

Education, Children and Families Committee

10am, Tuesday, 2 March 2021

Distribution of Scottish Government Community Mental Health Funds

Executive/routine
Wards
Council Commitments

1. Recommendations

1.1 The Education, Children and Families Committee is asked to:

- 1.1.1 Note the action taken to award the grant funding to EVOC for distribution to voluntary and third sector organisation under the Urgency Procedure paragraph 4.1 of the Committee Terms of Reference and Delegated Functions.

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Distribution of Scottish Government Community Mental Health Funds

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This report details how the local authority proposes to distribute the Scottish Government Community Mental Health Funds allocated to City of Edinburgh Council for the financial year 20/21 (£335,000).
- 2.2 This report is also to advise Committee of the action taken to award the full amount to EVOG for distribution to voluntary and third sector organisations under the urgency procedure.
- 2.3 It is anticipated that the mental health of children and young people will have deteriorated over the series of lockdowns. Research to quantify this is ongoing across Scotland and in the UK. Referrals for support have continued throughout lockdown particularly for Barnardo's/Children First Family Support. It is expected that emerging from lockdown that demand is going to outstrip supply unless we act decisively.
- 2.4 The funds should assist local children's services and community planning partnerships with the commissioning and establishment of new local community mental health and wellbeing supports or services or the development of existing supports and services, in line with the Scottish Government framework.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Scottish Government has identified that the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people is an area that requires strategic local approaches to ensure needs are identified and supported appropriately at the earliest opportunity. To enable the commissioning and the provision of such services, the Scottish Government is providing funds to every local authority to be directed towards community mental health for 5 to 24-year olds (26 if care experienced).
- 3.2 The funds will come to Edinburgh initially in two stages. Funds for January to March 2021 equate to £335,000; subsequent funds for the financial year 2021 to 2022 are estimated at £1,343,000. The Scottish Government is committed to sustaining this funding year on year.

- 3.3 It is the view of the collaborative implementation group that both forthcoming funding allocations should be spent strategically to effectively meet the needs of children and young people. It is anticipated that this will be through both locality and citywide approaches.

4. Main report

- 4.1 Psychological Services are leading the collaborative implementation group looking at how to effectively distribute the funds allocated to Edinburgh for the purposes set out in the Scottish Government Framework¹. The group includes EVOC, LAYC, Psychological Services, the Health and Wellbeing Team and CAMHS.
- 4.2 The implementation group has looked at local data to inform the identification of local gaps and strategic opportunities. Locality briefings have been organised to share information on the funds with all our partners.
- 4.3 As the funds will come to Edinburgh in two stages, the implementation group has recommended two phases to the distribution of the local funds.
- 4.4 Phase one will focus on 'Enhancing and Extending'. The funding allocated from January to March (£335,000) will enable services to implement immediate changes to provide more of what we already do well. Organisations will be invited to submit proposals based on what they already do, the impact and the evidence of demand of services between now and August 2021. Proposals will be made using a template that has been agreed by the implementation group and is based on the Scottish Government guidance (appendix 2).
- 4.5 Phase two will focus on 'Collaborating and Connecting' with a focus on the Scottish Government aim to provide 'Seamless pathways of support'. We will be seeking proposals that join up and connect supports available at a locality and city-wide level that allows stakeholders, children, young people and their families to identify and access appropriate supports quickly, building on our established GIRFEC framework.
- 4.6 The implementation group acknowledges that the two instalments of the funding stream are closely linked together. Without evidence of utilisation of the former by March 2021, the latter might not be released.
- 4.7 EVOC have agreed to administer the phase one, to allow the funds to be spent within the necessary time constraints and to allow all organisations demonstrating effective practice to be eligible. EVOC align to our corporate guiding principles and for an agreed administrative fee will be working in partnership to reach the desired outcome of successful and transparent grant distribution. The cost, which is deemed fair for the requirement, will be covered by the Scottish Government funding (appendix 3). Full details of the proposed grant process, open to all applicants and not restricted to those already on council frameworks, are appended to the report (appendix 1).

¹ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/mental-health-scotlands-transition-recovery/pages/1/>

- 4.8 Phase two will be completed via a procurement exercise, ensuring transparency, equal treatment, openness and proportionality. The procurement process will be open to all applicants.

