

Report

Report to:	Social Work Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	6 December 2023
Report by:	Director, Health and Social Care Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

Subject:	Enhancing Trauma Recovery Capacity
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ provide the committee with an update on how trauma informed practice across children's services can be enhanced by aligning a Trauma Recovery Counsellor post to the newly created family support hubs
- ◆ update the committee on Scotland's commitment to prevent and mitigate the negative impact of childhood adversity and trauma while contributing to #keepthepromise through provision of earlier, preventative, holistic family support
- ◆ update the Committee on how aligning funding from the Children and Young Peoples Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund will enhance the delivery of whole family wellbeing services and holistic family support

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the contents of the report are noted; and
- (2) that the post detailed in section 5 of the report be approved.

3. Background

- 3.1. It is the Scottish Government and COSLA's ambition for Scotland to have trauma-informed services and workforces that are capable of recognising where people are affected by trauma and adversity, that are able to respond in ways that prevent further harm and support recovery and can address inequalities and improve life chances.
- 3.2. The Scottish Government allocated recurring funding of £15m per annum in relation to the development of new and enhanced community mental health and wellbeing services. South Lanarkshire receive £840K per year to deliver these developments. These new, or enhanced, supports were aimed to focus on early intervention and prevention support for children and young people aged 5-24. This was produced based on recommendations from the Mental Health Taskforce as well as consideration from other youth engagement. As a partnership we have committed £835K to date for this programme, including the post highlighted at 5.1.

- 3.3. As a Resource we have undertaken a review of all our family support services. This has been transformational in how services are delivered to children and their families in South Lanarkshire. The combination of health care, social care and third sector teams collaborating at community level, married with thorough planning and investment, has seen the successful launch of a number of initiatives. The early rollout has included family support hubs that promote a no wrong door approach for families seeking support. The aim is to reduce perceived stigma of families seeking help and preventing challenging situations escalating to the point where children may need to enter care, or other formal measures or support are required.
- 3.4. Trauma informed practice is a priority, and a Reflective Practice Coordinator is currently aligned to the family support hubs to support staff wellbeing and strengthen their ability to be reflective, trauma informed practitioners to develop staff in practicing in a trauma informed way with families. The overall programme is evaluated through Psychological Services who recruited an Education Psychologist from the Children and Young Peoples Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund to lead on and evaluate the programme. This involves reporting back to the Scottish Government annually on quantitative as well as qualitative data and outcomes. Future reports on the full programme will be brought back to future committees for oversight.

4. Proposal

- 4.1. The addition of a Trauma Recovery Counsellor to work directly with children and families experiencing trauma is identified as a gap and would contribute to the realisation of delivery of preventative whole family support. Families would have access to this specialist intervention before the situation has escalated. They work directly with families as an early intervention approach for direct support at the right time to link with children or adult mental health services as identified as a priority nationally and locally.

5. Employee Implications

- 5.1. Approval is sought to establish the post on a permanent basis as outlined in the table below.

Post	No of posts	Grade	SCP range	Hourly rate	Annual salary	Gross cost	Total cost
Trauma Recovery Counsellor	1	Grade 3	72 - 74	£23.40	£42,703	£55,642	£55,642
		Level 4		- £23.90	- £43,615	- £56,830	- £56,830
Total							£55,642 - £56,830

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. The costs will be funded from the Children and Young Peoples Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund. Should the funding arrangements change in the future the recurring costs will be absorbed in the service.

7. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

- 7.1. There are no implications for climate change associated with this report.
- 7.2. There are no sustainable development implications associated with this report.
- 7.3. There are no environment Implications associated with this report.

8. Other Implications

- 8.1. There are no additional risk implications associated with this report.
- 8.2. There are no other issues associated with this report.

9. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 9.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function, or strategy, or recommend a change to existing policy, function or strategy and, therefore, no impact assessment is required.

Professor Soumen Sengupta
Director, Health and Social Care

Paul Manning
Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

14 November 2023

Link(s) to Council Values/Priorities/Outcomes

- ◆ Our children and young people thrive
- ◆ People live the healthiest lives possible

Previous References

- ◆ none

List of Background Papers

- ◆ none

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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