

REPORT TO: Cabinet

MEETING DATE: 12 May 2015

BY: Depute Chief Executive (Resources & People Services)

SUBJECT: Children's Wellbeing – Payments to Partners and Voluntary Organisations (Service Level Agreements) 2015/2016

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 2015/2016.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Cabinet is asked to agree to award payments, for 2015/2016, 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 2015/16 is attached in Appendix 1, along with the funding amounts proposed.
- 3.3 The 2015/16 Children's Wellbeing budget for payments to voluntary organisations is £711,230.
- 3.4 Partner agencies can bring additional service and capacity building benefits to East Lothian. Children 1st, for example, co-ordinated a successful Public Social 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. An application to extend the project until March 2016 was recently confirmed. Children 1st also made a successful bid to the Big Lottery to provide support to kinship carers who are resident in East Lothian; this service will also be based within Children's Wellbeing, going live in April 2015.

- 3.5 The flexibility of our partnership and operating arrangements with Aberlour Childcare Trust has been evidenced in the provision of a full-time placement for a young person living in the community who was in crisis and known to them. This has enabled this young person with severe and enduring needs to be cared for by familiar adults, have their educational needs met locally and maintain regular contact with elderly grandparents.
- 3.6 Our partners from Who Cares? Scotland, provide support and advocacy to our Looked After Children away from home and care experienced young adults are directly involved in developing our Champions Board which will provide ambassadors within the Council to develop the services we provide to improve the life chances of our care experienced children and young people. The added value to our contract with Who Cares? Scotland this past year has been the involvement of an East Lothian care experienced young adult working as a mentor with some of our young people. Her contribution to East Lothian's Corporate Parenting agenda was acknowledged at the Star Awards Celebration in November 2014.
- 3.7 All organisations, with the exception of CHAS, have been allocated the same levels of funding that were provided last year 2014/15.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Social Care (Self Directed Support) (Scotland) Act 2013 and supporting regulations were implemented on 1 April 2014 and initially 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 being 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. 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 five of a ten-year Scottish Government strategy. 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 (the targeted offer). The ongoing development of Self Directed Support will require review of 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 Corporate Procurement Team and are extending the contract with Aberlour Childcare Support, provider of our residential childcare provision at 5 Bankfoot, Prestonpans, until 31 March 2016. This provides 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.
- 4.3 It is recommended that funding of the East Lothian Playschemes continues to be paid from this budget during 2015/16 whilst we finally decide whether the playscheme should be within or outwith the scope of Self Directed Support.
- 4.4 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 2015/2016, at a total cost of £695,026, leaving an as yet unallocated balance of £16,204. We monitor 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 2015/2016.

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, attached as Appendix 1.

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Grants to Voluntary Organisations 2015/16 – Children’s Wellbeing – Summary Position

Organisation and Service Description	2014/15 Awarded	2015/16 Awards Sought	Awards Recommended for 2015/16	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 some 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. They offer Adoption Counselling for adopted adults. Staff and service users feedback positively on the service provided.</p>	£25,000.00	£25,000.00	£25,000.00	Propose another annual Service Contract letter starting April 2015.	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. Our agreement with them:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides 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	£21,000.00	Propose a refreshed Service Level Agreement for 2 years starting April 2015. The cost of spot purchasing an adoption placement (BAAF Interagency Fees) is £27,000.00.	Payments to Voluntary Organisations S10- Ch Ex Prov 5036
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 independent 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 and contact for these young people. They</p>	£33,818.00	£33,818.00	£33,818.00	Revised contract and service level agreement will be achieved in 2015-16	SLA - CCSF (5036)

