

REPORT TO: Cabinet

MEETING DATE: 10 June 2014

BY: Depute Chief Executive (Resources and People Services)

SUBJECT: Children's Wellbeing - Payments to Partners and Voluntary Organisations (Service Level Agreements) 2014-2015

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To seek approval for the payments to partners and voluntary organisations providing services for service users of Children's Wellbeing for the amounts specified, for the financial year 2014-2015.
- 1.2 A report presented by the Depute Chief Executive (Partnerships and Community Services) on the One Council Approach to Partnership Funding 2014-15 and proposed funding was agreed by Council on 22 April 2014. Three organisations previously funded by Children's Wellbeing, Adoption UK, Birthlink and Family Mediation have been moved to this funding stream with £12,080 funding transferred from Children's Wellbeing to the Partnership Funding budget.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

Cabinet is asked to agree to award payments, for 2014-2015, 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 Aberlour provide residential respite care and outreach to support children and young people with severe and complex disabilities. A summary of the organisations to be funded for 2014/15 is attached in Appendix 1, along with the amount allocated.

- 3.3 Cabinet should note that the approved Children's Wellbeing budget for payments to voluntary organisations has reduced from £768,231 in 2013/14 to £723,230 in 2014/15. A sum of £12,080 has been transferred to the One Council Partnership Funding budget, in respect of Adoption UK, Birthlink and Family Mediation. During the exercise to agree which payments were within the scope of the One Council Approach it became apparent the majority of Children's Wellbeing partners are out of scope as they are providing specific services on behalf of Children's Wellbeing. The remaining Children's Wellbeing partnership funding budget for 2014/15 is £711,150.
- 3.4 Last year, in order to meet the required efficiencies in this budget it was agreed that a £90,000 reduction would be made to our contract with Children 1st and as a result we agreed to amalgamate the two separate contracts operating at that time, Family Group Conferencing and Young Families Outreach Project. Over the last 12 months we have worked closely with our colleagues from Children 1st to monitor our revised contract and review the development of the new service they are providing that supports our Signs of Safety approach to child protection concerns. After one full year of implementation, the multi-agency evaluation of the Signs of Safety approach, and commentary from the findings of the recent Services for Children inspection, indicate that this has been a favourable move in the eyes of professionals and clients alike.
- 3.5 Our partnership with Children 1st is strong. Various models have been considered to meet the budget efficiencies for 2014/15. In recognition of the redefinition and focus of the Children 1st service provision, described above and in preference to a % cut to all our partner agencies it is recommended that to reach the £45,000 efficiency target set within the partnership budget for 2014/15, a further reduction of £45,000 is made to the Children 1st budget from £141,240 to £96,240. In reaching this recommendation it has been necessary to take account of changes to service priorities and staffing resulting from the recent Children's Wellbeing Service Review and Redesign and in particular the joint development of the role of Children's Wellbeing and Partner Agency's Family Support Workers e.g. externally funded workers from Circle, Mentor UK, Rock Trust, in supporting East Lothian's vulnerable families with young children. The ongoing partnership working and deployment of our Commissioning Plan from within this budget allocation will focus entirely on supporting our most vulnerable families within the child protection arena.
- 3.6 We recognise the additional service and capacity building benefits a partner like Children 1st can bring to East Lothian. For example, they contribute a 20% financial contribution to the refreshed contract operating and funded under this budget allocation, a real added-value benefit within the funding mechanism. Additionally, in late 2013 Children 1st co-ordinated a successful Public Service Partnership bid to the

Scottish Government for an East Lothian based project offering intense 12 weeks of support to young vulnerable families affected by drugs and alcohol misuse and are jointly delivering this with Circle, another Children's Wellbeing partner. This project, which is being evaluated by Stirling University, commenced in February 2014. It brought significant Government funds into 3rd sector service delivery in East Lothian, resulting in 4 FTE new Family Support Workers operating and located within Children's Wellbeing. It will run until March 2015. Children 1st and Children's Wellbeing have also jointly funded an Early Years Outreach Worker post in Olivebank Child and Family Centre for a year using drug and alcohol misuse allocated funding.

