

REPORT TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 25 FEBRUARY 2016

REPORT ON: THIRD PARTY PAYMENTS AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF A JOINT COMMISSIONING STRATEGY

REPORT BY: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICE

REPORT NO: 66-2016

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to set out the 2016-17 payments to Third Sector groups from the Children and Families Service and to seek approval for the development and implementation of a joint Commissioning Strategy to inform future funding allocation.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that members of the Policy and Resources Committee:

- Agree the proposed allocation of payments; and
- Instruct the Executive Director of Children and Families to establish a joint Commissioning Strategy for implementation in the financial year 2017–2018.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The current allocation of Third Party payments within the Children and Families Service is £3.5 million pounds. The proposed allocation to Third Sector groups and organisations would result in revenue savings of 120k.

4.0 MAIN TEXT

- 4.1 Dundee's Children & Families Service is committed to working with its partners to meet the needs, wishes and aspirations of children, young people, their families and their local communities. To do this effectively we need to work in partnership to identify the barriers which impact adversely on life chances so that we can design and deliver high quality services to improve outcomes for children, young people and families. For this reason, an annual funding allocation of £3.5 million pounds has been made to Third Sector groups and organisations working in close partnership to support the work of the Children and Families Service.
- 4.2 The existing funding arrangements have been reviewed regularly but have not been underpinned by an open and transparent commissioning strategy to ensure that the level of funding being allocated is targeted most effectively to meet the identified priorities of the council and to ensure maximum impact. For this reason it is essential that a jointly developed commissioning strategy is developed and implemented in partnership with Third Sector groups so that future funding can be allocated in the most effective way.
- 4.3 The jointly agreed commissioning strategy will have a direct focus on impact and outcomes. The strategy will be developed with the active involvement of Third Sector groups to ensure that future funding distribution will be allocated in an agreed and clearly understood manner. This will maximise the resources at our disposal and increase the quality of partnership working.

4.4 The Commissioning Strategy will focus on impact and outcomes and:

- reflect the stated priorities and aspirations in the Integrated Children's Services Plan and the Single Outcome Agreement;
- complement and support national and local policy drivers;
- set out the most effective service provision for children, young people and their families;
- work with partner agencies and the Third sector to promote a culture of positive health and well being and target the issues associated with mental health; and
- challenge established practice and identify new ways of working.

4.5 The timeline for development will be:

March 2016:	Creation of the Commissioning Strategy Group
April – June 2016:	Preparation and production of the strategy
July – October 2016:	Launch events with partner agencies and Third Sector
November 2016 – January 2017:	Allocation of funding for 2017-18

4.6 The funding allocation for Third Party payments in 2016-17 will reflect a revenue saving of 120k from the overall total of £3.5 million pounds. To minimise the impact on front line services we will work closely with Third Sector partners and continue the ongoing work to reduce overhead costs by making council services and contracts available to individual groups. This will include opportunities to access and share council office facilities to reduce operational costs.

4.7 The proposed allocation of funding for 2016-17 and the revenue saving based on the previous allocation will be:

	2016-2017 Proposed Allocation
Aberlour	£136,824
Action for Children	£873,886
Barnardos	£540,477
Cair Scotland	£88,000
Capability Scotland	£94,052
Carolina House Trust	£82,515
Childcare @ Home	£28,000
Children First	£91,310
Cornerstone	£98,394
Helm	£225,000
Home-Start Dundee	£60,983
Includem	£164,178
One Parent Families Scotland	£233,022
Parent to Parent	£47,520
Sacro	£101,970

4.8 In future years the allocation of funding will be informed by the Commissioning Strategy and will be driven by the improvement priorities for the city. This will involve ongoing discussion with Third Sector partners to ensure that the range of services being provided will have the maximum impact on our children, young people, families and communities.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This Report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management. An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out and is attached to this report.

6.0 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 The Chief Executive, Executive Director of Corporate Services and Head of Democratic and Legal Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 None.

