

## ITEM No ...6.....

**REPORT TO:** CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICES COMMITTEE - 23 JANUARY 2023

**REPORT ON:** SCOTTISH ATTAINMENT CHALLENGE UPDATE

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

**REPORT NO:** 25-2023

### **1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 This report provides an update on how the Children and Families Service will use Dundee's Strategic Equity Fund (SEF) allocation for 2023/ 24. SEF is a funding stream in the Attainment Scotland Fund (ASF), which supports the Scottish Attainment Challenge (SAC).

### **2 RECOMMENDATION**

2.1 The Children and Families Service Committee is asked to:

- a note the content of the report; and
- b instruct the Executive Director of Children and Families Service to monitor progress and continue to provide updates regarding the funding allocation and the implementation of the Scottish Equity Fund in Dundee.

### **3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 The Scottish Equity Fund (SEF) is a fully funded specific grant from the Scottish Government's Attainment Scotland Fund.

3.2 The Scottish Equity Fund for Dundee City Council is £3,763,513 in 2023-24 which is a reduction in grant allocation of £1,229.977 from the funding level of 2022-23. There are similar reductions for years 2024-2025 and 2025-2026. (See Appendix 1). Table 2 provides information on how the allocation of funding will be targeted in financial year 2023-24. Officers will continue to work on plans for subsequent years' reductions and provide updates to the Children and Families Service Committee.

### **4 BACKGROUND**

4.1 The Scottish Attainment Challenge was launched in February 2015 with the strategic aim of "closing the poverty-related attainment gap between children and young people from the least and most disadvantaged communities". The Attainment Scotland Fund (ASF), which supports the Scottish Attainment Challenge, prioritises improvements in literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing of those children adversely affected by poverty in Scotland's schools. Achieving excellence and equity in education are the key aims.

4.2 In November 2021, the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills set out plans for a refreshed Scottish Attainment Challenge (SAC) from April 2022. The mission of this refreshed Scottish Attainment Challenge (SAC) is: to use education to improve outcomes for children and young people impacted by poverty, with a focus on tackling the poverty-related attainment gap.

4.3 The refreshed Scottish Attainment Challenge introduced several changes to the programme at national, regional, and local level. This included changes to the ASF with the introduction of Strategic Equity Funding (SEF), which replaced Challenge Authority and Schools Programme Funding. The ASF is now made up of the SEF, the Pupil Equity Fund (PEF) and the Care Experienced Children and Young People Funding,

- 4.4 Strategic Equity Funding (SEF) is £43 million annually to be shared by all 32 local authorities to invest in approaches to achieving the mission of the Scottish Attainment Challenge (SAC). Strategic Equity Funding allocations have been confirmed over the next four financial years, providing clarity to support strategic planning over that period. A link to further information about SEF, including the SEF allocation for each of the 32 local authorities, is included in Appendix 1.
- 4.5 The £43 million in SEF is distributed based on Children in Low Income Families data for the 2019/2020 financial year. As a result of the change from Challenge Funding (for 9 challenge authorities, including Dundee) to SEF, Dundee City Council's funding allocation to achieve the mission of the Scottish Attainment Challenge will taper over four years from £6,223,466 in 2021/22 to £1,303,561 in 2025/26 (See appendix 1).
- 4.6 SEF should be used by local authorities to undertake strategic approaches to achieve the mission of the Scottish Attainment Challenge, with a clear focus on delivering equity through improving outcomes for learners impacted by poverty. The funding should be focused on resources, activities and approaches focussed on learners impacted by poverty, which will lead to improvements in literacy, numeracy and support health and wellbeing.
- 4.7 Dundee's SEF for 2022-23 is allocated to different support interventions and used for either staffing or contract work/providers/resources to build capacity and provide targeted support. The current allocation of SEF and the direct staffing employed is allocated as follows:

Table 1 – SEF grant funding 2022-23

<b>INTERVENTION</b>	<b>STAFF - FTE</b>	<b>OTHER ALLOCATION OF FUNDING e.g., contract work/providers/resources</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Pedagogy Team and central support – <b>Learning Provision lever</b>	16.9	£143,000	<b>£1,267,082</b>
Speech and Language Therapy – <b>Learning Provision lever</b>		£122,744	<b>£122,744</b>
Targeted Support - <b>Learning Provision lever</b>	20.0		<b>£809,907</b>
Health and wellbeing - <b>Learning Provision lever</b>	37.8	£112,000	<b>£1,427,247</b>
Parental Engagement – <b>Families and Communities lever</b>	25.0	£75,000	<b>£1,026,400</b>
Coaching and mentoring – <b>Leadership lever</b>		£37,000	<b>£37,000</b>
<b>Supporting improvement lever</b>	5.1		<b>£303,110</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>104.8</b>	<b>£489,744</b>	<b>£4,993,490</b>