Organisation and Service Description	2014/15 Awarded	2015/16 Awards Sought	Awards Recommended for 2015/16	Notes	Funding Source
<p>obtain feedback from service users, including exit interviews when young people leave placement using a range of consultation methods. They co-facilitate the LAC Group with council workers and are supporting the Young People's Champions Board. One of our care experienced young adults has an internship with Who Cares? Scotland and makes a significant contribution to their work in East Lothian. Very positive feedback from Children's Wellbeing staff and service users about the service provided.</p>					
CARE LEAVERS					
<p>Places for People Housing Support Agency providing support to young people aged 16-25 with care experience or mental health issues, to develop skills in independent living including how to manage a tenancy. Demand for these Edinburgh tenancies continues. They provide one to one support to 2 East Lothian young adults and group support via a Drop in Centre and planned activities. The service receives positive feedback from staff providing throughcare and aftercare and young adults using the service.</p>	£9,500.00	£9,500.00	£9,500.00		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. They have been our partners in developing our Signs of Safety approach in Child Protection particularly around using Family Group Conference techniques at the early stages of intervention. Children 1st makes contribution towards this service of an additional 20%. Added value is provided through a funding bid by Children 1st and Circle for the Public Social Partnership (PSP) – Intensive Parenting Support in East Lothian, extended for a further year 2015-16. Children 1st successfully bid to the Big Lottery to provide the support to Kinship Carers resident in East Lothian 2015-18 and are currently providing induction to recently recruited staff.</p>	£96,240.00	£96,240.00	£96,240.00	Contract and service level agreement will be completed 2015-16	SLA – Partnership funding (5041)
<p>Homestart Established in East Lothian in August 2000 and located at Sanderson's Wynd</p>	£56,370.00	£56,370.00	£56,370.00	There will be exploration around a	Payments to Voluntary

Organisation and Service Description	2014/15 Awarded	2015/16 Awards Sought	Awards Recommended for 2015/16	Notes	Funding Source
<p>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 35 families. There is a continued demand for the service via other agencies and self referral, with strong community links operating. The team have a new manager and have introduced a rapid response service which has reduced waiting times. There is ongoing recruitment, training and support of volunteers. The service enjoys positive feedback from parents and Children's Wellbeing staff.</p>				Service Contract 2015-16	Organisations S10
<p>With Scotland Centre for Excellence for Looked After Children (CELCIS): 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 in East Lothian.</p>	£2,171.00	£2,171.00	£2,171.00	COSLA national funding agreement regarding local authority contributions.	COSLA National Agreement
DISABILITY					
<p>East Lothian Special Needs Playscheme The Playschemes provide specialist school holiday playschemes (Easter, Summer, October) for 68 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>	£102,860.00	£102,860.00	£102,860.00 Inclusive of maximum £39,905 Transportation costs	Service Level Agreement may be re-negotiated during 2015/16, reflecting implications of Self Directed Support on service delivery	S10 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</p>	£1,180.00	£1,180.00	£1,180.00	Service Level Agreement may be re-negotiated during 2015/16, reflecting	S10 Children Ext Prov (5036)

Organisation and Service Description	2014/15 Awarded	2015/16 Awards Sought	Awards Recommended for 2015/16	Notes	Funding Source
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.				implications of Self Directed Support on service delivery	
<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 with learning difficulties who present with complexity.</p> <p>Bankfoot provides a small outreach service, which forms 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. Since August 2014 Aberlour have provided a full time placement, enabling a young person to remain in East Lothian with continued access to education and contact with family members without disruption. This tailored service highlights the responsive partnership currently in place. Direct consultation with Service User's families and Children's Wellbeing is positive.</p>	£294,000.00	£294,000.00	£294,000.00	<p>Service Level Agreement to 31 March 2016</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. A tender for this service will be progressed in 2015</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 Assessment Tool. A Clinical Psychologist is linked via the Learning Disability CAMHS team and offers training to carers and parents which has been greatly appreciated. Partners to this SLA have recently been invited by NHS to a series of meetings to map the future specification for this service.</p>	£41,000.00	£41,000.00	£41,000.00	Service Level Agreement with Health concluded May 2014 and extended to March 2017.	Partnership Funding (5041)

Organisation and Service Description	2014/15 Awarded	2015/16 Awards Sought	Awards Recommended for 2015/16	Notes	Funding Source
<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 Services staff rate the service very highly. CHAS also 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.</p>	£11,790.00	£11,887.00	£11,887.00	COSLA national funding agreement regarding local authority contributions	S10 Children's Ext prov (5036)
2015/16 Total Allocation of Partnership Awards:	£711,129.00	£695,026.00	£695,026.00		
2015/16 Total Budget Available for Allocation:			£711,230.00		
2015/16 Unallocated Budget to-date:			£ 16,204.00		