

Report

Report to:	Executive Committee
Date of Meeting:	21 November 2018
Report by:	Executive Director Education Resources Executive Director Health and Social Care and Executive Director Finance and Corporate Resources

Subject:	Rutherglen Cambuslang Pathfinder Project: Care Experienced Children and Children on the Edges of Care
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ advise the committee of a pathfinder initiative to pilot an alternative intervention model for care experienced children and children on the ‘*edges of care*’ experiencing difficulties to fully access the school curriculum as well as fulfil their health and wellbeing outcomes within their communities.
- ◆ seek approval for the recommendations contained within the report

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the contents of the report are noted.
- (2) that the Pathfinder initiative for the Rutherglen/Cambuslang area is approved with the creation of the team identified at section 6.1, for a period of 2 years.
- (3) that the governance of the pilot is noted and an annual report is provided to the committee in relation to updates and developments.

3. Background

- 3.1. Following a series of meetings with representatives from Education, Social Work and Finance and Corporate Resources it was agreed that there was a need to look at a distinct piece of work for the Rutherglen/Cambuslang area in relation to outcomes for Children and their Families. Rutherglen/Cambuslang was looked at as an initial pathfinder area with a view to looking at lessons learned in how as a council we could upscale an initiative across the council.
- 3.2. Meetings with the three Head Teachers from the secondary schools in the area identified a number of young people who had difficulty in fully accessing the curriculum and there was a commitment to look at alternative interventions other than the traditional school support and or referrals to Social Work Resources to better improve outcomes for young people.
- 3.3. The Rutherglen/Cambuslang locality covers a geographical area of 25.34 square kilometres and contains both urban and rural communities. The locality is made up

of the recognised communities of Rutherglen and Cambuslang and borders on the city of Glasgow boundary.

Positive health and wellbeing is a priority for Education and Social Work Resources for the area however there are a number of challenges unique to the area as a whole:

- the population of Rutherglen/Cambuslang has grown quite significantly from 2016 from 57,872 to 60,397 in 2018.
- relatively more of the locality's economically active population are unemployed and significantly more of the economically inactive population are long term sick/disabled
- more households in the area with no access to a car
- more children, under 20, from low income families
- the birth rate was a tenth higher than the South Lanarkshire average and significantly more babies were low weight with slightly more being to mothers aged 35 and over
- only 77% uptake of 27-30 month review for children in comparison to 91% for South Lanarkshire
- more children under 5 in comparison to other localities within South Lanarkshire
- 35% of the community live in some of the most deprived areas within the locality
- highest rate of Alcohol and/or Drug admissions
- relatively more People provide unpaid care between 20-49 hours
- diversity of wealth in the locality.
- Social Work referrals are higher for child and family services than the South Lanarkshire average (32.2% for Rutherglen against 29.4 for SLC)
- single parent households with children is higher than the South Lanarkshire average (9% for locality against 7.8% for South Lanarkshire)

- 3.4. There are significant factors that impact on a child's learning. Some children and young people are more at risk of experiencing mental health problems than others. Poverty is a major contributor to mental ill health. This is a significant issue, between 2014 and 2017, it is estimated that almost one in five children in Scotland were living in relative poverty. Scottish Government projections estimate that this will rise to 38 per cent by 2030-31. Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and trauma are also now recognised as key risk factors for mental ill health. ACEs are stressful events occurring in childhood, such as physical and emotional abuse and neglect. Those living in areas of higher deprivation are at greater risk of experiencing ACEs. Preventing and mitigating the impact of ACEs is a priority for the Scottish Government.
- 3.5. The Children's Services Plan 2017– 2020 contextualises the importance of three priority themes identified by the Children's Services Partnership: prevention and early intervention; health and wellbeing, supporting vulnerable groups and keeping children safe.
- 3.6. It has therefore been identified that a targeted approach in relation to care experienced young people and children on the 'edges of care' should be undertaken to improve the life chances for this significant group of young people. Children on the '*edges of care*' is a term that is being used to describe children whose outcomes are as poor as looked after children in the community who are at risk of rejecting mainstream education or unable to sustain a mainstream curriculum and escalating through the children's hearing system often as a result of crisis for the child or family. Poverty is a significant contributory factor for this group of children and their families and come with a range of other factors including poor health outcomes, alcohol and drug addictions as well as high prevalence of domestic violence.