- 4.8 As part of the budget process for 2022- 23 it was agreed at the Policy and Resources Committee on 24 February 2022 (Article II of the minute refers) to allocate an additional £500,000 to the Children and Families Service to help tackle the attainment gap by providing targeted support in our schools and communities. As a result, the overall SEF plan (table 1) for 2022-23 also included the following additional interventions and projects:
- a Speech, language, and communication programme of activity in partnership with Speech and Language Therapy to provided targeted support and build staff confidence and skills;
  - b Enhanced P7/ S1 transition for a targeted groups of young people across all secondary schools, in partnership with Outward Bound Trust;

- c CANI Coaching for a targeted group of parents in targeted areas to enhance parental voice and engagement;
- d Leadership coaching for teachers in partnership with The Mudd Partnership to build leadership capacity across different levels of the system;
- e Leading Learners project to provide targeted support for senior phase pupils with teachers being trained as coaches to work with groups of pupils in their schools; and
- f Further develop the Planet Youth project to enhance pupil voice, engagement and wellbeing and prepare for a rollout to more schools in 2023/24.
- 4.9 The impact of the changes for Dundee, as stated in paragraph 3.2, results in a reduction in funding of £1.23m each year. A review of all projects and their impact was undertaken by Officers. External partnership contracts were reviewed as part of our planned sustainability approach to embedding interventions and practices in our schools. Most contracts ceased with a small number remaining to facilitate project completion.
- 4.10 A full review of the staffing profile within our SEF plan has provided opportunities for redeployment of staff to existing vacancies, although some staffing posts had been vacated and could be removed. The work to review, manage and rationalise the staffing profile will continue each year to meet the tapering of this funding stream.
- 4.11 The table below details the areas where the allocation of funding for 2023-24 will be targeted, these figures include an estimate for the pay award:

Table 2 – SEF – proposed areas of spend in 2023-24

<b>INTERVENTION</b>	<b>STAFF - FTE</b>	<b>OTHER ALLOCATION OF FUNDING e.g., contract work/providers/resources</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Pedagogy Team and central support – <b><i>Learning Provision lever</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• With a focused team, the work plan is to continue to embed high quality learning and teaching across all sectors by extending and developing the teaching toolkit for all teaching and support staff</li> <li>• Support all schools to improve capacity to lead and sustain improvement</li> <li>• Following completion of our partnership work with the Robert Owen Centre, the citywide school improvement strategy is embedded and facilitated through professional learning opportunities and school partnership groups</li> </ul>	12	£10,000	<b>£849,340</b>
Speech and Language Therapy – <b><i>Learning Provision lever</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to provide speech and language therapy across the primary school sector where identified need exists</li> </ul>		£80,000	<b>£80,000</b>

<p>Targeted Support - <b>Learning Provision lever</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to support learners to overcome barriers to learning</li> <li>• Provide learning pathways to ensure all children and young people make appropriate progress in achieving planned outcomes</li> </ul>	20.0		<b>£850,402</b>
<p>Health and wellbeing - <b>Learning Provision lever</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver health and wellbeing approaches that take account of the wellbeing needs of children and young people</li> <li>• Continue to support children and young people to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Be <b>present</b> – attend school regularly</li> <li>○ <b>Participate</b> – be engaged in learning</li> <li>○ Make <b>progress</b> – attain and achieve in their learning, meeting milestones as appropriate</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	17.8		<b>£904,885</b>
<p>Parental Engagement – <b>Families and Communities lever</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alternative funding model, in partnership with schools as per the national operating guidance, has resulted in £100,000 reduction from SEF for this financial year</li> </ul>	25.0		<b>£893,970</b>
<p><b>Supporting improvement lever</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Due to contract end dates and retirement, posts no longer require funding from SEF</li> <li>• Work and remits will be redistributed to other officers and staff e.g., Education Officers will have the remits distributed across the team</li> </ul>	3.7		<b>£184,916</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>78.5</b>	<b>£90,000</b>	<b>£3,763,513</b>

- 4.12 The work for the ‘coaching and mentoring – leadership lever’ has been completed; the planned approach to embedding leadership learning and skills from senior leaders to middle and classroom leaders has been impactful. The sustainability of this work facilitates schools identifying team leadership learning as it relates to effective school improvement. Schools will still have the facility to procure leadership development using Pupil Equity Funding through the Procurement Framework.

