

Continue Financial Inclusion in Schools Project – Allocation of funding for 2025/26 approved.

3 With reference to the minutes of the Council of 20th February 2025 (Print 7, page 7) approving £510,000 of funding for 2025/26 for the Continue Financial Inclusion in Schools Project, Councillor Bell, Depute Leader of the Council, City Treasurer and City Convener for Financial Inclusion, presented a report on how those monies were being administered by the Financial Inclusion and Transformation (FIT) Team, advising that

- (1) the Continue Financial Inclusion in Schools Project would continue to fund the service in its current model and would support 50 schools across the city by providing a comprehensive service including translation costs, full marketing services, dedicated services within Customer and Business Services Education grants team to support fast-tracking of education grants and 9 Welfare Rights Officers and a pilot project which referred people in need to local social enterprise partners to access clothing packages, including school uniforms had also been made permanent;
- (2) the FIT Team had engaged with organisations that represented and supported some of the city's most disadvantaged families and those most affected by child poverty and had invited them to submit their grant proposals for their projects that covered matters such as access to welfare advice and benefits, support with energy costs and other debts and the provision of pre-loved clothing;
- (3) the organisation's proposals were reviewed, assessed and scored against a criteria and it was proposed that the £510,000 of funding for 2025/26 for the Continue Financial Inclusion in Schools Project be awarded to GEMAP Scotland Money Matters CAB Consortium for their Financial Inclusion in Schools Officers project and Apparel Exchange for their pre-loved clothing project, as detailed in the report;
- (4) the funding would be for 12 months with an option to extend, to allow for any innovations in data sharing in the Financial Inclusion in Schools project and allow engagement with Education Services in relation to developing a wider framework linked to recycled school clothing to ensure the greatest impact in terms of the sustainability agenda; and
- (5) the impact of the project would be assessed through a robust monitoring framework agreed with the service providers which would record the outcomes from the projects, with case studies that would help demonstrate the impact that the Continue Financial Inclusion in Schools Project had had on families in the city.

After consideration, the committee

- (a) approved the allocation of £510,000 of funding for the Continue Financial Inclusion in Schools Project for the 2 projects, as detailed in the report; and

- (b) noted that an annual report would be submitted to committee detailing the impact of the allocation of funding from the Continue Financial Inclusion in Schools Project.