Urgency Procedure

- 4.9 Grants Standing Orders state that ‘unless otherwise agreed by the Council, the Edinburgh Integration Joint Board (EIJB), or relevant Council Committee (each as appropriate), the process for awarding a grant which exceeds £25,000 shall be open to all eligible applicants. In certain circumstances, a restricted process i.e. restricted to existing grant recipients may be appropriate but must be agreed by the Council, the EIJB or relevant Council Committee (each as appropriate) in advance’.
- 4.10 Due to timescales for the release of the funding and implementation of the services, approval to award the grant to EVOC was sought using the Urgency Procedure, in consultation with the Convenor and Vice Convenor. The urgency procedure states that: ‘If a decision which would normally be made by a Committee requires to be made urgently between meetings of the Committee, the Chief Executive or appropriate Director, in consultation with the Convenor or Vice-Convenor, may take action, subject to the matter being reported to the next Committee’
- 4.11 Urgency powers to authorise this expenditure were sought and granted by the Convenor and Vice Convenor of this Committee on Monday 1st February.
- 4.12 There were a number of unintended consequences that would have occurred should the urgency powers not have been invoked. These consequences include:
- 4.12.1 Risk of losing the first allocation of funds (£335,000) due to tight timescales.
 - 4.12.2 Risk of losing the second allocation of funds (approx. £1,343,000) due to lack of evidence of having spent effectively the first instalment.
 - 4.12.3 Avoidance of any break in increasing and extending supports immediately available. This is particularly pertinent due to the current context where COVID 19 has increased mental health and wellbeing needs for our children and young people.²
 - 4.12.4 Risk of inequities in provision across different Local Authorities.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 Timeline and main steps of phase one are detailed in the Guidance on Funding (appendix 1).
- 5.2 As agreed by the parties in the Grant Agreement, the funds will be released in two instalments. The administrative fee (£5,836.30) will be paid to EVOC by the end of

² The repeated nature of the lockdowns has made it hard to determine what is the most effective approach to delivering services. Many services but not all switched to virtual delivery during lockdown. It is not clear how effective virtual delivery is compared to the more regular, hands on approaches.

February. The rest of the funding will be transferred to EVOC to cover all successful awards, at the latest by the end of March 2021.

- 5.3 To ensure ongoing performance monitoring, EVOC will be expected to gather and collate monthly impact data on all successful grants using an agreed common reporting format (appendix 1). Impact data on all community mental health funds (including school counsellors) will be submitted to the Scottish Government by Psychological Services on a 6-monthly basis.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 The business case for this implementation has been agreed by Scottish Government as a national priority. This is also an area identified as a local priority in our Children's Partnership Plan and our locality data.
- 6.2 The budget is coming to the local authority direct from Scottish Government, which has committed to maintaining it over time.
- 6.3 There are no revenue or capital costs associated with the report
- 6.4 There will be no income generated or income savings through this project.
- 6.5 The financial risk that City of Edinburgh council would lose the funding allocated for January to March 2021 has been mitigated through the agreement outlined in the main report.
- 6.6 There were no procurement costs associated with awarding these short-term grants.

7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

- 7.1 An implementation group is in place including EVOC, LAYC, Psychological Services, the Health and Wellbeing Team and CAMHS. We have communicated and consulted with stakeholders through four locality briefings.
- 7.2 The views of children, young people and their families have been gathered through a number of consultation exercises.
- 7.3 Elected Members, the Scottish Government and various other interested parties have been kept apprised of all developments throughout.
- 7.4 The impact on the community will be to provide support more efficiently and locally specifically in relation to mental health for children and young people.
- 7.5 With the aim of providing early co-ordinated supports locally, it is hoped that travel to access services will be reduced therefore having a positive impact on carbon reduction.

8. Background reading/external references

- 8.1 Scottish Government Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Supports and Services Framework.
- 8.2 Phase one funding paperwork.

9. Appendices

- 9.1 Appendix 1 Funding Guidance and Monitoring Return Template
- 9.2 Appendix 2 Final Proposal
- 9.3 Appendix 3 Administrative fee quote

Mental Health and Emotional Well Being Services Provision of Services to support the Community Mental Health & Well Being Framework Phase one funding

City of Edinburgh Council

Background

Scottish Government announced funding in September 2020 for councils to meet the following objective;

'Every child and young person in Scotland will be able to access local community services which support and improve their mental health and emotional wellbeing. Every child and young person and their families or carers will get the help they need, when they need it, from people with the right knowledge, skills and experience to support them. This will be available in the form of easily accessible support close to their home, education, employment or community.'

Full framework available here: [Community Mental Health & Wellbeing Support and Services Framework](#).

There will be funding for the remainder of this financial year e.g. January to March followed by further funding for the 2021 to 2022 financial year. **This communication is related to the funding for the remainder of this financial year.**

The funding for this financial year will focus on enhancing and extending e.g. doing more of what works. The subsequent funding will focus on collaborating and connecting e.g. seamless pathways to support.

The funding is to support work which is delivered in community settings. Easily accessing supports and services will mean having this in place wherever children, young people and families are going to access it or ask for it – for example within school, within general practice, in youth work or through other community settings.

