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1. What's New?

2024-25 WFWF Budget

The [Scottish Budget](#) for 2024-25 was announced on 19 December and confirms our commitment to keeping The Promise to Scotland's care-experienced children and young people.

We have prioritised the £50m funding in 24/25 for Whole Family Wellbeing to maintain the programme of activity which has been established across CSPPs. This includes our multi-year commitment of £32m to transform holistic family support services in communities through CSPPs. The remaining funding will continue to provide a package of transformational activity and support.

WFWF timeframe – exploring a longer-term approach

As you will be aware we are always keen to hear your views on the work of the WFWF. A key part of this programme is to ensure we are learning and evaluating the work as it progresses. One of the key themes we are consistently receiving feedback on is the time it takes to deliver this type of transformational change.

We are therefore interested in hearing from you on whether you think a longer-term approach (e.g. to align with the 2030 commitment to Keeping the Promise) to the WFWF would help deliver and embed change in a sustainable way. We'd also be interested in your views on how we can best support you in delivering this work as the programme moves forward.

We have already been engaging with stakeholders on this topic, and correspondence has also been issued to all CSPPs. We would like to thank everyone who has provided their feedback to date, and we welcome any further comments on whether a longer-term approach would help embed change in a sustainable way and how the Programme could best be designed to support you in that context. Please reply by 8 January to: wholefamilywellbeing@gov.scot.

Ministerial visit – East Renfrewshire

On Tuesday 7 November, the Minister for Children, Young People and Keeping The Promise visited two support services in Barrhead, East Renfrewshire to see the work they're doing to keep families together.

Learn Well is a programme for non-school attendance of care experienced and pupils with significant mental wellbeing concerns. The Intensive Family Support Service is for very vulnerable young parents and their small children. This service is specifically aimed at keeping families together.

The Minister was delighted to have the opportunity to speak with a young family who have benefitted from the support of the health visitor. Ms Don also heard from the parents and carers who praised the support of the Learn Well team in helping their children to reach their potential.

Both services are excellent examples of how East Renfrewshire are using jointly commissioned services to support holistic whole family support. For further information about these services, please contact Arlene.Cassidy@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk.

Third Sector Collaboration

There is an expectation that the allocation and intended uses of WFWF are discussed and agreed

locally. Collaboration and engagement with Third Sector organisations is an essential part of duties and tasks over each 3-year Children's Services Planning cycle. The Third Sector's participation is key to the development, delivery, and reporting on how each area's Children's Services Plan is resulting in improved outcomes for children, young people and families living in that area.

Recognising the statutory aims of Children's Services Planning, with the Children's Services Plan driving the local strategic commissioning process, the Scottish Government has been explicit that this applies to WFWF. Children's Services Planning statutory guidance also includes a requirement to ensure best value in use of local resources (workforce, budgets and assets).

Emerging evidence through a number of sources, including review of Children's Services Plans and the WFWF consultation and survey carried out by Children in Scotland's "Supporting the Third Sector Project" has identified that there is a need to strengthen collaboration with local Third Sector partners. To that end, a short-life working group comprising of Scottish Government colleagues and Third Sector representatives has produced the attached paper. This paper aims to strengthen the ties between partners, and highlights a number of case studies that demonstrate good collaboration with evidence of highly effective practice. CSPPs are asked to consider the recommendations and if you have any questions about this work please contact us at wholefamilywellbeing@gov.scot.

2. LiA Network



Knowledge Hub

Our [LiA Network Knowledge Hub \(KHub\)](#) site hosts a range of useful resources and materials, and provides a collaborative space to engage with other Network members out with the LiA sessions to share learning and exchange knowledge.

If you've not already joined the KHub group you can do so by inputting 'Learning into Action (LiA) Network: Whole Family Wellbeing Funding (WFWF)' into the search bar. If you don't currently have a KHub profile, you can sign up to one [here](#) in a few simple steps. If you experience any issues with signing up, please contact Ariane Beaver at: ariane.beaver@improvementservice.org.uk.

