

The background of the slide features a large, light blue watermark of the University of Canterbury crest. The crest is a shield divided into four quadrants. The top-left quadrant shows a building with a flag. The top-right quadrant shows a stag's head with antlers. The bottom-left quadrant shows a three-masted sailing ship on the sea. The bottom-right quadrant shows a bird with its wings spread. Above the shield is a crown with four floral motifs. Below the shield is a ribbon with the motto 'ANE FOR A'.

## **Agenda Item 5**

### **Whole Family Wellbeing Funding (WFWF)**

Falkirk Council

**Title:** Whole Family Wellbeing Funding (WFWF)  
**Meeting:** Education, Children and Young People Executive  
**Date:** 21 March 2023  
**Submitted By:** Head of Social Work Children's Services/  
Chief Social Work Officer

**1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 This report provides an update to the Executive of investment received by Falkirk's Children's Services Planning Partnership in respect to the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund (WFWF). This funding is intended to support the transformation of family support provision in line with the Scottish Government's national priorities.
- 1.2 This will assist the service in meeting the Council Plan priority supporting stronger and healthier communities "Promoting opportunities and reducing inequalities".

**2. Recommendations**

**The Education, Children and Young People Executive is asked to:-**

- (1) note the progress associated with the planning for Falkirk's allocation of the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund;**

**3. Climate Change**

- 3.1 Having consulted the energy and climate change team, outcomes of this report will have no affect on either the organisational or national climate change targets.

**4. Background**

- 4.1 In February 2020, the Independent Care Review concluded its findings and published The Promise, an ambitious document outlining the foundations of Scotland's aim that children and young people grow up loved, safe and respected so that they realise their full potential.

The Promise calls for transformational change in the care system, focusing on 5 foundations:-

- **Voice** - children must be listened to and meaningfully involved in decision making;
- **Family** - where children are safe and feel loved in their families they must be supported to stay, and Scotland must broaden its understanding of risk;
- **Care** - where children cannot stay at home, they must be supported to have lifelong links with their carers and siblings;
- **People** - children must be actively supported to develop relationships with the workforce and wider community; and
- **Scaffolding** - children, families and the workforce must be supported by an accountable, responsive system.

4.2 In May 2020, a national Covid-19 Children and Families Collective Leadership Group was set up to respond to concerns during the pandemic. This group developed a Holistic Family Support Vision and Blueprint for Change.

4.3 10 national **principles** of holistic whole family support were developed, determining that all family support provision should be:-

- non stigmatising;
- wrapped around the whole family;
- needs based and individually tailored;
- empowering and building on existing strengths of families and communities - explicitly connected to locations that make sense to families;
- flexible, responsive and proportionate;
- easy to access and offering choice;
- built on trusted and respectful relationships between families and professionals - with families being meaningfully involved in service design, delivery and evaluation;
- multi-agency and joined up;
- skilled and supported workforce – support should be informed by an understanding of trauma, inequality and poverty;
- underpinned by children’s rights.

- 4.4 The Scottish Government's 2021-22 Programme for Government committed to investing £500 million of Whole Family Wellbeing Funding over the lifetime of this Parliamentary session. It also set out the ambition that by 2030 at least 5% of community-based health and social care spend should be directed towards preventative whole family support measures.
- 4.5 The 2022-23 Scottish Budget allocated £50m for the WFWF. £32 million has been committed nationally to Children's Services Planning Partnerships (CSPPs) to build local capacity for transformational whole system change and to scale up and drive the delivery of holistic whole family support services.

This **criteria** of the first year of funding aims to support Community Planning Partnerships to:-

- build transformational capacity within the Partnership;
  - test new approaches to family support;
  - scale up existing transformative and effective approaches which align with the National Principles of Holistic Whole Family Support (as above), with a view to their integration into longer term local investment plans (noting that the WFWF will end in 2025-26).
- 4.6 CSPPs have collaborative decision-making responsibility for agreeing how the fund should be spent and are accountable for reporting on spend to the Scottish Government. In Falkirk, the Children and Young People Strategic Leadership group, chaired by a Third Sector senior manager, constitutes the CSPP.

