

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:	Keeping the PROMISE funding: Youth and Justice Rights
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ♦ update the Committee on having successfully secured CORRA funding from the category - keeping the PROMISE round two: Youth Justice and Rights

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the use of CORRA granted funding for the project Youth Justice and Rights be noted; and
- (2) that the 0.5FTE Team Leader post is added to the Social Work Resources establishment on a fixed term basis, as detailed in section 5.

3. Background

- 3.1. In February 2020, the Independent Care Review, commissioned by the Scottish Government, set out how the country can make sure every child is loved, safe and respected. In South Lanarkshire Council, Children and Justice Social Work Services, there is a strong commitment to keeping "The PROMISE" to care experienced young people to ensure they grow up loved, safe and respected. Implementation of the PROMISE is supported by key strategic partnership structures that lead on and drive forward our aims. The Champion's Board is ensuring the voice of care experienced young people is influencing strategic planning via the South Lanarkshire PROMISE Oversight Board attended by key leaders from Council, Health and third sector groups. This Board is scrutinising our performance to ensure that our specific commitments to care experienced young people are implemented.
- 3.2. A key national commitment has been made towards reducing the disproportionate criminalisation of care experienced young people. South Lanarkshire Children and Justice Social Work Services have been strongly committed to improvements in these areas and have already made structural changes and significant improvements in this approach which straddles a number of services. A young person's service encompassing our Throughcare and Continuing Care Team has been established to ensure targeted and tailored support is provided to our young people. Improvements, to date, include enhanced support of care experienced young people, who are listened to, supported and their right to remain in care is respected.

Further improvements have included:

- strategies to prevent under 18's being remanded or sentenced to custody in HM Polmont YOI (Scottish Prison Service data on under 18s reflects a reducing trend of remands and none in past 18months)
- successful structured deferred sentencing pilot
- introduction of a pathway supporting health needs of this care experienced group
- introduction of care experienced teachers dedicated to support inclusion, wellbeing, and attainment of young people.
- supported Inclusion as Prevention, a community lottery funded initiative that led to a blueprint for coproducing system change with young people

3.3. The focus on improvement in this area has highlighted that despite the improvements achieved to date, further change requires to be achieved to prevent younger care experienced people from being stigmatised and criminalised. To support continued improvement in this area a partnership application was submitted to CORRA Keeping the PROMISE round two, Youth Justice and Rights. This application was successful, and funding was granted to support young people on the edges of or who are already involved in the Youth Justice system to work with South Lanarkshire Council, Covey, and the University of the West of Scotland to implement a contextual safeguarding approach.

4. Focus of the CORRA bid focussing on Youth Justice and Rights

4.1. The Child Protection Committee is driving forward the implementation of a contextual approach to safeguarding young people from non-familial harm such as criminal and sexual exploitation. The PROMISE Youth Justice funding will support the implementation of this approach through the development of a multi-agency partnership to further integrate the voice of young people with experience of coming into conflict with the law to the systemic changes taking place.

4.2. COVEY Befriending will be the key lead to supporting young people to participate in this project. Covey will receive referrals for young people already involved in or on the edges of the justice system. Referrals to COVEY will come from the young person's service who will offer mentoring and support to empower this group of young people whose feedback from lived experience of Youth Justice will help to inform the cultural changes required to implement contextual safeguarding. They may for example, comment on language or offer advice on how to improve contextual safety for young people at risk of extra familial harm. COVEY will work with our Promise participation leads, contextual safeguarding champions and contribute to our contextual safeguarding conference. In addition to representing the voice of young people in multi-agency workforce briefings to help to change culture and to shape our strategic approach. COVEY will recruit a Project Coordinator, a Group Facilitator and a Project Lead who will offer engagement with young people and services, facilitate group work and contribute to management and leadership support.

4.3. It is proposed that a Team Leader post is established within Social Work Resources, and they will have responsibility for networking with young champions and partner agencies and coordinating the strategic oversight group. The Team Leader will collate the performance information and improvement required for the grant funding at the 6, 12 and 18 month points of the project and feed this back to CORRA. The post will also have a key responsibility for communicating about learning from the project and will represent the findings at the PROMISE strategic group.

- 4.4. The University of the West of Scotland will support evaluation of the project which will include having peer reviewers recruited to be at the centre of this evaluative work.

5. Employee Implications

- 5.1. The following post should be added to the Social Work Resources establishment on a fixed term basis for 12 months.

Post	No of posts	Grade	SCP range	Hourly rate	Annual salary	Gross cost	Total cost
Team Leader	0.5	Grade 3 level 8	79 – 80	£25.74 - £26.13	£46,972 - £47,684	£61,205 - £62,133	£30,602 - £31,066

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. CORRA have awarded £0.150m for this project over an 18-month period: £0.090m for COVEY; £0.030m for the University of the West of Scotland and £0.030m for South Lanarkshire Council.
- 6.2. The Team Leader post detailed at 5.1 will be funded from the South Lanarkshire Council element of the award.

7. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

- 7.1. There are no climate change, sustainability, and environmental implications identified by this report.

8. Other Implications

- 8.1. There are no other implications identified by this report.

9. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 9.1. There is no requirement for an equality impact assessment and consultation arrangements.
- 9.2. Consultation has taken place the trade unions on the establishment of this fixed term post.

Professor Soumen Sengupta
Director, Health and Social Care

Paul Manning
Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

23 October 2023

Link(s) to Council Values/Priorities/Outcomes

- ♦ focussed on people and their needs
- ♦ working with and respecting others

Previous References

- ◆ none

List of Background Papers

- ◆ evaluation of structured deferred sentencing approach
- ◆ funding application to CORRA

Contact for Further Information

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

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