

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICES COMMITTEE - 14 MAY 2018

REPORT ON: HUNTER FOUNDATION AND BBC CHILDREN IN NEED

REPORT BY: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICES

REPORT NO: 156-2018

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report provides Elected Members with an outline of proposed developments relating to the targeted use of additional funding from the Hunter Foundation and BBC Children in Need to further improve and extend approaches towards Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC). Building on previous work, the approach will involve an initial focus on Lochee and will align with other partnership initiatives with a view to scaling and sustaining developments across the city as a whole.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Committee:

- 2.1 Approve proposals to use additional funding from the Hunter Foundation and BBC Children in Need to improve partnership approaches towards GIRFEC.
- 2.2 Instruct the Executive Director of Children and Families to provide an update report in 12 months.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The Hunter Foundation and BBC Children in Need have jointly committed to providing £1,000,000 inward investment to the city over the next 3 years 2018-2021. This funding provides additional capacity to improve approaches towards GIRFEC and will also involve the provision of leadership and technical expertise. Going forwards, there will be no additional cost to the Council and details on how related work will be scaled and sustained are outlined in the body of this report.

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 GIRFEC

The national GIRFEC policy promotes a holistic understanding of the health and wellbeing needs of children, young people and their parents/carers. It involves a shared partnership focus on identifying problems early enough to prevent them from escalating; placing children, young people and families at the centre of decision making; and delivering services in a joined-up way. The roles of staff in assessing potential problems, developing support plans and coordinating relevant services are central to the approach.

HUNTER FOUNDATION AND BBC CHILDREN IN NEED

4.3 The Hunter Foundation works with the Scottish Government and other partners by injecting risk capital and jointly developing 'self-sustaining interventions that can solve intractable problems'. As such, it seeks to pilot, independently evaluate and replicate innovation in education, opportunity for all and poverty reduction. Similarly, BBC

Children in Need award grants to organisations which support disadvantaged children and young people with a view to helping them prevent or overcome associated barriers in their lives.

- 4.4 As a partnership, the Hunter Foundation and BBC Children in Need aim to work with organisations where there is a demonstrable leadership commitment to promoting systemic change as opposed to developing isolated or short-term projects which end when funding ceases. In addition to financial support, capacity building extends to them providing leadership and technical expertise and supporting organisations to make links with partners that have been involved in innovative, outcome focused work.

5.0 DEVELOPMENTS

- 5.1 In order to improve local approaches towards GIRFEC and promote transformative change in our local communities, partners have been working with the Hunter Foundation and BBC Children in Need to co-design and test an ambitious but manageable practice model in one locality area which can then be replicated across the city. Discussions have focused on injecting capital to build capacity that improves and extends current and planned initiatives. Collaboration between partners and the community has been central in developing the model and agreements involve:

- **Leadership** - work with the Columba 1400 Leadership Academy to help facilitate the development a shared partnership approach between services as well as directly providing services to vulnerable families.
- **Education** - work with the 6 Primary Schools of St Ninian's, St Mary's, St Clements, Camperdown, Tayview and Ancrum Road to develop 365 schools promoting community access to facilities and services.

The concept of 365 schools builds on current initiatives to open school playgrounds and allow managed community access to school facilities and services which are delivered by relevant agencies across the calendar year.

- **Third Sector** - work with the 6 schools and the Third Sector to develop and build the capacity of a local Family Support Hub, coordinated by the Third Sector as a centralised source of triage based support.
- **Other partners** - work with other partners, such as Health and Social Care for parents in need and Community Learning and Development for community participation and empowerment.
- **Coordination** - work with up to 2 Project Coordinators, who will provide additional leadership capacity within the 6 schools and the community and promote a joint approach towards vulnerable families.
- **Evaluation** - work with Datalab researchers and data scientists to develop an approach towards evaluation which captures qualitative and quantitative information from partners and the community.

- 5.2 There will be a particular focus on identifying problems early to prevent children entering the care system and in partnership with children, young people and families, ensuring relevant and meaningful supports are in place. In this sense, the approach will align with work being carried out by the Centre for Excellence for Looked After Children (CELCIS) on building the competence and confidence of staff in the schools to identify problems early and effectively engage with children and families.

- 5.3 The approach also aligns with agreements between the Children and Families and Health and Wellbeing Executive Boards to develop a joint approach towards 3 shared priorities of substance misuse, mental health and healthy weight. These same

priorities have been identified by the Lochee community as being key to promoting local community improvements. A single approach will involve partners and the community in co-designing a model which maximises the use of resources across the system, including a critical focus on parents.

5.4 Lochee has been selected as a test site due to the high levels of deprivation in the area, the foundations established by the previous pathfinder, the work of CELCIS with 3 of the 6 schools, the motivation of the other 3 Head Teachers to become involved and because it is a distinct Health and Social Care locality area. Testing the approach in one area provides opportunities to evaluate and learn from the model before scaling it up across the city. With the support of Columba 1400, partners will develop a project plan with key milestones over the next 12 months and the factors involved in scaling and sustaining include:

- Work with Columba 1400 to build capacity and expertise within and between partners to extend the model to other localities
- Work to involve and support the city-wide Head Teacher leadership group to cascade the model into other schools
- Work with the Third Sector on the development of a Commissioning Strategy which promotes the development of Family Support Hubs

6.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainable Development, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Integrated Impact Assessment and Risk Management. There are no major issues.

7.0 CONSULTATIONS

7.1 The Council Management Team have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 None.

PAUL CLANCY
Executive Director

April 2018

