

SE22. Following the Public Pound: Services to Children & Young People – 2015/16 Monitoring Report

The committee considered a report by the Director of Children's Services which provided an update on the work of external organisations in receipt of funding in whole or in part, who provide early intervention services to children and young people, and who fall within the Following the Public Pound (FPP) reporting and monitoring arrangements. Sara Lacey provided an overview of the report. The committee then heard from officers in relation to the individual reports.

(a) Barnardo's Axis Service

Matthew Davies provided an overview of the report considering the performance of Barnados – Axis Service. He advised that a direct grant of £137,443 was received by the organisation in the reporting period.

Members asked if there was a risk to the organisation of receiving a reduction in funding from the Council and the Falkirk Alcohol and Drug Partnership. Matthew Davies advised that there was a risk of such funding reductions occurring but commented that this was a large service which could offset some reduction through changes to the model of service delivery. There would however, likely be a reduction in the number of young people who could be seen by the service and the amount of intensive support would also need to decrease.

Decision

The Committee approved the report for Barnardo's Axis Service and acknowledged progress towards meeting Council priorities.

(b) Barnardo's - Cluaran Service

Matthew Davies provided an overview of the report considering the performance of Barnados – Cluaran Service. He advised that a direct grant of £345,297 was received by the organisation in the reporting period.

The committee discussed the reported performance. It noted that improvements had been made to service users in the areas of the key outcomes but noted limited progress in some areas such as relationships. Matthew Davies stated that the young people who were engaged with the service were on the cusp of becoming looked after away from home and therefore likely had poorer relationships than those in other services. The client group were extremely vulnerable and at risk. He advised that the steering group would look at case studies and ensure progress was being made.

Decision

The Committee approved the report for Barnardo's - Cluaran Service and acknowledged progress towards meeting Council priorities.

(c) NHS Forth Valley CAMHS Clinical Psychologist for Looked after Children

Frank Kennedy provided an overview of the report considering the performance of NHS Forth Valley CAMHS Clinical Psychologist for Looked After Children. He advised that a direct grant of £70,704 was received by the organisation in the reporting period.

The committee sought information on the achievements which had been made and asked if figures were available to support this. Frank Kennedy advised that there was evidence of success in terms of feedback from the Care Inspectorate but highlighted that it was difficult to attribute outcomes specifically to mental health work. He stated that in future reports it may be possible to include the feedback which was received from young people relating to the service.

Decision

The Committee approved the report for NHS Forth Valley CAMHS – Clinical Psychologist for Looked After Children and acknowledged progress towards meeting Council priorities.

(d) Quarriers Scotland Falkirk Children's Rights Service

Vivien Thomson provided an overview of the report considering the performance of Quarriers Scotland – Falkirk Children's Rights Service. She advised that a direct grant of £86,200 was received by the organisation in the reporting period. Following comments she advised that more quantitative information relating to performance would be included in future reports.

Decision

The Committee approved the report for Quarriers Scotland Falkirk Children's Rights Service and acknowledged progress towards meeting Council priorities.

(e) Signpost Recovery Time 4 Us

Matthew Davies provided an overview of the report considering the performance of Signpost Recovery – Time 4 Us. He advised that a direct grant of £45,000 was received by the organisation in the reporting period.

Following discussion, Matthew Davies provided confirmation that the Big Lottery Funding received by the organisation was time limited. He further clarified that no Falkirk Council funding was used to purchase toys for service users which money came from other sources.

Decision

The Committee approved the report for Signpost Recovery Time 4 Us and acknowledged progress towards meeting Council priorities.

(f) "Who Cares?" Scotland Children's Rights Service

Vivien Thomson provided an overview of the report considering the performance of Who Cares? Scotland – Children's Rights Service. She advised that a direct grant of £27,970 was received by the organisation in the reporting period.

The committee asked if there was good partnership working between the service and Quarriers Scotland. Vivien Thomson stated that there was a good joint working relationship operating within current financial restrictions. The services were co-located. Members discussed whether there was a need for two similar services or if one organisation could meet demand.

Members asked what the level of demand was for these services. Vivien Thomson advised that she would provide the information after the meeting as it would be split across Quarriers Scotland and Who Cares? Sara Lacey stated that there was some responsibility on the organisations to create demand through ensuring their services were well promoted. She commented that the national profile of Who Cares? was positive.

Decision

The Committee approved the report for “Who Cares?” Scotland Children’s Rights Service and acknowledged progress towards meeting Council priorities.