Service Manager is one of our Adoption Panel chairs providing valuable independence 	£21,000.00	£21,000.00	£21,00.00	<p>Propose a Service Level Agreement for 3 years starting April 2013.</p> <p>The cost of spot purchasing an adoption placement (BAAF Interagency Fees) is £27,000.00</p>	Payments to Voluntary Organisations

Organisation and Service Description	2012/13 Award	2013/14 Award Sought	Recommended for 2013/14	Notes	Funding Source
<p>Adoption UK</p> <p>National self-help organisation for prospective and adoptive parents and long term foster carers providing, information, advice support and training. The professionals providing the support and training are very skilled adoptive parents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting education and training on therapeutic parenting strategies for children placed for adoption or long term fostering. Run regular support sessions for adopters in East Lothian Arrange a family day for adopters in East Lothian Provide resources e.g. books, DVDs for use by the East Lothian group Very positive feedback from adopters, carers and workers who have been involved in Adoption UK training. 	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	£1000.00		S10 Children Ext Prov (5036)
<p>Birthlink</p> <p>Provides service to adopted adults, birth parents of people adopted as children and their families, local authorities and voluntary agencies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintains the Scottish Adoption Registry – computerized index of available adoption records Telephone information service – After Adoption Information Line Counselling, mediation and support to those seeking further information on birth relatives and reunion Volunteers do the public records searches 	£1,340.00	£1,340.00	£1,340.00		S10 Children Ext Prov (5036)
LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN - ACCOMMODATED					
<p>Who Cares? Scotland</p> <p>3 year Service Contract (2008-2011) – extended contract for 2nd year whilst explore Shared Service Level Agreement with Midlothian. Providing advocacy and support to children and young people who are Looked After away from home, in foster care or residential care. Who Cares? Scotland provides 365 day cover</p>	£33,817.50	£33,818.00	£33,817.00		SLA - CCSF & Ext Prov (5036)

Organisation and Service Description	2012/13 Award	2013/14 Award Sought	Recommended for 2013/14	Notes	Funding Source
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obtain feedback from service users about services offered, including exit interviews when young people have a placement ending using a range of consultation methods. Facilitate focus groups of Young People e.g. Corporate Parenting event, involvement of young people in recruitment and selection of professional staff: positive feedback from Children's Wellbeing staff re service provided. 					
CARE LEAVERS					
Places for People <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Voluntary Housing Support Agency providing support to young people 16-25 with care background or mental health issues to develop skills in independent living, including how to manage a tenancy. Tenancies in Edinburgh – demand for these tenancies continues One to one support provided to 2 East Lothian young adults Group support via Drop in Centre and planned activities Very positive feedback from Children's Wellbeing Throughcare After Care Team 	£9,500.00	£9,500.00	£9500.00		S10 - Children Ext Prov (5036)
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES					
Children 1st - Family Group Conference Project <p>Three year service contract in place until March 2012 which will be extended for a second year, whilst SLA renegotiated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 full time FGC Co-ordinator Opportunity to explore whether there is a safe solution to the child's future care and support within the family Family Plan is reviewed Established integrated, co-located project within Children's Wellbeing 	£46,240.00	£46,240.00	£46,240.00	Children 1st makes contribution of an additional 20%.	SLA – Partnership funding (5041)
Children 1st –Young Families Outreach Project	£185,000.0	£185,000.00	£95,000.00	£4,187.00 from Lloyds/TSB.	SLA Partnership

Organisation and Service Description	2012/13 Award	2013/14 Award Sought	Recommended for 2013/14	Notes	Funding Source
<p>Three year Service contract in place until March 2012 has been extended for a second year, providing family support – review of service has commenced.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enable parents to strengthen communication with partners and children • Establish routines and structures for children • Support to understand child's behaviour and develop strategies to promote positive behaviour using a range of techniques e.g. Video Interactive Guidance (VIG) • Co-deliver Incredible Years training to groups of parents • Contribute to multi- agency assessments 	0			Children 1st contribute 25 % of the cost of the project.	Funding (5041)
<p>Family Mediation Lothian</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides information, advice and mediation to families experiencing difficulty as a result of separation and divorce. • Focus on supporting children. • One parent must live in East Lothian • Sustain contact arrangements between parents and their children • Supervised Child Contact Centre in East Lothian is Olivebank, Musselburgh • 44 families and 59 children used Musselburgh contact centre • 60 Client Intake appointments from East Lothian • 26 Family Mediation appointments from East Lothian 	£9,740.00	£10,000.00	£9,740.00	Request for reimbursement of £960.00 to cover heating and lighting costs of Olivebank, by budget holder.	S10 Children Ext Prov (5036)
<p>Homestart</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established in East Lothian in August 2000 • Located at Sanderson's Wynd Early Years Centre, Tranent. Council provides accommodation. • Service providing regular parenting support to parents of children 0-8 years in East Lothian via volunteer befrienders. Currently work with 57 families, 144 children with 82 under 5 years. 	£56,370.00	£56,370.00	£56,370.00		Payments to Voluntary Organisations

