
Report to: Clackmannanshire Council

Date: 27 June, 2013

Subject: Early Years Collaborative & Early Years Change Fund

Report by: Chief Executive

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to bring Council up to date with the Council's and Clackmannanshire Alliance's involvement in the Early Years Collaborative (EYC) which was launched in January this year.
- 1.2 In addition, the report briefs Council on the allocation of the Early Years Change Fund which was recently proposed by community planning partners and agreed by the Clackmannanshire Alliance.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that Council:
 - a) notes the Council's the Alliance's engagement in the Early Years Collaborative and the positive impact of that engagement to date; and
 - b) endorses the allocation of Early Years Change Fund as set out in Table 1 of this report.

3.0 Background

- 3.1 A delegation from Clackmannanshire Council and the Clackmannanshire Alliance, along with 750 people from all 32 community planning partnerships in Scotland, attended the start of the Early Years Collaborative in January this year.
- 3.2 Further to that launch, the local partnership agreed a number of practical actions under three workstreams which were intended to effect a positive impact on the achievement of a range of outcomes for children and families.
- 3.3 The three workstreams are:
 - 1) Conception to 1 Year which aims to ensure that women experience positive pregnancies which results in the birth of more healthy babies;
 - 2) 1 year to 30 months which aims to ensure that 85% of all children within each Community Planning Partnership have reached all the expected

developmental milestones at the time of the child's 27-30 month child health reviews;

3) 30 months to starting Primary School which aims to ensure that 90% of all children within each Community Planning Partnership have reached all the expected developmental milestones at the time of the child starts primary school.

- 3.4 There is also a fourth workstream, Leadership, which is about championing the aims of the Collaborative and facilitating organisational engagement in it. Within the Council, at officer level the Chief Executive is the champion and at elected member level, the Convenors of the Education, Sport & Leisure Committee and the Housing, Health & Care Committee are champions.
- 3.5 The underpinning methodology of the EYC is fairly simple and it focuses on testing a range of small measurable changes which, if successful in improving outcomes on a small scale, are rolled out more widely to achieve broader impact. Since the launch of the EYC in January, each community planning partnership has been testing its own locally determined actions under each workstream.
- 3.6 Last month the second national two day session of the EYC took place in Glasgow, attended by some 800 delegates from across Scotland, took place to review and share progress since January and to enable community planning partnerships to consider how the effective practice which has emerged from the EYC can be further developed.

4.0 Considerations - Clackmannanshire Activities & Impacts (Jan-May)

- 4.1 The January session of the EYC was attended by a number of representatives of Clackmannanshire Alliance partners, including the Council, NHS Forth Valley, Police Scotland and the voluntary sector. The delegation included practitioners, elected members, managers and chief officers.
- 4.2 The activities which were take forward from January under each workstream were as follows:

Workstream 1 - aim - at least 80% of pregnant women in Clackmannanshire will have booked in for antenatal care by their 12th week of pregnancy.

Workstream 2 - aim - to increase the uptake of healthy start vitamins at Alva Medical Practice and Tullibody Health Centre

Workstream 3 - aim - health visitors will know when speech and language therapy cases for pre school children are closed and a clear reason will be given for closing the case. This will enable discussions on how these children can be further supported to improve speech, language and communication.

Workstream 4 - aim - raise awareness of the EYC and encourage buy in. Specific actions included: article in Grapevine, development of section on Clacksweb, media release on the EYC and local engagement, discussion at various management and political forums.

Early Years Collaborative Clackmannanshire May 2013

Workstream 1 (-9 months to 1 year)

Aim: at least 80% of pregnant women in Clackmannanshire will have booked in for antenatal care by their 12th week of pregnancy. This should ensure improvements in health behaviours and breast feeding rates.



Other related tests include:

- test on women's awareness that they can book direct with antenatal services and don't have to book via GP
- test on direct access phone booking in system

Test results show that pregnant women in Clackmannanshire are becoming more aware that they can book in directly with antenatal services without the need to book via their GP. There are also improvements being made in the telephone booking-in system.

Workstream 2 (1 year to 3 years)

Aim: to increase the uptake of healthy start vitamins at Alva Medical Practice and Tullibody Health Centre. It was agreed to dispense with the need to present healthy start voucher to health visitor and increase awareness of the availability of these vitamins.