- 3.7 In the current economic climate it is with strong, trusted partners like, e.g. Children 1st, Circle, Rock Trust, Mentor UK, that we seek to attract additional targeted funding to develop services for children, young people and their families in East Lothian. We are grateful to Children 1st for noting the Public Social Partnership (PSP) development opportunity and within a tight deadline, co-ordinating the East Lothian partnership bid with Circle, Children 1st and ELC. Children 1st are committed to continue to work in partnership with us and remain co-located with us in Randall House. We will continue to seek external funding opportunities in partnership, to further support the services available to the county's most vulnerable children and families.
- 3.8 The opportunity has also been taken during 2013/14 to refresh the service level agreement operating with Aberlour, which now sees their total funding proposed to be £294,000, inclusive of outreach services. There is no longer a separate funding stream allocated to them for 'outreach' work. This partnership arrangement may be subject to market-testing before March 2016.
- 3.9 Funding to With Scotland, is a payment of £2,171 negotiated through a COSLA national funding agreement similar to that of the Children's Hospice Association Scotland, CHAS.
- 3.10 All other organisations have been allocated the same levels of funding that were provided last year 2013/14.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Social Care (Self Directed Support) (Scotland) Act 2013 and supporting regulations were implemented on 1st April 2014 and have particular relevance in Children's Wellbeing to disabled children, their families and young carers. This legislation and national guidance outlines a person centred approach with participation and dignity, involvement, informed choice and collaboration with the service user, the core principles. Until now support plans have been assessed on the child's and family's needs and allocated in terms of the number of hours

of support. From 1st April new referrals are assessed and allocated a budget for their support.

Families eligible for a service may:

- Receive a direct payment and commission services for their children themselves
- Decide and direct how they wish to spend their allocated budget but choose not to take responsibility for the financial management of it
- Have East Lothian Council arrange the chosen support
- Experience a mix of options 1-3

4.2 Self Directed Support is now in year four of a ten year Scottish Government strategy. It represents new challenges for East Lothian Education and Children's Wellbeing Commissioning Plan. We are informing service users about Self Directed Support and seeking their vision for future services in East Lothian. We are engaging with partners and providers in East Lothian to ensure more disabled children have access to the services on offer for all children (the universal offer) and that the services we are commissioning from providers and the voluntary sector meet the specific needs of the disabled children and families we support.

4.3 The development of Self Directed Support in the coming year will include attaching a cost to some specialist support services e.g. Share the Care, family based respite care for disabled children and proposing what should be out of scope e.g. universal playschemes. For this reason we have taken advice from the Procurement Team and are extending the contract with Aberlour Childcare Support, provider of our residential childcare provision at 5 Bankfoot, Prestonpans, until 31st March 2016. This enables the young people and their families currently receiving this service, who have the most complex and severe conditions, assurance of continued provision, whilst giving service users, their parents and carers time to consider how they may choose to develop the young person's support plan in the future, when Self Directed Support is rolled out to disabled children and young people already receiving a support service.

4.4 It is recommended that funding of the East Lothian Playschemes continues to be paid from this budget whilst we assess the implications of Self Directed Support on this specialist provision and develop a refreshed service level agreement in the coming year.

4.5 During 2014/15, Children's Wellbeing intend to review the provision of respite and 'inclusion' opportunities for children and young people with disabilities and communication difficulties on the autistic spectrum and who are known to the service. Early consideration for the development of such services indicates potential to work in partnership with the 3rd sector to submit service proposals and funding bids to available sources e.g. Big Lottery etc. There is a budget allocation within this budget of £16,200

which will be available to enable these new opportunities to be commissioned and sourced.

- 4.6 Children's Wellbeing needs the support of Council colleagues and partners in the voluntary sector to develop support services for children and their families in East Lothian. It will be by maintaining a shared vision and strong partnership with the voluntary sector that we will be able to attract funds required to develop the marketplace for specialist children's services.

5 EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment is not required.

6. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Financial - This report proposes awards of funding to voluntary organisations for 2014-2015, at a total cost of £711,150. We have monitored budgets closely with partners. The actual amounts payable to specific voluntary organisations may differ from the figures detailed at Appendix 1 as discussions are continuing with regard to partners' year end positions. Resources to support the recommendations in this report are contained in the Children's Wellbeing budget for 2014-2015.
- 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)

AUTHOR'S NAME	Sharon Saunders Celia Borland
DESIGNATION	Head of Children's Wellbeing Group Services Manager – Longterm Care and Support
CONTACT INFO	ssaunders@eastlothian.gov.uk Ext: 7632 cborland@eastlothian.gov.uk Ext: 7930
DATE	28 May 2014

Grants to Voluntary Organisations 2014/15 – Children’s Wellbeing – Summary Position