MICHAEL WOOD
Executive Director of Children and Families Service

February 2016



EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT TOOL

Part 1: Description/Consultation

Is this a Rapid Equality Impact Assessment (RIAT)?	Yes
Is this a Full Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA)?	No
Date of Assessment: 5 February 2016	Committee Report Number: 66-2016
Title of document being assessed: Third Party Payments and the Development of a Joint Commissioning Strategy	
1. This is a new policy, procedure, strategy or practice being assessed No	This is an existing policy, procedure, strategy or practice being assessed? Yes
2. Please give a brief description of the policy, procedure, strategy or practice being assessed.	A reduction in the Third Sector funding allocation and the development of a joint Commissioning Strategy to inform future funding allocation.
3. What is the intended outcome of this policy, procedure, strategy or practice?	The annual allocation of £3.5 million pounds to Third Sector groups will be reduced by 120k. A Commissioning Strategy will be developed in partnership with the Third Sector to ensure that future allocations are closely aligned to stated improvement priorities.
4. Please list any existing documents which have been used to inform this Equality and Diversity Impact Assessment.	None.
5. Has any consultation, involvement or research with protected characteristic communities informed this assessment? If yes please give details.	There has been discussion with Third Sector representatives to outline and explain the current funding position and the agreed need to establish a Joint Commissioning Strategy.
6. Please give details of council officer involvement in this assessment. (e.g. names of officers consulted, dates of meetings etc.)	Marjory Stewart, Lina Waghorn, Paul Clancy and Jane Martin. Discussions have taken place at a variety of meetings.
7. Is there a need to collect further evidence or to involve or consult protected characteristics communities on the impact of the proposed policy? (Example: if the impact on a community is not known what will you do to gather the information needed and when will you do this?)	No. To minimise the impact of the reduction on front line services we will work closely with Third Sector partners and continue the ongoing work to reduce overhead costs by making council services and contracts available to individual groups. This will include opportunities to access and share council office facilities and reduce operational costs. The development of the Commissioning Strategy will involve the active and ongoing participation of Third Sector representatives.

Part 2: Protected Characteristics

Which protected characteristics communities will be positively or negatively affected by this policy, procedure or strategy?

NB Please place an X in the box which best describes the "overall" impact. It is possible for an assessment to identify that a positive policy can have some negative impacts and visa versa. When this is the case please identify both positive and negative impacts in Part 3 of this form.

If the impact on a protected characteristic communities are not known please state how you will gather evidence of any potential negative impacts in box Part 1 section 7 above.

	Positively	Negatively	No Impact	Not Known
Ethnic Minority Communities including Gypsies and Travellers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender Reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	<input type="checkbox"/>
Religion or Belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	<input type="checkbox"/>
People with a disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x
Age	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	<input type="checkbox"/>
Socio-economic	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy & Maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please state)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x

Part 3: Impacts/Monitoring



<p>1. Have any positive impacts been identified?</p> <p>(We must ensure at this stage that we are not achieving equality for one strand of equality at the expense of another)</p>	<p>Given the range of delivery models and approaches used by the various Third Sector groups it is not possible to identify specific impacts.</p>
<p>2. Have any negative impacts been identified?</p> <p>(Based on direct knowledge, published research, community involvement, customer feedback etc. If unsure seek advice from your departmental Equality Champion.)</p>	<p>The impact on the reduction in funding across the 15 Third Sector groups will be managed by each individual group. Nine groups will receive a reduced allocation of 4k or less, four groups will receive a reduced allocation of 10k or less and the remaining two groups will receive reductions of 22k and 36k respectively. Given the nature of the various activities it is not possible to identify specific impacts of a negative nature.</p>
<p>3. What action is proposed to overcome any negative impacts?</p> <p>(e.g. involving community groups in the development or delivery of the policy or practice, providing information in community languages etc. See Good Practice on DCC equalities web page)</p>	<p>We will work closely with Third Sector partners and continue the ongoing work to reduce overhead costs by making council services and contracts available to individual groups.</p> <p>We will include opportunities to access and share council office facilities and reduce operational costs.</p> <p>There are ongoing discussions and reports from the Third Sector on the impact of activities.</p>
<p>4. Is there a justification for continuing with this policy even if it cannot be amended or changed to end or reduce inequality without compromising its intended outcome?</p> <p>(If the policy that shows actual or potential unlawful discrimination you must stop and seek legal advice)</p>	<p>Yes. This is a universal saving but individual Third Sector groups will be free to make their own decisions about the ways in which they will manage the reduction.</p>
<p>5. Has a 'Full' Equality Impact Assessment been recommended?</p> <p>(If the policy is a major one or is likely to have a major impact on protected characteristics communities a Full Equality Impact Assessment may be required. Seek advice from your departmental Equality lead.)</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>6. How will the policy be monitored?</p> <p>(How will you know it is doing what it is intended to do? e.g. data collection, customer survey etc.)</p>	<p>Ongoing discussions and reports from the Third Sector.</p>

Part 4: Contact Information

Name of Department or Partnership	Children and Families Service
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Type of Document	
Human Resource Policy	No
General Policy	No
Strategy/Service	Yes
Change Papers/Local Procedure	Yes
Guidelines and Protocols	No
Other	No

Manager Responsible	Author Responsible
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Signature of author of the policy:		Date: 8/02/16
Signature of Executive Director/Head of Service:		Date: 8/02/16
Name of Executive Director/Head of Service:	Michael Wood	
Date of Next Policy Review:	Commissioning Strategy to be developed and implemented from April 2017.	