Additional uptake of vitamins



Results show that increased awareness and dispensing with the need for vouchers has resulted in increased uptake of healthy start vitamins. Unfortunately, stocks of vitamins ran out in mid March causing a dip in the uptake. New supplies have now been received and uptake is increasing again.



New tests under this workstream:
• measure uptake of vitamin services following the early years screening programme (EYSP)
• measure uptake of support pack from the family centre

Workstream 3 (3 years to 5 years)

Aim: health visitors will know when speech and language therapy cases for pre school children are closed and a clear reason will be given for closing the case. This will enable discussions on how these children can be further supported to improve speech, language and communication.



Health visitor aware of reasons for discharge from speech and language therapy



Test results show that improvements are being made in communication between speech and language therapy service and health visitors. Health visitors are becoming more aware of cases being closed and the reasons for this.

Other tests under this workstream:

- Review the effects of provider effect on sharing information between providers on each service, children have been assessed to determine whether to discuss that all providers are at the base position to provide support

Workstream 4 - Leadership

Early Years Champion - Chief Executive Elaine McPherson

"Getting it right in the early years is the right thing to do. Ensuring we the Council and our partners provide the correct support in the first place will go some way to preventing problems later on and will help families and the wider community for years to come. The attraction of the Collaborative is its strong focus on front line action which is taken quickly, tested and then applied more widely if it proves effective."



This image shows the story board which was on display at the SECC at the recent Early Years Collaborative Event in Glasgow in May.

Each community planning partnership was asked to present information on the tests which had been undertaken since the launch of the EYC and the results of these tests.

- 4.4 These tests have shown positive results and are being developed and extended.
- 4.5 In addition, further to involvement in the May session of the EYC, a number of new tests are being developed as follows:

Workstream 1

- extend the uptake of vitamins in the antenatal period to more mothers direct from contact with midwifery services, to improve infant and maternal nutrition and promote uptake of breast-feeding

Workstream 2

- reduce length of time taken from point of allocation of a worker to direct engagement and working with a family who requires support (Children and Families Assessment and Support Service)
- investigate why some families do not wish to take up packages of support which are offered (Children and Families Assessment and Support Service)
- promote parents/carers telling children bedtime stories (Alloa and Tullibody Family Centres)
- inform parents about the use of dummies and impact on childrens talking skills (Tullibody)
- roll out test to increase uptake of Healthy Start vitamins to Tillicoultry

Workstream 3

- use of socialisation resources (Clackmannan)
- improving communications between adult mental health services and Family centre services (Tullibody)
- improve readiness for learning via Active Start programme and increase physical activity (Alva)

Workstream 4

- extend political and organisational knowledge and understanding of EYC
- consider application of methodology more widely
- engage other voluntary sector organisation in undertaking test
- undertake development work with staff to further embed the model

5.0 Early Years Change Fund

- 5.1 Clackmannanshire has been allocated £385,905 in 2013-14 and £557,503 in 2014-15 from the Early Years and Early Intervention Change Fund to effect a change programme which will deliver effective early intervention to strengthen support to children and families.
- 5.2 Proposals for the use of that were produced by community planning partners including, in addition to the Council, the third sector, Police Scotland and NHS Forth Valley. Those proposals were then discussed and prioritised through

the multi-agency Clackmannanshire Early Years Early Intervention Group resulting in the agreed priorities set out on the table overleaf.

- 5.3 The agreed allocation of resources from the Early Years Change Fund takes into consideration the critical issues and complex challenges faced in Clackmannanshire and prioritises. The priorities sit very firmly within the priorities of the Single Outcome Agreement, the Clackmannanshire Integrated Children's Services Plan, the Local Early Years Framework Implementation Plan and our delivery of the Early Years Collaborative.
- 5.4 The priorities also fully meet the Scottish Government criteria for expenditure of the Early Years Change funds. The Alliance, through the Council, will be required to report back on the expenditure to the Scottish Government clearly detailing our local priorities and how the funding has improved outcomes for children and families in early years.

