



Glasgow City Council
City Administration Committee

Item 3

22nd August 2024

Report by Councillor Richard Bell, Depute Leader of the Council, City Treasurer and City Convener for Financial Inclusion

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WHOLE FAMILY EARLY INTERVENTION FUND

Purpose of Report:

This paper provides Members with an update on the use of the Whole Family Early Intervention Fund. Furthermore, it seeks Committee approval to award funding to support the delivery of a test of change for Financial Inclusion services within the Child Poverty 'Booster' Wards. It also asks committee to note the approval of an award for Emotionally Based Non School Attendance made through delegated approval.

Recommendations:

Members are invited to;

- 1) Approve the funding proposal as set out in paragraph 3.3; and
- 2) Note the allocation of funding to Quarriers set out in paragraph 4.2.

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

Local member(s) advised: Yes No consulted: Yes No

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1 This paper provides Members with an update on the use of the Whole Family Early Intervention Fund. Furthermore, it seeks Committee approval to award funding to support the delivery of a test of change for Financial Inclusion services within the Child Poverty 'Booster' Wards.

2 Background

- 2.1 In June 2024, this Committee agreed the creation of the Whole Family Early Intervention Fund (WFEIF). The WFEIF is an aligned change fund that reflects our need to facilitate the practical delivery of our policy intent through improved funding flexibility. It brings together a number of specific funding allocations to better co-ordinate their use, increases the scope and impact of expenditure in the city and maximises the use of our resources towards our shared ambitions.

- 2.2 The Whole Family Early Intervention Fund currently totals £22.1m and can be used across the next three years (subject to further dialogue with the Scottish Government around specific permissions). Committee have previously agreed the focus for the use of the WFEIF. It will;

- Invest in change capacity to ensure that as a city we can maximise the use of resources already available to us;
- tend to the 'As Is' through investment in existing practice to meet ongoing demand and support reform where the focus aligns with our future approach;
- invest in innovative 'demonstrations of change activity' to test new practice in the short to medium term to provide further learning on which to build our transformational change;
- invest in specific population cohorts and communities identified as presenting particularly challenging circumstances;
- focus on areas of pressure that have emerged through our analysis of the current landscape, this includes; English as a Second or Other Language, Childcare, Mental Health, Financial Inclusion and community cohesion; and
- support policy alignment and demonstrate the value of funding flexibility to deliver across a number of areas.

- 2.3 As agreed by Committee in June 2024, the Children Services Executive Group (CSEG), which reports into the Glasgow Community Planning Partnership, will be responsible for overseeing the development and collective agreement of the detailed use of this resource. CSEG will ensure that broad proposals are in line with the Fund principles and initiate the necessary process to reach recommendations for funding using the GCC 'Cost of Living Crisis' process.

- 2.4 The 'Cost of Living Crisis' process, developed in partnership with Internal Audit, requires that, once the broad intention of the funding has been agreed, detailed specifications are developed. This includes both the rationale for investment

as well as robust monitoring arrangements that capture appropriate outputs, outcomes and case study details to demonstrate impact. Recommendations are then considered by Committee for award.

3 Redesigning Financial Inclusion – Award Recommendation

3.1 The growing demand for financial inclusion support, alongside a greater understanding of the breadth and depth of child poverty across our communities, underlines the requirement to reframe the city’s existing financial inclusion support. Based on insights from current provision, and importantly working in partnership with the Financial Inclusion sector itself, the CSEG endorsed a proposal to shape a 12 month ‘test of change’ that will inform the modernisation of the city offering. Investment in this work meets the following agreed WFEIF criteria for funding;

- invest in innovative ‘demonstrations of change activity’ to test new practice in the short to medium term to provide further learning on which to build our transformational change;
- invest in specific population cohorts and communities identified as presenting particularly challenging circumstances; and
- focus on areas of pressure that have emerged through our analysis of the current landscape, this includes; English as a Second or Other Language, Childcare, Mental Health, Financial Inclusion and community cohesion.

3.2 In line with the ‘Cost of Living Crisis’ process, a service specification was developed that sought a provider (or providers) that could shape a revised model. This will deliver core services whilst providing flexible capacity to meet the additional requirements of the test of change, in particular the provision of an enhanced financial inclusion and money management service for families with a child aged 5 or under to provide preventative interventions and support. In the first instance this would focus specifically within the three early adopter Booster Wards of Southside Central, Calton and Govan.

3.3 All 16 of the city’s recognised Financial Inclusion providers were invited to respond to the service specification. Following discussion, the sector agreed that one application would be submitted, demonstrating collective and collaborative working across the sector. Having completed the assessment process, Committee is requested to approve an award of £360,000 to GEMAP to deliver this test of change.

3.4 The ongoing learning from this test of change will be used to inform ongoing work to reshape the financial inclusion sector across the city in terms of both funding and service delivery model. Progress on this redesign work will be provided to Committee in September 2024.

4. Emotionally Based School Non Attendance – Noting of Award

4.1 This critical service, supporting children and young people unable to attend mainstream school, was funded until 30th June 2024. A requirement to extend

this service whilst the exploration of longer term solutions completed was agreed by CSEG. This was done on the basis that it met the following WFEIF criteria;

- 'tend to the 'As Is' through investment in existing practice to meet ongoing demand and support reform where the focus aligns with our future approach

4.2 A total of four organisations were invited to respond to the service specification. Only one response was received which was assessed in line with the agreed process. Based on the assessment undertaken, Quarriers was identified as the preferred provider. Using the agreed Delegated Authority procedure, an award for £90,631 was approved by the Chief Executive of GCC and Executive Director of Finance.

5. Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications:

Financial: None, these awards are included as part of the Whole Family Early Intervention Fund created from existing grants provided by the Scottish Government.

Legal: None

Personnel: None, these awards will be managed within existing staffing resources.

Procurement: There are no relevant procurement issues

Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:

Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2021-25? Please specify. Yes, outcome 3.

What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report? This project will have a positive impact on addressing socio-economic disadvantage across a range of population groups

Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio- Yes

economic disadvantage.

Climate Impacts:

Does the proposal support any Climate Plan actions? Please specify: Yes. Climate Theme 1 Communication and Community Engagement and Climate Theme 2 Just and Inclusive Place

What are the potential climate impacts as a result of this proposal? No significant impact

Will the proposal contribute to Glasgow's net zero carbon target? Yes

Privacy and Data Protection Impacts:

Are there any potential data protection impacts as a result of this report Y/N No

If Yes, please confirm that a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) has been carried out

5. Recommendations

Members are invited to;

- 1) Approve the funding proposal as set out in paragraph 3.3; and
- 2) Note the allocation of funding to Quarriers set out in paragraph 4.2.