

**REPORT TO: CITY GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE – 29 FEBRUARY 2024**

**REPORT ON: CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICE THIRD PARTY PAYMENTS**

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

**REPORT NO: 54-2024**

**1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 This report outlines proposals to reduce Children and Families Service funding to six Third Sector services by 5% and carry out a full review of all Third Sector funding in 2024--25.

**2 RECOMMENDATION**

2.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

- a approve proposals to reduce funding to Third Sector service providers who receive a grant of over £100,000 by 5% in 2024- 25 as detailed in paragraph 4.1 of this report; and
- b remit the Executive Director to carry out a full review of all Third Sector services and provide an update in 12 months.

**3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 The total savings realised if funding is reduced by 5% to the six Third Sector organisations currently funded at over £100,000 would be £104,000.

3.2 This would reduce the total expenditure on Third Sector Commissioned services from a current £2.391m to £2.287m.

**4 BACKGROUND**

4.1 The Children and Families Service commissions 14 Third Sector organisations to provide additional support to vulnerable children, young people and families.

4.2 These services range in cost from £12,863 for Youth Link Befriending Services to £830,000 for Action for Children Supported Accommodation.

4.3 Full details of all current Third Sector funding, the nature of service provision and proposed savings relating to each of the 6 organisations funded at over £100k are outlined below:

Provider	Service	Current Funding	Proposed Reduction	Allocation 2024-25
<b>Action For Children</b>	Supported accommodation to 59 young people in 2023-24	£830,000	£42,000	£788,000
<b>Barnardo’s</b>	Family support to 300 families in 2023-24	£482,617	£24,000	£458,617
<b>Capability Scotland</b>	Disability support of 64 hours a week to different families	£91,758	£0	£91,758
<b>Hillcrest Futures</b>	Substance use support to 30 young people in 2023-24	£30,600	£0	£30,600
<b>Home Start Dundee</b>	Early years family support to 600 families in 2023-24	£57,934	£0	£57,934
<b>One Parent Families</b>	Advice and support to 200 families in 2023-24	£154,147	£8,000	£146,147

<b>Parent to Parent</b>	Advocacy and support to 500 parents	£45,144	£0	£45,144
<b>Youth Link</b>	Befriending approximately 35 children a year	£12,863	£0	£12,863
<b>Inclusion</b>	Disability support of 150 hours a week to families	£300,229	£15,000	£285,229
<b>Includem</b>	Support to 25 teenagers in 2023-24	£175,000	£9,000	£166,000
<b>TCA</b>	Mentoring and groupwork to 40 young people in 2023-24	£28,500	£0	£28,500
<b>Aberlour</b>	Substance use support to 50 families in 2023-24	£129,000	£6,000	£123,000
<b>Relationship Scotland</b>	Couple mediation to 400 families in 2023-24	£21,358	£0	£21,358
<b>Who Cares? Scotland</b>	Advocacy for 30 young people in 2023-24	£32,051	£0	£32,051
		<b>£2,391,201</b>	<b>£104,000</b>	<b>£2,287,201</b>

- 4.4 The proposed reductions in the larger grants provided by the Council will help ensure that smaller organisations are not disproportionately impacted whilst a full review is undertaken.
- 4.5 As some of the funding also generates leveraged income for some organisations, the proposed review carried out collaboratively with partners could potentially enable this to be mitigated.
- 4.6 Where these organisations are looking at transformational change there is an opportunity for them to apply to the Whole Family Wellbeing Funding (WFWF) for support to deliver this.
- 4.7 Opportunities for such transformational change could include:
- **Action for Children** – providing outreach support to care experienced young people moving into adulthood to enhance transitions to independent living.
  - **Barnardo's** – providing enhanced support to pupils with additional support needs transitioning from primary to secondary school.
  - **One Parent Families** – providing targeted advice and support to single mothers/fathers whose children/young people are considered to be on the edge of care.
  - **Inclusion** – providing enhanced support to young people with disabilities as they transition into early adulthood.
  - **Includem** – coordinating the implementation of contextual safeguarding for young people at risk of significant harm.
  - **Aberlour** – providing targeted support to care experienced young people with a substance use problem living in residential care.
- 4.8 The Children and Families Service would also continue to support organisations to minimise the impact of reductions by fully maximising existing resources and exploring alternative funding.

## 5 SUMMARY

- 5.1 It is recommended that Committee approves the proposal to reduce funding by 5% to Third Sector organisations who receive grant funding over £100,000 and carry out a full review of all Third Sector services in 2024/25.
- 5.2 The review would be carried out in accordance with Best Value including a shared focus on key strategic priorities and opportunities to rationalise and integrate where possible.

**6 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 This report has been subject to an Integrated Impact Assessment to identify impacts on Equality & Diversity, Fairness and Poverty, Environment and Corporate Risk. An impact, positive or negative, on one or more of these issues was identified. An appropriate senior manager has checked and agreed with this assessment. A copy of the Integrated Impact Assessment showing the impacts and accompanying benefits of/mitigating factors for them is included as an Appendix to this report.