4. The Proposal

- 4.1. It is proposed to create a multi disciplinary team that will work with identified groups of young people in both an individual basis but also in a group work basis. The work will involve increased support within the school environment where the support will be around the child. However it is recognised that support also needs to include positive experiences within the community and in the family home so an assertive outreach is also proposed. This will include working with the parents and care givers looking at their needs. This will include, benefit maximisation, housing issues, employability and training programmes as appropriate so it is a Whole System approach.
- 4.2. The target group will be children on the 'edges of care' as well as care experienced young people and will be proactive in adopting an early intervention approach. The initiative will target critical periods such as children in the transition from primary to secondary school; support during school Summer and Easter holiday periods, where disengagement from school becomes a significant issue for the children and their families. These are often the most vulnerable periods for children affected by poverty and often the most excluded within society. Sibling groups will also be targeted so that there is a wrap around service of support around the family to increase opportunities for the whole family. There will also be an emphasis on the carers, in order that they can be supported and up skilled ensuring positive outcomes for are also identified for them to improve their life chances as well as their children.
- 4.3. The aim is to do this as an early intervention principle and in a non statutory way, negating the need to go down formal referral routes to Social Work and Childrens Hearings. A measure of success will be a reduction in the number of statutory supervision requirements through the Childrens Hearing, increased school attendance for the targeted group, improved educational attainment, better work experiences and successful school leaver destinations, increased training and employability options for carers and general improved health and wellbeing outcomes.
- 4.4. The proposal complements other council strategic plans such as the Children's Services Plan, the Child Poverty Action Plan as well as the South Lanarkshire Council Plan.

5. Proposed Structure

- 5.1. A team is created for the duration of the Pilot and will be made up of a 1 FTE Team Leader, 6 FTE Youth Family and Community Learning Workers and 1FTE Clerical Assistant. The team will report direct to the Locality Manager (Youth, Family and Community Learning Services), however the team will also, in effect be accountable to the Head Teachers of the three Secondary Schools who will identify the core group of young people using needs based criteria to target children on the 'edges of care' based on need. There will be an increased presence of these workers within the school environment.
- 5.2. The team will work closely with existing resources such as Educational Psychology, Social Work, Money Matters, Housing and Employability and Training providers. The intention is that a whole system approach is provided by the team to work with the child, the family, in the school environment and across their wider communities.
- 5.3. The initiative will be governed by a Steering Group made up of representatives from the three Secondary schools, Educational Psychology, Social Work, Housing and Employability.
- 5.4. It is proposed to test the model over a two year period while looking at the opportunities to upscale across the local authority. This will involve taking the best

parts of the model based on the elements that demonstrate successful outcomes. It is also proposed that an annual report is provided to Education Committee in relation to progress and developments.

6. Employee Implications

- 6.1. The employee implications for implementing the 2 year Pilot for the multi-disciplinary team is identified below:

Post	Current Number of Posts (FTE)	Proposed Number of Posts (FTE)	Grade	Hourly Rate	Annual Salary	Gross Cost inc on costs 30.3%
Team Leader	0	1	Grade 3 Level 4 Scp 70-74	£18.22 - £19.35	£32,249 - £35,311	£41,020 – £46,010
Youth Family and Community Learning Workers	0	6	Grade 2 Level 1 Scp 33-35	£10.58 - £10.91	£19,307 - £19,909	£23,989 - £24,738
Clerical Assistant	0	1	Grade 1 Level 1-3 Scp 20-27	£8.74 - £9.69	£15,949 - £17,683	£20,781 - £23,040
Totals	0	8				£205,735 - £217,478

- 6.2. These posts have been evaluated using the Council's grading scheme and will be employed on a permanent basis however with temporary location for an initial period of two years in keeping with the two year Pathfinder initiative.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1. The costs of the two year pilot will be met from a combination of funding streams from Education, Social Work and Finance and Corporate Resources as well as some funding from the Scottish Governments Scottish Attainment Challenge (SAC).
- 7.2. Running costs and children and young people treatment costs to run out of school activities and Summer and Easter programmes of £15,000 are also included on an annual basis as part of the initiative.
- 7.3. The total financial costs for the programme will be £205,735 - £217,478 plus the £15,000 Out of School costs, per annum.

8. Other Implications

- 8.1. There is a risk if recommendations are not supported that the capacity to improve services will be limited.
- 8.2. There are no implications for sustainability in relation to this report at this stage as this is a Pathfinder initiative. Up scaling of future initiatives will be looked at as the outcomes and lessons are developed through the pilot.

9. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 9.1. This report does not introduce a new policy function or strategy, nor does it recommend a change to existing policy, function or strategy, therefore, no impact assessment is required.
- 9.2. Consultation with the Trade Unions has been undertaken in regard to the proposals contained within this report.

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Executive Director Education Resources

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Executive Director, Health and Social Care

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Executive Director Finance and Corporate Resources

Date: 31 October 2018

Link(s) to Council Values/Objectives

- ◆ Provide vision and strategic direction
- ◆ Strengthen partnership working, community leadership and engagement
- ◆ Protect vulnerable children, young people and adults
- ◆ supporting our communities by tackling disadvantage and deprivation and supporting aspiration
- ◆ Getting it right for children and young people
- ◆ achieve results through leadership, good governance and organisational effectiveness

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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