Knowledge Hub Poll - views on an in-person learning session

Please visit our [KHub](#) site to respond to the poll asking for your input on a potential in-person Link & Learn session early next year. This poll is to determine whether this session will be delivered in separate, regional areas or as one national event for all members to come together in a shared space. We would greatly appreciate your feedback by 16 January 2024.

LiA Network Development Group update

As you may be aware, we have set up a LiA Network development group with members from CSPPs to help us shape future LiA Network activity. All MS Teams invitations for Development Group meetings have been sent out on a 6 weekly basis until summer 2024. The next Development Group meeting will be held on Monday 22 January from 2 – 3pm. Further details and an agenda will be circulated in the week prior to the meeting. If you are interested in joining the Development Group please contact Ariane at: ariane.beaver@improvementservice.org.uk.

Calendar of upcoming learning opportunities

Monthly Mingle – 15 January 2024 (2 - 3pm)

All Monthly Mingle meetings have been sent out to CSPPs on a monthly basis until summer 2024. These meetings provide informal, open spaces specifically for

CSPPs to share their experiences, network with each other and build relationships across different areas. Please note that there are no fixed agendas for these sessions as the aim is to allow CSPPs to share emerging themes, topics and areas of interest with colleagues.

Link & Learn Session (Year 1 Process Evaluation Report for WFWF) – 16 January 2024 (9.30-11am)

This session will have a focus on the Year 1 process evaluation report for WFWF (to be published in January 2024) and the key themes which have emerged from the first year of WFWF. The MS Teams link has been circulated to Network members and can be found on the KHub events calendar [here](#).

Leadership Campfires Series – First Leadership Campfire - 18 January 2024 (11am-3pm)

This session is for colleagues from across sectors who are leading work towards transforming outcomes for children and families. The Leadership Campfires will offer an opportunity to connect with colleagues across the wider system of transformation work for children and families, deliberately seeking a diverse group of colleagues with an appetite for shared learning, reflection and change, and recognising the fundamental need for strong connections to enable progress in this work. You can find out more and register via [Eventbrite website](#).



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - 2024

LiA Network - Monthly Mingle – 15 January (2-3pm) via TEAMS

Contact: wholefamilywellbeing@gov.scot

LiA Network - Link & Learn Session: Year 1 Process Evaluation Report for WFWF - 16 January (9.30-11am) via TEAMS

Contact: wholefamilywellbeing@gov.scot

Leadership Campfire - 18 January 2024 (11am-3pm) - Glasgow

Contact: Janet.Whitley@gov.scot

Leadership for Transformation Exploratory Workshop - 20 March 2024 (10am-4pm) - Stirling

Contact: Janet.Whitley@gov.scot

Leadership Campfire - 23 April 2024 (11am-3pm) - Edinburgh

Contact: Janet.Whitley@gov.scot

3. Evaluation news

Year 1 Evaluation update

IFF Research have been preparing the final Year 1 evaluation report which will be published at the end of January. This includes a summary report, an infographic, and a blog which IFF will post.

Year 2 Evaluation update

We are still looking to invite children and young people who are engaged in WFWF activities who may wish to be involved with the Young People's Panel which IFF are establishing to support the Year 2 evaluation design and delivery. Please contact Chris.Martin@gov.scot as soon as possible for more information. Each young person will receive £30 of Amazon vouchers per session.

We are also looking to improve the WFWF template which was used last year as part of the Children's Services Planning annual reports. We would welcome any feedback on the previous year's template and suggestions for improving the questions, aspects that were useful, clarifications, etc. Again, please contact Chris.Martin@gov.scot with any views.

Also - as a reminder to Year 2 evaluation case study areas, IFF Research will be in touch early in the New Year to begin arranging interviews and focus groups with stakeholders in your areas.

4. Collaborative Partnerships

Update from East Lothian:

“Transformation Capability and Capacity: Our Family Outreach Workers continue to develop new skills and are getting ready to train in Let’s Introduce Anxiety Management (LIAM). They will also start Henry training in November which they will use in their support of Children, Young People and Families (CYPF) who wish to make their lifestyle habits and behaviours healthier.