CSPPs are encouraged to consider how WFWF funding could be combined with other funding to deliver transformational outcomes that are shared and aligned.

#### 4.7 **Current Position**

Falkirk's CSPP has undertaken a review of its governance structure to ensure clear reporting of its high-level key priority areas are in keeping with the overall ambition of the WFWF. (See **Appendix 1- Governance Structure Diagram**)

Over the past 6 months the CSPP has:-

- realigned to be more efficient and effective as a governance forum for WFWF by updating the Terms of Reference and membership of the Falkirk Children and Young People's Strategic Leadership Group;
- created a pathway for decision making by senior leaders from the CSPP to ensure timely decision making;

- approved recruitment to a WFWF taskforce to build capacity in transforming culture, systems and practice through a data informed process of co- production with service users;
- agreed that our Children’s Services Plan for the next three years will reflect the vision and aims of the WFWF by integration of co design and co-production of services alongside a process of self-evaluation;
- appointed a Graduate Data and Information Assistant to the partnership to update our Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and ensure that data is used to inform planning;
- started working with partners to better align local family support referral pathways and processes in order to provide a more joined up offer to families.

A Senior Manager has been appointed from the Partnership to lead on the WFWF in Falkirk and oversee the recruitment of the WFWF taskforce. A Promise Coordinator and Project Manager (PMO) who will provide professional support in keeping the project on track, are now undertaking their induction to the Partnership with recruitment to other key roles progressing.

The Senior Manager will ensure a clear joined up strategy for the CSPP priorities to Keep the Promise, of which Family Support is one strand. The strategy will also encompass our commitment to meeting our Corporate Parenting responsibilities. Corporate Parenting is known in Falkirk as “Falkirk Council Family and Friends”.

This transformative approach will support the key aims and objectives of Children’s Services Closer to Home Strategy.

#### 4.8 **Next Steps**

Once appointed, the first phase of work for the taskforce will be to undertake a diagnostic approach to understanding the current systems of support in the context of our priorities. This will involve identifying and engaging with the key stakeholders, including those with an interest and those with influence. Children and families who use the services will be key to this phase, as well as Statutory and Third Sector Partners and members of the workforce.

This scoping phase will require time and a variety of approaches so we can build trust, meaningfully challenge and test our findings, undertake data mapping and interviews.

The second phase of activity will translate the insights gained in the initial few months into a shared purpose and vision of desired outcomes for children, young people and families. Through workshops, meetings and one-to-one support we will gain quantitative and qualitative data into what is

working well, what needs to change and what the barriers to change may be.

During this phase we will focus on our ambitions to deliver holistic whole family support by inviting partners to apply for up to £20k per year from the WFWF to undertake small to medium tests of change, either by augmenting and amending existing provision or trying something new.

We would look to fund up to 10 tests of change in 2023/24.

A multi-agency panel of senior leaders will consider all bids from Council and Third Sector partners that meet the criteria (as above in 4.5) and principles (as above in 4.4) of the fund on the understanding that the projects and activities will be evaluated, lessons learned and shared.

These tests of change alongside the insights provided by key stakeholders will inform the spend from the fund in years 2 and 3.

Scottish Government has confirmed that unspent funds can be carried forward year on year. Due to delays in confirmation of fund and recruitment of the task force, projected spend for 22/23 is £57k and the unspent funds from this year will be available to support the transformation into 2025/2026.

## **5. Considerations**

- 5.1 The WFWF offers an opportunity for transformational change. However, the fund is only available until the 2025/26 financial year.
- 5.2 It is important that any additional capacity created by the WFWF is sustainable in the longer term, to prevent the termination of services when the Fund ceases.
- 5.3 The CSPP is keen to take the opportunity to utilise the WFWF as transitional funding to test different models of family support. This will allow existing provision to be recalibrated to be more effective and in line with the national principles of holistic whole family support.
- 5.4 In order to invest in effective models of family support, the CSPP will require to disinvest in those that are less effective. We are challenged by the principles of the Fund to take a strength based and risk tolerant approach to facilitate change.
- 5.5 The Scottish Government has given a commitment to invest £500 million in the WFWF over the course of this Parliamentary session. Year one allocation was £32 million nationally to CSPPs; in anticipation of substantial increases in the following years. However, early indications are year two funding has been baselined on the year one allocation.
- 5.6 The CSPP has recruited a taskforce based on increasing WFWF investment to deliver on the ambitions of the fund. We will need to review the work of

the taskforce based on a potential reduction in investment.