Parameters for the Funding

The funding must be used to:

- Support the age range 5-24 (or 26 for care experienced young people)
- Target mental and emotional wellbeing and distress
- Be aligned to Edinburgh's GIRFEC framework and support the GIRFEC principles and values.

In addition it should:

- Build on existing local services and structures
- Sustain effective and easily accessible community supports
- Be inclusive of those with protected characteristics
- Give special consideration to children and young people who are impacted by poverty, involved in the criminal justice system or who are in care
- Reach young people whose distress is inhibiting their seeking of support
- Consider different presentations of distress, particularly for children and young people with complex needs, neurodevelopmental conditions and where English is not a first language

- Demonstrate clear pathways of escalation in managing risk and linking to CAMHS as and when appropriate
- Offer confidential services for those who choose them, for example not within their school or immediate community
- Provide services outside Mon-Fri 9-5 and as close to 365 days a year as possible.

Proposals must also aim to support the following principles:

- Child-centered and strengths based
- Accessible (safe, non-clinical environments with “no wrong door” to access support)
- Collaborative - strengthen joined up working
- Promote continuity of support – (a seamless pathway through supports)
- Resilience Building
- Utilise relationships that children and young people already have
- Be highly flexible, personalized, and adaptive to the changing needs of the child, young person, family or carer.

Required outcomes:

- Improved resilience – personal capacity of children/young people, and their families, or carers, to resolve difficulties and problems
- Improved mental health and emotional wellbeing of children/young people
- Increased capacity of parents/carers in supporting the emotional needs of their children/young people.

Services who access the first phase of funding need to demonstrate how they listen to and respond to the views of children, young people, and their families. They will likely have already involved children, young people and their families in co-design and evaluation of the services they already provide.

Additional guidance

Scottish Government are very clear that these funds should specifically address positive mental health and wellbeing and supports for distress. Our local definitions for this are;

Services to support emotional distress – early evidence based targeted supports with the aim of preventing escalation to specialist CAMHS services. Some examples include;

- Evidence based targeted support for anxiety e.g. LIAM
- Bereavement support e.g. seasons for growth, counselling
- Evidence based targeted support for low mood / Depression (mild to moderate) e.g. behavioral activation
- Targeted supports for at risk groups e.g. Emotional and behavior difficulties associated with neurodevelopmental disorders, Gender identity support services, learning disability support services, Substance misuse services
- Trauma support e.g. EMDR, play based therapy.

Services to support Positive Mental Health and Wellbeing – supports that promote resilience and offer support, experiences and opportunities that promote emotional wellbeing. Some examples include;

- Promoting self-esteem and confidence through experiences and opportunities

- Strengths bases key adult supports
- Supportive settings that promote positive relationships, positive activities and hobbies
- Psychoeducational supports to promote safety and wellbeing e.g. healthy digital interaction
- Parenting support for children and young people of all ages
- Support to reflect on feelings, emotions and relationships with trusted adult/s

All successful proposals will have to provide a 3 monthly summary on the impact of the additional funding. The draft reporting template can be seen in appendix 1.

Applying for Funding in Phase 1

If you would like to submit a proposal for this funding;

- You must be applying to fund additionality e.g. it cannot be used to fund what you already deliver but additional capacity for an existing programme of support with high demand is fine
- Locality specific proposals for between £5,000 and £15,000 will be considered
- City-wide proposals for between £5,000 and £25,000 will be considered
- Please submit the most recent two years' financial accounts.

Please complete the attached form and forward to funding@evoc.org.uk

In the form please state your organisation type e.g. charitable company limited by guarantee, SCIO, community Interest Company.

Please note:

The deadlines are very tight for this planning period so only those papers received by **Monday 1st March at 10am** will be considered.

We are looking to award a minimum of £50 000 per locality and a minimum of £50 000 to citywide proposals with a collective total of £335 000. We may offer adjusted amounts to that which has been requested in order to fit the total funding amount.

There will be an expectation that all successful proposals will reach a threshold of 80% using a common scoring template based on the questions in the proforma as scored by panel members. Each proposal will be scored by a panel of three prior to moderation.

We are open to a broad range of evidence demonstrating impact under Question 2, not limited to academic evidence.

Awards will be communicated in March. Awards will come in the form of one single payment.

COUNSELLING AND COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH 3 MONTHLY SUMMARY DATA

Appendix 1 – DRAFT REPORTING TEMPLATE

This data return is required in relation to all school counselling services and services receiving Community Mental Health Funds. It is required every 3 months (end of March, June, September, December).