**7 CONSULTATIONS**

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

**8 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 8.1 None.

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12 February 2024

**APPENDIX 1**

## Integrated Impact Assessment

Committee Report Number: 2024

Document Title: Third Party Payments

Document Type: Strategy

Description:

This report proposes a 5% reduction in funding to Children and Families Service commissioned services currently funded at over £100,000 per year. This equates to 6 organisations; reductions of between £6,000 and £42,000; and a total combined annual saving of £104,000. The proposal includes mitigations of deploying Whole Family Wellbeing Funding (WFWF) with a caveat that organisations adapt elements of service delivery to comply with this funding criteria and carrying out a full review of all commissioned services in 2024-25.

Intended Outcome:

The intended outcome is to contribute towards the Council imperative to operate within budget without reducing existing services to vulnerable children, young people and families, re-focusing aspects of them to mirror WFWF criteria and ensuring that they continue to address key priorities. The proposed deployment of WFWF is compliant with the criteria and the changes to elements of service delivery - such as accommodation pathways for care leavers and support to families with a child or young person with a disability - are based on identified areas for improvement. Period Covered: 29/02/2024 to 01/03/2025.

Monitoring:

The proposal will be monitored via routine contract management processes which will take account of adjustments to service specifications. The proposed review of all commissioned services, which will be informed by Best Value principles and carried out collaboratively with Third Sector partners, will be managed and monitored by the Children and Families Service. A full report covering all Third Sector services will be submitted to Elected Members for continued oversight and approval.

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## **Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Impacts & Implications**

Age: Negative

However, the proposal retains all existing services to vulnerable children, young people and families and services will continue to be monitored in line with need and risk.

Disability: Negative

However, the proposal retains all existing services to vulnerable children, young people and families and services will continue to be monitored in line with need and risk.

Gender Reassignment: Negative

Services will continue to be monitored to provide person-centred support in accordance with agreed assessments of need and risk.

Marriage & Civil Partnership: Negative

Services will continue to be monitored to provide person-centred support in accordance with agreed assessments of need and risk.

Pregnancy & Maternity: Negative

Services will continue to be monitored to provide person-centred support in accordance with agreed assessments of need and risk.

Race / Ethnicity: Negative

Services will continue to be monitored to provide person-centred support in accordance with agreed assessments of need and risk.

Religion or Belief: Negative

Services will continue to be monitored to provide person-centred support in accordance with agreed assessments of need and risk.

Sex: Negative

Services will continue to be monitored to provide person-centred support in accordance with agreed assessments of need and risk.

Sexual Orientation: Negative

Services will continue to be monitored to provide person-centred support in accordance with agreed assessments of need and risk.

Are any Human Rights not covered by the Equalities questions above impacted by this report?  
No

## **Fairness & Poverty Geographic Impacts & Implications**

Strathmartine:	Positive
Lochee:	Positive
Coldside:	Positive
Maryfield:	Positive
North East:	Positive
East End:	Positive
The Ferry:	Positive
West End:	Positive

Positive Implications: The retained and slightly adjusted services all provide family support across the city as a whole.

## **Household Group Impacts and Implications**

Looked After Children & Care Leavers: Positive

The services are largely preventative to avoid concerns escalating and minimise any necessity for children and young people to require alternative care arrangements. The AFC and Includem service also provide targeted support to current care experienced young people.

Carers: Positive

The services all support parents/carers, including One Parent Families typically with single mothers and Barnardo's and Inclusion with parents/carers of children and young people with a disability.

**Lone Parent Families: Positive**

The services all support parents/carers, including One Parent Families typically with single mothers and Barnardo's and Inclusion with parents/carers of children and young people with a disability.

**Single Female Households with Children: Positive**

The services all support parents/carers, including One Parent Families typically with single mothers and Barnardo's and Inclusion with parents/carers of children and young people with a disability.

**Greater number of children and/or young children: No Impact****Pensioners - single / couple: No Impact****Unskilled workers or unemployed: Positive**

The services support vulnerable families which may include unskilled workers or unemployed and also care leavers some of whom may not have yet entered into a positive destination.

**Serious & enduring mental health problems: Positive**

Please see above and note that services often support children, young people and parents/carers with moderate mental health problems and/or work in partnership with specialist services providing support for more severe concerns.

**Homeless: Positive**

The AFC supported accommodation service has a direct focus on the prevention of homelessness and support to young people which enhances their independent living skills and capacity to move into mainstream accommodation.

**Drug and/or alcohol problems: Positive**

The AFC supported accommodation service has a direct focus on the prevention of homelessness and support to young people which enhances their independent living skills and capacity to move into mainstream accommodation.