- 4.13 The reduction in FTE in the 2023-24 SEF plan will be managed through the redeployment of staff to other roles, retirements or the end of secondments. Therefore, there will be no compulsory redundancies as a result of these changes.
- 4.14 Further work will take place prior to the end of this financial year to review the projects and the impact of the ongoing reductions in future years and follow up reports will be submitted to Children and Families Service Committee.

## **5 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 This report has been subject to an Integrated Impact Assessment to identify impacts on Equality & Diversity, Fairness & 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.

## **6 CONSULTATIONS**

- 6.1 The Council Leadership Team was consulted in the preparation of this report.

## **7 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 7.1 None.

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22 December 2022

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**APPENDIX 1****STRATEGIC EQUITY FUNDING ALLOCATIONS**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Amount</b>
2021/2022 – final year of SAC funding	£6,223,466
2022/2023 – allocation SEF	£4,993,490
2023/2024 – allocation SEF	£3,763,513
2024/2025 – allocation SEF	£2,533,537
2025/2026 – allocation SEF	£1,303,561

**STRATEGIC EQUITY FUNDING ALLOCATIONS FOR EACH LOCAL AUTHORITY**

[Pupil attainment: closing the gap - Schools - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)

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## APPENDIX 2



## Integrated Impact Assessment

Committee Report Number: 25-2023

Document Title: Scottish Attainment Challenge Update

Document Type: Other

Description:

This report provides an update on how the Children and Families Service will use Dundee's Strategic Equity Fund (SEF) allocation for 2023/24.

Intended Outcome:

Report is noted.

Period Covered: 01/04/2023 to 31/03/2024

Monitoring:

Chief Education Officer and Education Managers will review and evaluate the impact of the remaining Strategic Equity Fund.

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## **Equality, Diversity And Human Rights**

### **Impacts & Implications**

Age: No Impact

Disability: No Impact

Gender Reassignment: No Impact

Marriage & Civil Partnership: No Impact

Pregnancy & Maternity: No Impact

Race / Ethnicity: No Impact

Religion or Belief: No Impact

Sex: No Impact

Sexual Orientation: No Impact

Are any Human Rights not covered by the Equalities questions above impacted by this report?

No

## **Fairness & Poverty**

### **Geographic Impacts & Implications**

Strathmartine:	Not Known
Lochee:	Not Known
Coldside:	Not Known
Maryfield:	Not Known
North East:	Not Known
East End:	Not Known
The Ferry:	Not Known
West End:	Not Known

## **Household Group Impacts and Implications**

Looked After Children & Care Leavers: No Impact

Carers: No Impact

Lone Parent Families: No Impact

## **Household Group Impacts and Implications**

Single Female Households with Children: No Impact

Greater number of children and/or young children: No Impact

Pensioners - single / couple: No Impact

Unskilled workers or unemployed: No Impact

Serious & enduring mental health problems: No Impact

Homeless: No Impact

Drug and/or alcohol problems: No Impact

Offenders & Ex-offenders: No Impact

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

Employment Status: No Impact

Education & Skills: Negative

With the reduction in the allocation of Scottish Equity funding to Dundee, there will be interventions that will either cease or require to be funded in a different way. Plans are in place to minimise the impact of the reduction of funding.

Income: No Impact

Caring Responsibilities (including Childcare): No Impact

Affordability and accessibility of services: No Impact

Fuel Poverty: No Impact

Cost of Living / Poverty Premium: No Impact

Connectivity / Internet Access: No Impact

Income / Benefit Advice / Income Maximisation: No Impact

Employment Opportunities: No Impact

Education: Not Known

Due to other funding streams such as the Pupil Equity Fund, funding for Care Experienced Children & Young People etc the impact from the reduction in the Strategic Equity Fund is not known. Plans are in place to mitigate for any negative impact.

Health: No Impact

Life Expectancy: No Impact

Mental Health: No Impact

Overweight / Obesity: No Impact

Child Health: No Impact

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

## Corporate Risk

### Corporate Risk Impacts

Political Reputational Risk: Not Known

It is not known how this report may be perceived by members of the public, media etc and as such the likelihood of political or reputational damage to the Council is not known.

Economic/Financial Sustainability / Security & Equipment: No Impact

Social Impact / Safety of Staff & Clients: No Impact

Technological / Business or Service Interruption: No Impact

Environmental: No Impact

Legal / Statutory Obligations: No Impact

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.

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