Organisation and Service Description	2013/14 Award	2014/15 Award Sought	Recommended for 2014/15	Notes	Funding Source
ADOPTION					
<p>Scottish Adoption Association 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. They provide adoption placement for 1 child, 0-8 years, per annum at a reduced rate to the current ‘spot purchase’ price of £27,000. Adoption Counselling for adopted adults. Staff feedback positively on the service provided.</p>	£25,000.00	£25,000	£25,000	Propose another annual Service Contract letter starting April 2014.	S10 - Children Ext Prov (5036)
<p>St Andrew’s Children’s Society St Andrew’s Children’s Society recruits Roman Catholic and non-Roman Catholic adopters and provides post adoption support. There is a 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	£21,000	Propose a Service Level Agreement for 2 years starting April 2014. The cost of spot purchasing an adoption placement (BAAF Interagency Fees) is £27,000.00.	Payments to Voluntary Organisations
LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN - ACCOMMODATED					
<p>Who Cares? Scotland Original 3 year Service Contract to 2011 has been extended year on year following agreement with Corporate Procurement. Who Cares? provide advocacy and support to children and young people who are Looked After away from home, in foster care or residential care. Who Cares? Scotland</p>	£33,817.50	£33,818	£33,818		SLA - CCSF (5036)

Organisation and Service Description	2013/14 Award	2014/15 Award Sought	Recommended for 2014/15	Notes	Funding Source
<p>provides 365 day cover and contact for these young people. They obtain feedback from service users about services offered, including exit interviews when young people have a placement ending using a range of consultation methods. They facilitate focus groups of Young People and ensure the 'voices' of our young people are heard e.g. Corporate Parenting event, involvement of young people in recruitment and selection of professional staff. Very positive feedback from Children's Wellbeing staff and service users about the service provided.</p>					
CARE LEAVERS					
<p>Places for People A Voluntary Housing Support Agency providing support to young people aged 16-25 with care background or mental health issues, to develop skills in independent living including how to manage a tenancy (a number of these are in Edinburgh and demand for these tenancies continues to grow) They provide one to one support to 2 East Lothian young adults and Group support via Drop in Centre and planned activities. The service receives very positive feedback from staff and young adults using the service and the interface it provides for the Throughcare Service with our Looked After Young Adults.</p>	£9,500.00	£9,500	£9,500		S10 - Children Ext Prov (5036)
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES					
<p>Children 1st - Family Group Conference/Signs of Safety Project The original 3 year service contract in place until March 2012 has been renegotiated and extended year on year in consultation with the Corporate Procurement Team. Children 1st are established, professionally integrated and co-located within Children's Wellbeing. Children 1st makes contribution towards this service of an additional 20%.</p>	£141,240	£141,240	£96,240	2014//15 reduction of £45,000.	SLA – Partnership funding (5041)
<p>Homestart Established in East Lothian in August 2000 and located at Sanderson's Wynd Early Years Centre, Tranent. The Council provides accommodation and Homestart provides regular parenting support to parents of children 0-8 years old in East Lothian via volunteer befrienders. Currently they work with 57 families, 144 children with 82 being under the age of 5 years. There is a strong demand for service via other agencies and self referral, with strong community links operating. There is ongoing recruitment, training and support of volunteers. The service enjoys positive feedback from parents</p>	£56,370	£56,370	£56,370		Payments to Voluntary Organisations