6.0 Conclusions

- 6.1 The Early Years Collaborative has been a positive experience so far from the Clackmannanshire perspective. Already it has led to some changes in practice which are directly benefitting families and it is also enabling improved collaboration at practitioner level. From a council perspective, the underlying methodology is starting to be used more widely to review business processes unrelated to the EYC. The next national EYC session is in October when further progress will be reported by each community planning partnership.
- 6.2 The local allocation of the Early Years Change Fund represents positive investment in key priorities which have been set out in the Clackmannanshire SOA and the Council's own corporate plan, *Taking Clackmannanshire Forward*. In particular

from the SOA:

- Vulnerable people and families in Clackmannanshire are supported
- Health is improving in Clackmannanshire
- Substance misuse and its effects are reduced
- Our public services are improving

from *Taking Clackmannanshire Forward*:

- Ensuring the best attainable start in life by early implementation of the Getting It Right for Every Child principles and practices
- Providing additional funding to improve nursery provision in Clackmannanshire

7.0 Sustainability Implications

- 7.1 The purpose of the EYC is to effect positive and sustainable changes in outcomes for families and children.

8.0 Resource Implications

Financial Details N/A

Staffing N/A

Table 1 - Priorities for Early Years Change Fund Expenditure in 13/14 and 14/15

- 1.** One full time temporary Health Visitor to work across the Early Years Service, with a particular focus on working with the Early Years teams on Early Intervention and Parenting. This is of particular importance in assessment of parenting capacity and will also support our delivery of the National and development of the local Parenting Strategy.
- 2.** One full time temporary Community Mental Health Worker, (Early Years) particular focus of work to work with parents early, on issues including anger management, self esteem, overcoming anxiety, depression and stress control. The post will work on both an individual and group work basis with families. There is also a focus on young parents where we are seeing within Clackmannanshire an increasing number of young parents presenting with early stages of anxiety.
- 3.** Development of Community Childminding /daycarers service - the childminders will be recruited and trained as part of our Fostering and Adoption Service as a tiered approach to providing a suite of services for parental support. This area of work will also link strongly to corporate parenting priorities and support for Kinship Carers.
- 4.** Development of discretionary childcare support fund for up to 18 year olds returning to school going through the Young Parents Project (CLD) - there have been significant concerns around the increasing number of teenage pregnancies within Clackmannanshire and the availability of appropriate childcare support to enable the young parent to return to school.
- 5.** Provision of extended day places in nursery for children referred as requiring this support. This is of significant importance to children referred through social services as requiring this additional support and in particular to enable the child to meet their developmental mile stones.
- 6.** Provision of additional educational psychologist hours 3 days per week working across Early Years services including work with parents and children who have experienced loss, trauma and abuse.
- 7.** Provision of a range of therapeutic Intervention programmes targeted across Early Years Services. Focus of work will range from looking at resilience, stability and attachment. Work will also focus on the needs of LAC to secure better outcomes.
- 8.** Provision of additional Speech and Language Therapy services in our Early Years, targeted at children under 3 years of age this will directly support the priority of all children having a 27-30 month screening check. Development of appropriate communication skills and language is a key priority in supporting the delivery of the Early Years Collaborative Workstream 2 stretch aim in reducing the number of children in Clackmannanshire at age 27 months with difficulties in early language and communication.
- 9.** Provision of early years teacher hours in a Local Authority nursery provision which provides extended day and full day provision to support parents who are using the service for employment and access to or in training.
- 10.** Provision of Co-ordination hours to support the delivery of the National Parenting Strategy and to develop the service to include a joint Parenting Strategy across Clackmannanshire and Stirling. The hours will be matched funded from Stirling Early Change Fund. This will also support the delivery of the Government led Psychology of Parenting programme across the Authority.

9.0 Declarations

9.1 The recommendations contained within this report support or implement our Corporate Priorities and Council Policies.

(1) **Our Priorities** (Please double click on the check box ☒)

The area has a positive image and attracts people and businesses ☒

Our communities are more cohesive and inclusive ☒

Vulnerable people and families are supported ☒

(2) **Council Policies** (Please detail) N/A

10.0 Equalities Impact

10.1 N/A

11.0 Legality

11.1 It has been confirmed that in adopting the recommendations contained in this report, the Council is acting within its legal powers. Yes ☒

12.0 Background Papers

<http://www.eycollaborative.co.uk/>

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Young-People/Early-Years-and-Family/early-years-collaborative>

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