**Offenders & Ex-offenders: Positive**

It is likely that some young people and/or their parents/carers are or have been involved in the youth or criminal justice systems and require sustained support to reduce the risk of further offending and reintegrate.

## **Socio Economic Disadvantage Impacts & Implications**

### Employment Status: Positive

Services will continue to provide relevant support and both the Inclusion and Barnardo's service provide support to families with a child/young person with a disability which includes short-breaks and promotes more flexible employment opportunities for parents/carers.

### Education & Skills: Positive

Services will continue to provide relevant support and both the Inclusion and Barnardo's service provide support to families with a child/young person with a disability which includes short-breaks and promotes more flexible employment opportunities for parents/carers.

### Income: Positive

Services will continue to provide relevant support and both the Inclusion and Barnardo's service provide support to families with a child/young person with a disability which includes short-breaks and promotes more flexible employment opportunities for parents/carers.

### Caring Responsibilities (including Childcare): Positive

Services will continue to provide relevant support and both the Inclusion and Barnardo's service provide support to families with a child/young person with a disability which includes short-breaks and promotes more flexible employment opportunities for parents/carers. Note this is a particular focus of One Parent Families in providing childcare support.

## **Socio Economic Disadvantage Impacts & Implications**

### Affordability and accessibility of services: Positive

All services will continue to be accessible via direct referral from Named Person's and/or the Fast Online Referral Tracking (FORT) system.

### Fuel Poverty: Positive

Services provide support which extends to financial inclusion where relevant and necessary.

### Cost of Living / Poverty Premium: Positive

All services will continue to be accessible via direct referral from Named Person's and/or the Fast Online Referral Tracking (FORT) system.

### Connectivity / Internet Access: No Impact

### Income / Benefit Advice / Income Maximisation: Positive

All services will continue to be accessible via direct referral from Named Person's and/or the Fast Online Referral Tracking (FORT) system.

### Employment Opportunities: Positive

All services will continue to be accessible via direct referral from Named Person's and/or the Fast Online Referral Tracking (FORT) system.



Education: Positive

All services will continue to be accessible via direct referral from Named Person's and/or the Fast Online Referral Tracking (FORT) system.

Health: Positive

All services will continue to be accessible via direct referral from Named Person's and/or the Fast Online Referral Tracking (FORT) system.

Life Expectancy: Positive

All services will continue to be accessible via direct referral from Named Person's and/or the Fast Online Referral Tracking (FORT) system.

Mental Health: Positive

All services will continue to be accessible via direct referral from Named Person's and/or the Fast Online Referral Tracking (FORT) system.

Overweight / Obesity: Positive

None of the services provide direct support regarding weight/obesity but would be expected to adapt and provide support or signpost if this is an identified need.

Child Health: Positive

All services will continue to be accessible via direct referral from Named Person's and/or the Fast Online Referral Tracking (FORT) system.

Neighbourhood Satisfaction: No Impact

Transport: No Impact

## **Environment**

### **Climate Change Impacts**

Mitigating Greenhouse Gases: No Impact

Adapting to the effects of climate change: No Impact

### **Resource Use Impacts**

Energy efficiency & consumption: No Impact

Prevention, reduction, re-use, recovery or recycling of waste: No Impact

Sustainable Procurement: No Impact

## Transport Impacts

Accessible transport provision: No Impact

Sustainable modes of transport: No Impact

## Natural Environment Impacts

Air, land & water quality: No Impact

Biodiversity: No Impact

Open & green spaces: No Impact

## Built Environment Impacts

Built Heritage: No Impact

Housing: No Impact

Is the proposal subject to a Strategic No further action is required as it does not qualify as a Plan, Programme or Strategy as defined by the Environmental Assessment (SEA)? Environment Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005.

## Corporate Risk

### Corporate Risk Impacts

Political Reputational Risk: Negative

The proposal illustrates the Council commitment to continuing to ensure services are maintained for vulnerable children, young people and families, whilst ensuring it operates within budget and working in partnership with key stakeholders.

It is not known how this report will be perceived by the public and wider media but there is possible risk of reputational damage to the council.

Economic/Financial Sustainability / Security & Equipment: No Impact

Social Impact / Safety of Staff & Clients: Positive

The proposal illustrates the Council commitment to continuing to ensure services are maintained for vulnerable children, young people and families, whilst ensuring it operates within budget and working in partnership with key stakeholders.

Technological / Business or Service Interruption: No Impact

Environmental: No Impact

Legal / Statutory Obligations: No Impact

The proposal mirrors the Council commitment to continuing to support vulnerable families in accordance with relevant legislation.

Organisational / Staffing & Competence: No Impact

Corporate Risk Implications & Mitigation:

The risk implications associated with the subject matter of this report are "business as normal" risks and any increase to the level of risk to the Council is minimal. This is due either to the risk being inherently low or as a result of the risk being transferred in full or in part to another party on a fair and equitable basis. The subject matter is routine and has happened many times before without significant impact.