

SE19. Following the Public Pound: Services to Children & Young People – 2017/18 Annual Reporting Statements

The committee considered a report by the Director of Children's Services presenting reporting statements for organisations funded under the Following the Public Pound (FPP) arrangements for the period April 2017 to March 2018 for the external organisations that provide services to children and young people.

Funding was provided by Children's Services to 13 external organisations to provide services which could not readily be provided by the Council. As part of the arrangements, monitoring statements had been prepared, by the relevant monitoring officer, for consideration by the Committee.

The organisations were:-

Organisation	2016/17	2017/18
Aberlour Early Years Outreach Service	£263,464	£227,705
Aberlour Family Support Centre - Langlees	£201,260	£168,811
Barnardo's Axis Service	£105,405	£105,405
Barnardo's Education and Family Resources Service	£253,644	£281,583
Barnardo's Cluaran Service	£345,297	£345,297
Home-Start Falkirk West	£29,488	£28,014
NHS Forth Valley CAMHS Clinical Psychologist for Looked After Children	£67,401	£68,472
NHS Forth Valley Speech & Language Therapy Service	£465,040	£465,040
One Parent Families Scotland Maddiston/Braes Family Centre	£115,654	£92,523
Quarriers Children's Rights Service	£86,200	£86,200
Signpost Recovery Criminal Justice Link Nurse – Women Offenders	£22,255	£22,255
Signpost Recovery Time 4 Us	£42,375	£38,869
"Who Cares?" Scotland Advocacy Service	£27,970	£27,970
TOTAL	£2,025,453	£1,958,144

Following questions, the Director of Children's Services gave a detailed overview of the Service's Closer to Home Strategy. The aim was to reduce the Council's reliance on external residential care. In addition to achieving improved outcomes for vulnerable children and young people it would achieve significant budget savings.

In response to a question on the recruitment of foster carers, Mr Naylor stated that recruitment had been broadly consistent each year, with 5 or 6 recruited. The number of carers remained, taking into account leavers, at 60. It was intended to increase the number of foster carers to 90 thereby reducing reliance on expensive agency foster care places. He then summarised the recruitment process which would be employed and the support which was in place for carers, such as respite.

The committee sought information on the NHS Forth Valley CAMHS Project and in particular the reasons for the long waiting time, up to 26 weeks for an appointment. Mr Naylor confirmed the national target was 18 weeks and confirmed that despite Scottish Government funding there had been no decrease so far in waiting times. He then explained work which was ongoing in schools to support 'lower level' mental health issues which could reduce the number of interventions required by CAMHS.

Decision

The committee approved the reports and acknowledged progress by the following organisations in meeting Council priorities:-

- (1) Aberlour Early Years Outreach**
- (2) Aberlour Family Support Centre – Langlees**
- (3) Barnardo's Axis Service**
- (4) Barnardo's Education and Family Support Resource Service**
- (5) Barnardo's Cluaran Service**
- (6) Home-Start Falkirk West**
- (7) NHS Forth Valley CAMHS Clinical Psychologist for Looked After Children**
- (8) NHS Forth Valley Speech & Language Therapy Service**
- (9) One Parent Families Scotland Maddiston/Braes Family Centre**
- (10) Quarriers Children's Rights Service**
- (11) Signpost Recovery Criminal Justice Link Nurse – Women Offenders**
- (12) Signpost Recovery Time 4 Us**
- (13) "Who Cares?" Scotland Advocacy Service**