

Third Sector – Capacity Building and Participation Support programme – Appointment of provider etc approved.

2 Councillor Bell, Depute Leader of the Council, City Treasurer and City Convener for Financial Inclusion, presented a report regarding the appointment of a provider to enhance the Third Sector preventative and early help offer to families and to tackle childhood poverty with the city, advising

- (1) that in 2013, the Scottish Government had established 'Everyone's Children' to ensure that Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) adopt and contribute to national and local policies as well as to network and share views with funding from Scottish Government having acknowledged the need for a whole system approach, capacity to implement best practice and to ensure that the Third Sector were partners in delivering better outcomes for children, young people, and their families;
- (2) that in Glasgow, funding from the Scottish Government had facilitated the development of a comprehensive network with an established Citywide Third Sector Forum governed by a Steering Group and a number of sub-groups that aligned to the Children's Services Planning Structure and key policies and priorities such as Family Support, Early Learning, Mental Health, Childcare as well as Child Protection, however funding to support this approach had now ended;
- (3) that the involvement of the Third Sector was critical in developing a single system of support for children and families, in line with GIRFEC and feedback from partners in the Third Sector had suggested that some organisations found it difficult to engage in development opportunities due to limited capacity and infrastructure, therefore it was necessary to support these organisations to fully participate in transformational change opportunities regardless of their size;
- (4) that the Council was looking to commission a partner to operate citywide, to lead on Third Sector engagement into the Child Poverty Programme, the preventative strategy, the delivery of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan and respond to the changes required, as detailed in the report;
- (5) that developing the capacity of universal services to identify whole family wellbeing and needs at an earlier stage would require a shift in the Third Sector capacity and practice and the additional and supplementary funding would need to address complex, legacy, and challenging fragmented arrangements, therefore the task would be demanding and complex for the successful provider, requiring ongoing system and city support to ensure there was both progress and impact for families;
- (6) of the key role, expected outcomes, monitoring, reporting and tasks required of the Partner organisation in delivering the Capacity Building and Participation Support programme;

- (7) that in line with the governance procedures for the Whole Family Early Intervention Fund, funding for the Capacity Building and Participation Support programme had been agreed in principle, by the Children's Services Executive Group with the level of funding requested for the programme being £400,000 each year for 3 years, making a total of £1.2m and due to the scale of the task, the challenge at stake and the need for capacity to ensure the reform of the children's system it was recognised that due to the scale of the reform sought, it would be unable to be secured in 1 year, as detailed in the report;
- (8) that to demonstrate fairness and transparency all appropriate organisations capable of delivering the Capacity Building and Participation Support programme were contacted, and issued with the criteria and application forms and a Board comprising of 3 senior Council officers had assessed and scored each application and the successful applicant was the Glasgow Council for the Voluntary Sector (GCVS); and
- (9) that the proposed appointment of the GCVS as the provider would strengthen the interface and partnership between the Third Sector and the wider preventative system, consequently developing further need for early help, early intervention and where possible prevention and to strengthen and develop the progress made in the city, GCVS would enhance its offer to the network of Third Sector and city providers, as detailed in the report.

After consideration, the committee

- (a) approved
 - (i) additional funding to enhance the alignment of the Third Sector with the aspirations of the Council and the reform agenda across child poverty and prevention; and
 - (ii) the award to Glasgow Council for the Voluntary Sector to deliver the Third Sector Future Change Capacity on the outcome of the commissioning process; and
- (b) noted
 - (i) the funding allocation over the next 3 years and the associated tasks and functions;
 - (ii) the alignment with the Child Poverty and Whole Family Wellbeing Fund;
 - (iii) that the additional funding would be allocated from the expanded Whole Family Early Intervention Fund;
 - (iv) that the first draft of the Community Planning Performance Framework would include the outcome of the Child Poverty programme which would be submitted to the Strategic Community Planning Partnership in March 2025; and

- (v) that updates would be reported regularly to Area Partnerships and that specific updates on this work would be reported annually to this committee.