Service:

Submission date:

Completed by:

Outcome measures being collated:

	Total	New in this 3 month period
Gender of service users		
Breakdown by stage		
BAME		
English as an Additional Language		
Known Additional Support Needs		
Numbers of service users accessing emotional distress services*		
Numbers of service users who have reported an improved outcome following access to emotional distress services		
Numbers of service users accessing positive mental health and wellbeing services**		
Numbers of service users who have reported an improved outcome following access to accessing positive mental health and wellbeing services		

Referral / request for service sources for this 3 month period:

	Service Offered	Not appropriate
Self-referral request		
Education request		
Social Work request		
Health request (GP, CAMHS)		
Voluntary organisation (please state)		
Other (please state)		

Onward referrals / concerns passed on:

	No. of onward referrals	No. of mental health and wellbeing issues reported
Social Work		
Child and Adolescent Mental Health		
GP		
GIRFEC child planning forum		
Educational Psychologist		
Voluntary organisation (please state)		
Other (please state)		

Working Definitions

*Services to support emotional distress – early evidence based targeted supports with the aim of preventing escalation to specialist CAMHS services. Some examples include;

- Evidence based targeted support for anxiety e.g. LIAM
- Bereavement support e.g. seasons for growth, counselling
- Evidence based targeted support for low mood / Depression (mild to moderate) e.g. behavioural activation
- Targeted supports for at risk groups e.g. Emotional and behavioural difficulties associated with neurodevelopmental disorders, Gender identity support services, learning disability support services, Substance misuse services
- Trauma support e.g. EMDR, play based therapy

**Services to support Positive Mental Health and Wellbeing – supports that promote resilience and offer support, experiences and opportunities that promote emotional wellbeing. Some examples include;

- Promoting self-esteem and confidence through experiences and opportunities
- Strengths bases key adult supports
- Supportive settings that promote positive relationships, positive activities and hobbies
- Psychoeducational supports to promote safety and wellbeing eg. Healthy digital interaction
- Parenting support for children and young people of all ages
- Support to reflect on feelings, emotions and relationships with trusted adult/s

Proposal Form

Organisation name:			
Organisation type:			
Lead contact name:		Job title:	
Email address:		Phone number:	
Date of proposal:			

Is your proposal for a specific locality or citywide?	
Citywide <input type="checkbox"/> North West <input type="checkbox"/> North East <input type="checkbox"/> South West <input type="checkbox"/> South East <input type="checkbox"/>	
1.	Please give a brief description of your organisation/s and its aims? (max 150 words)
2.	Please give a brief overview of your <u>existing</u> service provision and how you already support children, young people and / or their families with mental health and / or distress. Please include your <u>evidence of impact.</u> (max 300 words)
3.	Please indicate your target group for the current proposal (including age range) (max 50 words)
4.	Please summarise the aims of your proposal to extend or enhance what you do (max 300 words)
5.	How does this proposal build on your existing provision and address gaps or improve access to support? Please include your <u>evidence of unmet demand</u> (max 300 words)
6.	How do you already co-design and co-produce with children, young people and their families and how would you plan to do this going forward? (max 300 words)
7.	How does your proposed model serve the needs of any targeted groups requiring special consideration (noted above max 300 words)?
8.	What are your current referral pathways into the service? Does your proposal include any changes to this and is there a means to self-refer? (max 150 words)
9.	Please describe the links your service has with other universal and / or specialist provision. (max 150 words)
10.	Where do you intend delivering your proposed service? (please specify any temporary impact from COVID) (max 50 words)
11.	What are your proposed operating hours? (max 50 words)

12. Please highlight any identified training needs that would ensure all staff and volunteers have the knowledge and understanding to support mental health and / or distress. (max 150 words)
13. Please provide a breakdown of projected costings (until a maximum of the end of August 2021).
14. Please use this space to indicate any other relevant information (max 300 words)

Please return to funding@evoc.org.uk no later than **Monday 1st March at 10am.**

		Monthly salary	Number of months	
Manager	Salary	£ 4,158.00		
	NI	£ 473.00		
	Pen	£ 560.00		
	Total	<u>£ 5,191.00</u>		
	0.5 days pw = 5191 x 0.1	£ 519.10	x 2.5	£ 1,297.75
Development Worker	Salary	£ 2,326.00		
	NI	£ 220.00		
	Pen	£ 140.00		
	Total	<u>£ 2,686.00</u>		
	2.5 days pw = 2686 x 0.5	£ 1,343.00	x 2.5	£ 3,357.50
Total staff cost				<u>£ 4,655.25</u>
Internal full cost recovery contribution (20%)				£ 931.05
Audit fee increase				£ 250.00
Total				<u><u>£ 5,836.30</u></u>