CYPF Participation: We have been supporting CYPF participation in a number of ways. We have run a focus group in Dunbar to gather opinion on local resources and gaps in provision. Another focus group for Dad’s Work is gathering opinions on how we can better support fathers in their role as parents and careers. We are also taking part in an event at Ross High School (Tranent) to support and promote the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

Creating the Conditions and Sustaining Transformational Change: We have started work on the new sub group for Whole Family Support as part of the East Lothian Children’s Services Plan 2023-2026. Membership includes a range of people from East Lothian Council, NHS and Third Sector in roles such as Headteachers, Early Years Excellence and Equality Officers, Occupational Therapists, Midwives, Health Visitors, Contracts and Grants Managers, Tackling Poverty and Inequality Officers amongst others. The group will focus on multi-agency working to maximise efficiency and increase opportunities to support children, families and young people in new ways.”.

If you have any questions about the work in East Lothian, please contact Lauren Nicolson, at: lnicolson@eastlothian.gov.uk.

5. Policy connections

Roadmap for Trauma-Informed Change

A Roadmap for Creating Trauma-Informed and Responsive Change: Guidance for Organisations, Systems and Workforces in Scotland has been published. This resource is designed to be used flexibly and independently by services and organisations across all sectors of the workforce in Scotland, to help identify and reflect on progress, strengths and opportunities for embedding a trauma-informed and responsive approach across policy and practice.

For more information about psychological trauma, its prevalence and impact and the wider work of the newly rebranded National Trauma Transformation Programme, please visit: www.traumatransformation.scot.

Children's Services Reform Research study

The Centre for Excellence for Children's Care and Protection (CELCIS) is carrying out independent research to with the aim of gathering evidence to inform decision-making about how best to deliver children's services in Scotland in light of the proposed introduction of the National Care Service for Scotland, and its commitment to Keep the Promise of the Independent Care Review (2020).

Strand 4 of the research, Workforce Experiences, was published on 15 November. It explores the experiences of people working to support children, young people and families in communities across Scotland to help answer the question ‘What is needed to ensure that children, young people and families receive the support they need when they need it?’

The final summary report, Summary and Implications of Key Findings, was published on 13 December. This summary draws together and synthesises all four strands of the findings into one report, addressing the over-arching research question set out above.

CYPIC Newsletter – winter edition

The winter edition of the CYPIC Newsletter, which includes the updates on the latest improvement work happening across Scotland, is now available on the [CYPIC website](#).

Supporting meaningful engagement – new learning report

A new learning report, [Seen Heard Included](#), has been published to support meaningful engagement with disabled children and young people with complex support needs and their families. The report was developed by a sub-group of the Disabled Children and Young People’s Advisory Group and funded by the Scottish Government. The learning will inform the design and development of the National Care Service and the National Transitions to Adulthood Strategy.

Linda Johnstone	Argyll and Bute, Highland, Moray, Midlothian, Clackmannanshire
Mary Sloan	West Lothian, Edinburgh City, Tayside
Gavin Russell	East Lothian, East Ayrshire, Glasgow City



On behalf of the WFWF team, we wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

6. Getting in touch

We are always open to feedback to ensure our communication is relevant and up to date. If you have any comments about the frequency and/or content of the newsletter, or any suggestions for different methods of communication from ourselves, or any queries about any aspect of WFWF, please get in touch with the team at: wholefamilywellbeing@gov.scot.

The Scottish Government team contact for each CSPP is in the table below.

Sarah Waldron	East Renfrewshire, Renfrewshire, North Lanarkshire, South Lanarkshire
Jolanta Lisicka	Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire, Falkirk, Inverclyde, Stirling
Sarah Bruce	Dumfries and Galloway, Fife, Scottish Borders, Na h-Eileanan Siar
Jaime Neal	East Dunbartonshire, North Ayrshire, Orkney, Shetland, South Ayrshire, West Dunbartonshire