- 5.7 There is an opportunity to capitalise on the investment in the taskforce to help drive forward the broader CSPP priorities to Keep the Promise, of which family support is one strand.

## **6. Consultation**

- 6.1 Integral to the WFWF taskforce, a Participation and Engagement Officer will facilitate good conversations with those who use our services, ensuring that their views, experiences and aspirations are central to our plans going forward.
- 6.2 We intend to have service users around the table from the outset of planning, to build trusted relationships and create the right conditions for co-design.
- 6.3 In accordance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and the principles of Whole Family Support, a rights-based approach will be taken in designing services. This approach recognises the principles of dignity, best interests of the child, non-discrimination, life, survival and development, participation, interdependence and indivisibility and transparency and accountability.

## **7. Implications**

### **Financial**

- 7.1 The 2022-23 Scottish Budget allocated £50m for the WFWF and £32 million has been committed nationally to the Children's Services Planning Partnerships, of which Falkirk's allocation is £923,000. This funding can be flexibly used across the 3 years of the funding.

It was anticipated the 2023/24 allocation would have substantially increased; however, early indications are it will be the same baseline allocation as 2022/23.

Whilst the monies are routed through the Local Authority, the CSPP has collective responsibility for agreeing spend in a way that best maximises the longer-term impact of the fund. To this end, the Chair of the CSPP is responsible for reporting to Government on how the fund has been spent.

### **Resources**

- 7.2 In order to fulfil our reporting requirements to the Scottish Government on how the CSPP is planning to transform our offer of family support to those families most at need, the CSPP has agreed the establishment of a taskforce, which will be fully funded for the 3-year duration of the fund.

The funding will allow capacity to commission and support tests of change during the first 18 months. The central team is currently being established and appointments have been made to Service Manager, Promise Co-ordinator, Project Manager (PMO) and Interagency Training Co-ordinator posts to date.

### **Legal**

- 7.3 There are no legal implications associated with this report.

### **Risk**

- 7.4 The Fund represents an opportunity to begin to make the transformational changes to culture, systems and practice necessary to achieve the shift from investment in intensive reactive services to a more preventative approach.

Failure to maximise the opportunity to recalibrate support services risks increasing numbers of children in care which is recognised by the Government as unsustainable in the medium to long term.

The principles of the fund require us to take a risk tolerant approach to family's circumstances. This may increase the potential for children to remain in less than optimum circumstances for longer, therefore increasing risk of individual harm and reputational risk to the Council.

Risk mitigation, framed within a rights respecting approach will be important as the taskforce progresses its work.

### **Equalities**

- 7.5 Any proposed changes to service delivery that impact people will be informed and modified by the Equalities, Poverty Impact Assessment process.

The taskforce will work alongside and align with the Child Poverty Action group and poverty workstream activities.

### **Sustainability/Environmental Impact**

- 7.6 The impact on the environment and any sustainability factors will be considered in any project plans relating to Whole Family Wellbeing.

## **8. Conclusions**

- 8.1 Falkirk's allocation of the WFWF represents an opportunity to transform the way we deliver whole family support.

- 8.2 The criteria and principles clearly define how the Fund should be utilised, with reporting to Scottish Government on its impact.



- 8.3 Falkirk's CSPP is challenged to co-design services with families as equal partners, using a strengths based, risk tolerant approach.
- 8.4 The sustainability of change is crucial so we intend to spend sufficient time on the diagnostic and scoping phases to ensure that we are focusing our resources to best effect.
- 8.5 The CSPP Chair will report annually to the Community Planning Partnership Board on progress in relation to WFWF, as well as providing regular updates as required by Scottish Government

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**Appendices:**

Appendix 1 Governance Structure Diagram

**List of Background Papers:**

None.

**APPENDIX 1**