Organisation and Service Description	2012/13 Award	2013/14 Award Sought	Recommended for 2013/14	Notes	Funding Source
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong demand for service via other agencies and self referral Strong community links Ongoing recruitment, training and support of volunteers Positive feedback from parents and Children's Wellbeing staff 					
DISABILITY					
East Lothian Special Needs Playscheme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of specialist school holiday playschemes (Easter, summer, October) for about 70 East Lothian disabled children with a range of complex and enduring needs. Providing social recreation for the children and respite for their families. Playschemes located at North Berwick, Prestonpans and The Hub, Tranent. Use over 100 volunteers each year recruited from local secondary schools and further education colleges. 	£62,955.00 plus transport costs up to £39,908	£62,955.00 plus transport costs up to £39,908	£62,955.00 plus transport costs up to £38,982	Transport costs for 2013-2014 will not exceed £38,982. Discussed and agreed with Playscheme Co-ordinator	Children Ext Prov (5036)
Star Youth Club Weekly youth club at North Berwick Community Centre for disabled young people aged 12 – 18 years, transport provided, valued by families. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> S10 grant contributes £47.36 per member per year Positive feedback from young people and Children's Wellbeing. Provide a residential weekend for young people– video evidences enjoyment of all who attend Run by experienced workers and 15 volunteers per session 	£1,180.00	£1,180.00	£1,180.00	Also receives £2,500.00 from Community Wellbeing for Star Youth Club and £2,100.00 from Community Wellbeing for Star Youth Club residential weekend.	S10 Children Ext Prov (5036)
Bankfoot, Aberlour Provide residential respite places to children and young people with disabilities in a small unit in Prestonpans. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The children referred have the most complex needs for 	£294,000.00	£294,000.00	£294,000.00	Service Level Agreement until 31 st March 2013. Agreed to extend for further year to	Partnership Funding (5041)

Organisation and Service Description	2012/13 Award	2013/14 Award Sought	Recommended for 2013/14	Notes	Funding Source
<p>example children with physical disabilities who need specialist equipment for moving and lifting and sleeping arrangements and children on the autistic spectrum who present with challenging behaviour.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small outreach service also provided (see below) • Placements usually provided at weekends plus holiday respite week. • Packages of support agreed and reviewed at Multi-Agency Respite Support Panel. • Flexibility to spot purchase placement midweek when crises have arisen with known children or young people. • Feedback from Service User's families and Children's Wellbeing is positive. 				further consult with service users and their families regarding future wishes post Self Directed Support implementation	
<p>Aberlour - Outreach</p> <p>See above</p>	£19,220.00	£19,220.00	£19,220.00		Partnership Funding (5041)
<p>Action for Children – Gilmerton Road, Edinburgh</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SLA : 50% Health 50%/East, Mid, West Lothian and Edinburgh Currently updating SLA with partners to run until March 2014 • Respite provided for 4 children with complex needs and challenging behaviour. • 3 children provided with Outreach Service • East Lothian children identified and reviewed for this service via Multi-Agency Respite Support Panel using Vulnerability Tool. • Action for Children Psychologist offers training to carers and parents which has been greatly appreciated 	£41,000.00	£41,000.00	£41,000.00		Partnership Funding (5041)
<p>Children's Hospice Association Scotland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide comprehensive professional care, help and support to children and young people under 16 years and their families and who have a terminal illness or condition. • Hospices - Rachel House, Kinross and Robin House, Balloch • Support from referral to death of the child and beyond. • Provide bereavement support, through one to one counselling, support groups, siblings group, spiritual and religious support, and 	£11,000.00	£11,887.00	£11,887.00	COSLA national funding agreement regarding local authority contributions concluded 25 th	S10 Children's Ext Prov (5036)

Organisation and Service Description	2012/13 Award	2013/14 Award Sought	Recommended for 2013/14	Notes	Funding Source
Remembering Days. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feedback from parents and Children's Services staff rate the service very highly. Provide support to families not known to Children's Wellbeing 				January 2013.	
2013/14 Total Budget Available for Allocation £768,231.00	£858,267.50	£866,793.00	£768,231.00		
UNABLE TO OFFER GRANT in 2013/14					
Richmond's Hope Applications made in each of last 4 years. Bereavement project for children and young people between ages of 4-18 years based in Niddrie, Edinburgh and Dalkeith. The children are supported through their grief by project workers on a one to one basis for 12 sessions using therapeutic play and art activities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very positive feedback from staff. Representations from bereaved parents that service not available to East Lothian children free of charge Offering 15 places to East Lothian Children for 1:1 bereavement counselling @ £551 per child Spot purchase @ £1150 per place 		£8,265.00	£0.00	Unable to offer funding in view of budget position	S10 Children's Ext Prov (5036)
TOTAL	£858,267.50	£866,793.00	£768,231.00		