Organisation and Service Description	2013/14 Award	2014/15 Award Sought	Recommended for 2014/15	Notes	Funding Source
and Children's Wellbeing staff.					
<p>With Scotland A national resource supporting professionals working with children and adults at risk of harm and abuse. With Scotland connect research with practice, exchange knowledge and ideas and co-ordinate activities across child and adult protection communities. The principle of improving outcomes for children in need of care and protection and adults of risk of harm is at the heart of our work with them. This National funding agreement was established through COSLA, which determines ELC's 'share'. The service has its origin in The Eilan Siar Inspection recommendation. With Scotland are key 'independent' partners in our implementation locally of 'Signs of Safety' as our practice model for Child Protection work in East Lothian.</p>	£2,171	£2,171	£2,171	COSLA national funding agreement regarding local authority contributions.	
DISABILITY					
<p>East Lothian Special Needs Playscheme The Playschemes provide specialist school holiday playschemes (Easter, Summer, October) for about 70 East Lothian disabled children with a broad range of complex and enduring needs. Some children are referred directly by Children's Wellbeing, many are not. Providing social recreation for the children and respite for their families, the Playschemes are located at North Berwick, Prestonpans and The Hub, Tranent. The service engages over 100 volunteers each year recruited from local secondary schools and further education colleges. The Playschemes operate with significant waiting lists.</p> <p><i>NB: This sum comprises a Grant of £62,995 and a maximum of £39,905 to support transport of young people through services provided by ELC Transportation Service.</i></p>	£102,860	£102,860	£102,860 Inclusive of maximum £39,905 Transportation Costs	Service Level Agreement to be refreshed during 2014/15, reflecting implications of self Directed Support on service delivery.	Children Ext Prov (5036)
<p>Star Youth Club A weekly youth club at North Berwick Community Centre for disabled young people aged 12 – 18 years, transport is provided and the facility is valued by families. There is positive feedback from young people and Children's Wellbeing staff. A residential weekend is provided for young people to encourage independence – video evidences enjoyment of all who attend. Run by experienced workers and 15 volunteers per session. The Youth Club operates with a significant waiting list.</p>	£1,180.00	£1,180.00	£1,180	Service Level Agreement to be refreshed during 2014/15, reflecting implications of self Directed Support on service delivery.	S10 Children Ext Prov (5036)

Organisation and Service Description	2013/14 Award	2014/15 Award Sought	Recommended for 2014/15	Notes	Funding Source
<p>Bankfoot, Aberlour Bankfoot provides residential respite places and limited outreach support to children and young people with disabilities in a small unit in Prestonpans. The children referred have the most complex needs, for example children with physical disabilities who need specialist equipment for moving and handling and sleeping arrangements, children on the autistic spectrum who present with challenging behaviour. Bankfoot provides a Small outreach service, which this year, has been renegotiated to form an integral part of their core funding allocation. Placements are usually provided at weekends plus a holiday respite week. Packages of support are agreed and reviewed at our Multi-Agency Respite Support Panel. There is flexibility to spot purchase placements midweek when crises have arisen with known children or young people. The feedback from Service User's families and Children's Wellbeing is positive.</p> <p>The existing contract has been varied from April 2014 onwards to include outreach service provision within the proposed funding allocation and to extend until 31st March 2016. This will allow further consultation with service users and their families regarding their future wishes post Self Directed Support implementation.</p>	£294,000.00	£294,000.00	£294,000	<p>Service Level Agreement to 31 March 2016.</p> <p>Actual allocation may vary upon conclusion of discussions with regard to partner year end position.</p>	Partnership Funding (5041)
<p>Action for Children – Gilmerton Road, Edinburgh This provider operates within a Service Level Agreement: 50% Health, 50% East Lothian, Midlothian, West Lothian and Edinburgh. The SLA was recently updated with partners to run until March 2017. They provide respite for children with complex needs and challenging behaviour. They offer an Outreach Service. East Lothian children are identified and reviewed for this service via our Multi-Agency Respite Support Panel using a Vulnerability Tool. A Clinical Psychologist is linked via the Learning Disability CAMHS team and offers training to carers and parents which has been greatly appreciated.</p>	£41,000.00	£41,000.00	£41,000	<p>Service Level Agreement with Health concluded May 2014 and extended to March 2017.</p>	Partnership Funding (5041)
<p>Children's Hospice Association Scotland CHAS provide comprehensive professional care, help and support to children and young people under 16 years of age and their families and who have a terminal illness or condition. They have hospices: Rachel House in Kinross and Robin House in Balloch. They offer support from referral to the death of the child and beyond. They provide bereavement support, through one to one counselling, support groups, siblings group, spiritual and religious support, and Remembering Days. The feedback from parents and Children's</p>	£11,000.00	£11,000.00	£11,790	<p>COSLA national funding agreement regarding local authority contributions.</p>	S10 Children's Ext prov (5036)

Organisation and Service Description	2013/14 Award	2014/15 Award Sought	Recommended for 2014/15	Notes	Funding Source
Services staff rate the service very highly. CHAS provide support to families not known to Children's Wellbeing. They operate under a National Funding Agreement negotiated and approved by COSLA, which determines East Lothian's contribution rate.					
Children's Wellbeing Partnership Development Funds allocated to the development of new partnership working arrangements and service provision for leverage-in of additional 3 rd Sector etc partnership funding to support specialist 'inclusion' services for children and young people with autism.	NA	NA	16,200		
2014/15 Total Budget Available for Allocation: £711,150	£768,231	£739,139	£711,150		