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| **Peer to Peer Total Funding per annum: £100 000****To lead and support the development of Peer:Peer support for young people across Fife. (Keeping Connected)** |
| The focus of this work is to ensure suitable support is in place for young people at the additional and intensive level of need who would benefit from additional help to develop connections with peers and with sources of support which are designed to reduce social isolation.As well as targeted work designed to enhance provisions around particular groups of young people there will also be associated work to support universal, general good practice around Fife Young people.The commissioned service will therefore be required to work to deliver the following outcomes:**Additional and Intensive Level:*** To support approaches to promoting positive and effective relationships, social skills and confidence with young people.
* To enable peer group support for young people’s emotional wellbeing across existing peer networks
* To support young people’s ability to access reliable advice and information in connection to emotional wellbeing
* To develop young people’s emotional intelligence, resilience, mindfulness and ability to cope with peer pressures, to manage risk and to challenge stigma

**Universal Level:*** To support the spread of good practice in Fife in relation to supporting young people to feel connected.
* To help to promote reflection upon how connections can be fostered through buddying, befriending and mentoring.
* To provide further sources of information and support for organisations and individuals who wish to extend their practice in growing and building connections for young people.
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| **How will this be delivered?**Service will be delivered within each of Fife’s seven localities, working across schools in collaboration with relevant partner agencies. This will be led by a suitably qualified counsellor/s who will work in collaboration with the Education and Children’s Services Directorate to identify, define and implement key principles within this project which will be used as guidance by schools and partners in each locality across Fife. It is anticipated that this guidance will ensure scope for some flexibility within each locality to build upon existing good practice and structures. It is anticipated that key features of the guidance will include:* Ambassadorial roles for Young People
* Buddying and befriending structures
* Work which supports awareness raising and de-stigmatisation around mental health
* Advice around ensuring ‘connectedness’ at times of transition for young people (e.g. when moving to a new school)
* Supports for young people who provide emotional support for siblings who are ill or have additional support needs

Counsellors will be required to work in partnership with practitioners within each locality to a) support improvements to systems and practices which contribute to the improved service deliver in line with the guidance above and b) contribute to the wider outcomes of this project. There may be times when direct counselling support is needed for groups of young people within localities – it is anticipated that this would be a short term, group counselling offer. This would include a focus on particular groups of young people (e.g. young people with Additional Support Needs).We anticipate that the counsellors working within this service will undertake training in Essential CAMHS. This will be co-ordinated and funded by the Local Authority in partnership with Fife Health and Social Care partners.**How will this be measured?**Measures for this initiative will be devised in partnership with local authority leads at the early stages of the work. There will be a requirement for the commissioned service to gather data in relation to impacts and report regularly upon impacts upon the required outcomes. |
| **Standard requirements:**Counselling organisations or individuals who apply for this brief must meet the following criteria:* Counsellors must have an appropriate counselling qualification and be experienced in working with children and young people.
* They must be recognised on an Accredited Voluntary Register and be working within an ethical framework such as the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy (BCAP), the Health and Care Professions Council for Counselling Psychologists, or the National Register of Psychotherapists and Counsellors UK.
* They must have appropriate clinical supervision arrangements in place.
* An identified model of counselling must be in place, demonstrating a knowledge of the evidence base for effective approaches to treatment.
* Appropriate plans for the provision of Continuing Professional Development must be in place.
* The counselling service is independent and separate from support provided by school staff, but at the same time must be integrated into existing school systems, to ensure a coherent pathway of support.
* The counsellor must be or must become familiar with relevant legislation and procedures, including informed consent about information sharing, confidentiality and Child Protection.
* In line with the Equality Act we require that this service ensures that it is accessible to all young people, including those with additional support needs.

In addition:A member of school staff will be identified to support the day-to-day management of the commissioned counselling service, including compliance with wider school policies, and overseeing the work, including:* Protocols in place for working with and referring on to other agencies
* Information sharing between the counsellor and a young person’s key worker, including regular feedback on progress against the agreed aims, without any expectation of breaching confidentiality
* Record-keeping responsibilities of the counsellor, in line with GDPR
* Monitoring, evaluation and reporting procedure, in collaboration with Educational Psychology, including collation of data to be reported to the local authority for the purposes of reporting to the Scottish Government
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| **Service Bids**Please note as well as outlining the details of their model, services will be required to stipulate the following information in their bids:1. Their supervision model and its associated costs.
2. Qualifications of Service Deliverers.
3. Expectations of communications into the Wellbeing Pathway
4. Administration and management costs within each year.

The funding of the service will be subject to compliance with Fife Council's Monitoring and Evaluation Framework which requires that all funding awards are reviewed on an annual basis as part of the council's on-going commitment to ensure that organisations are meeting the terms of their Service Level Agreement. A Link officer will be appointed to work closely with the organisation if the organisation does not already have an appointed Link Officer and the Link Officer will be supported by the Health and Social Care Service’s Monitoring Officer. |

