

**REPORT TO:** CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 13 MAY 2024

**REPORT ON:** TAYSIDE PLAN FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES GRANT FUND UPDATE

**REPORT BY:** EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICE

**REPORT NO:** 135 - 2024

**1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 This report provides an update on the implications of Scottish Government tapered funding model for Regional Improvement Collaboratives (RICs), including in respect of the Tayside Plan for Children, Young People and Families 2023-26. The report highlights amended improvement priorities made considering the reduction in funding.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 It is recommended that Committee Members:
- Note the amended reduction and agree the improvement priorities identified to be supported by the tapered funding allocation.
  - Remit the Executive Director to provide a progress report in autumn 2024 in line with statutory annual reporting requirements for integrated children’s service plans.

**3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 To support delivery of the aims of the Tayside Plan and the Tayside Regional Improvement Collaborative (TRIC), funding was granted by the Scottish Government and the annual allocation for the period 1 April 2023 to March 2024 was £758,726.
- 3.2 On 30 January 2024, Scottish Government announced that the funding for RICs for April 2024 - March 25 would be 50% of the original grant fund and that thereafter, there would be no further funding. The Tayside RIC will therefore now receive £379,000 from April 2024 - March 2025.
- 3.3 For April 2024 – March 2025, approximately £220,000 of the funding will be allocated to the Tayside Virtual Campus and the remaining £159,000 will be shared across the other workstreams in Table 1, at officers’ discretion.

**4.0 BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 The Scottish Government stated on 30 January 2024 that they will provide a total of £3m funding support nationally to the RICs over the 2024/25 financial year. This is in line with the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills’ statement to the Scottish Parliament in November 2023, confirming that RIC funding would be tapered.
- 4.2 The tapered funding for the period April 2024 – March 2025 has meant that the TRIC leadership group have had to review original priorities and areas of improvement highlighted in the Tayside Plan. The Leadership group have identified priorities that continue to add value to the work we do in our individual local authorities, avoid duplication and impact positively on the outcomes for our children and young people across Tayside.
- 4.3 As part of the ongoing Reform of Scottish Education, Education Scotland’s (ES) role in the future of regional working is still unclear. Currently the Regional Improvement Teams from Education Scotland have been removed and are not providing support to regional improvement collaboratives and there is a clear expectation nationally that the focus of this tapered funding predominantly supports educational outcomes.

- 4.4 In relation to education, it has been agreed that the main identified priority will be to continue to deliver the Tayside Virtual Campus. This online virtual campus currently enables 150 learners from across all 3 local authorities to study Highers and Advanced Higher qualifications. This resource costs £220,000 per school session to operate. Future cost will be dependent on the number of subjects offered and learners enrolled. This will leave approximately £159,000. The TRIC leadership group are also considering where small amounts of funding might be needed to continue to support professional learning and workforce development across some of the ongoing workstreams.
- 4.5 There are proposals currently being considered for the future upscaling and funding of the virtual campus to ensure sustainability when the grant funding ceases in March 2025.

## 5.0 PROPOSALS

The revised priorities for the tapered funding period 2024- 2025 are as follows:

Table 1

### Priority 1: Pre-birth and Early Years

Workstream	Actions for 2024-2025
Early Learning and Childcare	The current Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) group will continue its work and report accordingly,  Activities relating to 0-5s at risk of harm will continue to be progressed at a local level with updates provided to the Regional Co-ordinator.

### Priority 2: Learning and Attainment

Workstream	Actions for 2024-2025
Digital Learning	Widening of curriculum offer through Tayside Virtual Campus model. Full funding in place for one year. Proposals currently being considered for future funding models to ensure longer term sustainability of the campus. Approximately £220,000 funding required. This is dependent on number of subjects offered and learners enrolled.
Leadership	Continuation of professional learning and induction programme for newly appointed school leaders across Tayside.  Exact amounts to be confirmed, some funding required.
Curriculum	Review of the Senior Phase curriculum to be continued.

### Priority 3: Health and Wellbeing

Workstream	Actions for 2024-2025
Mental health and wellbeing	There are existing groups for the actions under this priority and they will continue to embed the work which has already progressed.
Child Healthy weight	This workstream is under review and consideration given to progressing this work across all three local areas.

<b>Connected Tayside</b>	Continue to embed this work.

#### **Priority 4: Care Experienced Children and Young People**

<b>Workstream</b>	<b>Actions for 2024-2025</b>
<b>Children's Rights</b>	<p>This shared priority focuses on the provision of advocacy, listening, brothers and sisters, housing, and The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), which are implemented separately at a local level. No funding required from the TRIC.</p> <p>The UNCRC enactment may invite further opportunities for joint activity but there will be no need for regional reporting.</p>

#### **Priority 5: Safeguarding and Child Protection**

<b>Workstream</b>	<b>Actions for 2024-2025</b>
<b>Safeguarding</b>	<p>There is a group being re-established to co-ordinate Bairns Hoose and Scottish Child Interview Model (SCIM) as well as, potentially, an overview of Care and Risk Management (CARM) and vulnerable adolescents.</p> <p>Discussions are underway with partners, to agree which actions would be in or out of scope and where these actions will sit for reporting purposes.</p>

### **6.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 This report has been subject to the Pre-IIA Screening Tool and does not make any recommendations for change to strategy, policy, procedures, services, or funding and so has not been subject to an Integrated Impact Assessment. An appropriate senior manager has reviewed and agreed with this assessment.

### **7.0 CONSULTATIONS**

- 7.1 The Council Leadership Team have been consulted in the preparation of this report and are in agreement with it's content.

### **8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 8.1 None.

Audrey May  
 Executive Director  
 Children & Families Service

*This page is intentionally left blank*