

# Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee

10.00am, Thursday, 9 March 2023

## Parental Employability Support

Executive/routine  
Wards

Executive  
All

### 1. Recommendations

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- 1.1 It is recommended that Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee:
  - 1.1.1 Note the expectation that additional funding will be allocated to the City of Edinburgh Council in 2023/24 for Parental Employability Support (PES), to be fully utilised in 2023/24;
  - 1.1.2 Note the urgency in developing and implementing a comprehensive programme to ensure delivery can take place before 31 March 2024; and
  - 1.1.3 Subject to additional funding being allocated to the Council:
    - 1.1.3.1 Agree to allocate up to £300,000 on a one-off basis to continue the Disabled PES programme, pending confirmed outcomes and Local Employability Partnership (LEP) approval;
    - 1.1.3.2 Delegate authority to the Executive Director of Place, in consultation with the Economy Spokespeople, for individual one-off grant funding awards of up to £250,000 to expand the existing PES programme; and
    - 1.1.3.3 Note that any awards will be reported retrospectively to Committee.

**Paul Lawrence**

Executive Director of Place

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## Parental Employability Support

### 2. Executive Summary

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- 2.1 This report outlines the work already undertaken by City of Edinburgh Council and local employability partners to put in place services for parents. In anticipation that additional funding will be made available in 2023/24, it is recommended that Committee approves a plan for quickly implementing extended services. This plan will only be implemented in the event that additional funding materialises.

### 3. Background

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- 3.1 Parental Employability Support (PES) funding is provided by Scottish Government under the Tackling Child Poverty strategy and is intended to complement the No One Left Behind strategy for the delivery of services to support parents into, and to progress in, employment.
- 3.2 The client groups who are eligible and benefitting from the PES fund are:
- 3.2.1 Lone Parents who are unemployed or experiencing in work poverty;
  - 3.2.2 Parents with a disability or families who are unemployed or experiencing in work poverty and have a disabled child;
  - 3.2.3 Parents who are unemployed or experiencing in work poverty and have 3 or more children;
  - 3.2.4 Parents from a minority ethnic background who are unemployed or experiencing in work poverty;
  - 3.2.5 Parents who are unemployed or experiencing in work poverty and have a youngest child <1; and
  - 3.2.6 Parents who are aged <25 who are unemployed or experiencing in work poverty.
- 3.3 Delivery in Edinburgh has taken place through various projects. In [June 2022](#), Committee agreed to:
- 3.3.1 Extend PES grants, until 31 March 2025, subject to Scottish Government funding being made available and satisfactory performance of outcomes against annual targets;

- 3.3.2 Recruit a team of specialist key workers to offer a citywide service to support parents across the city, similar to the model utilized for young people through Activity Agreements;
  - 3.3.3 Develop and implement a programme for individuals, especially parents, to set up as childminders; and
  - 3.3.4 Direct award funding to Capital City Partnership (CCP) to commission specialist services specifically to support disabled parents, with priority given to organisations based in, and delivering services within, Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation areas 1-5.
- 3.4 The report in June 2022 also highlighted the Scottish Government's intention to increase employability support services for parents in 2022/23 by allocating further funding for local authorities in Scotland to support the Best Start, Bright Futures delivery plan. This was later cancelled in the emergency budget review announced on [2 November 2022](#).

## 4. Main report

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### **PES Funding 2023/24**

- 4.1 In the budget announcement on [15 December 2022](#), the PES provision in 2023/24 has been increased to £69.7m. It is understood that the majority of this, but not all, will be allocated to Local Authorities for delivery of employability services for parents.
- 4.2 The Council has not yet received confirmation of the funding allocation in 2023/24 or details of the delivery requirements, but initial indications are that the delivery criteria is likely to remain largely unchanged from previous PES allocations. In addition, it is expected that the additional funding will be for 2023/24 only and will need to be spent within the financial year.
- 4.3 Assuming the same allocation methodology is applied in 2023/24 as in previous years, Edinburgh's allocation is likely to be around £2.8m. This would mean approximately £2.1m should be allocated to delivery costs, with the remainder used to meet internal staffing costs.

### **Proposed PES Programme 2023/24**

- 4.4 Discussions are on-going with the Local Employability Partnership (LEP), Scottish Government and other local authorities about programme plans for 2023/24.
- 4.5 As noted in the background of this report (paragraph 3.3.1), PES grants were agreed (subject to funding and satisfactory performance) by Committee in June 2022 for three years. These awards total £196,250.
- 4.6 Should additional funding be allocated to the City of Edinburgh Council in 2023/24, it is recommended that:
  - 4.6.1 Committee agree a one-off allocation of £300,000 is made to extend the Disabled PES programme for a further year. This allocation would be subject

to confirmation of the outcomes achieved in the present programme and a recommendation from the LEP to proceed; and

- 4.6.2 Committee delegate authority to the Executive Director of Place, in consultation with Economy Spokespeople, to agree individual one-off grant funding awards of up to £250,000, based on the funding criteria set out above.

## **5. Next Steps**

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- 5.1 If Committee approves the recommendations of this report, officers will continue to engage with the LEP, Scottish Government and other local authorities to develop and implement a programme of activities in line with the PES criteria in Edinburgh.
- 5.2 If additional funding is allocated to City of Edinburgh Council, any funding awards made will be retrospectively reported to Committee.

## **6. Financial impact**

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- 6.1 There is no financial impact to the Council as all delivery costs of the PES fund will be contained within the grant award from Scottish Government.
- 6.2 The anticipated programme costs are set out in paragraphs 4.5 and 4.6. The combined total of the existing and proposed awards will not exceed the funding allocation for the City of Edinburgh Council in 2023/24.
- 6.3 The ongoing projects will be contract managed by CCP under the existing SLA.
- 6.4 The allocation for 2023/24 is expected to include funding for internal staff. In addition, if required, this programme can also be supported by the Employability team responsible for the No-One Left Behind programmes.

## **7. Stakeholder/Community Impact**

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- 7.1 The impact on this client group will be positive as the projects will enable them to enhance their employability and develop new skills to help them to secure or progress in employment. There is also a link to income maximisation advice which will ensure that these families benefit in real financial terms.
- 7.2 Partnership working is at the heart of the development of this proposal, both between Council departments and other partners and has been designed to complement the current strategic skills pipeline. This includes undertaking Integrated Impact Assessments to ensure no-one is adversely affected by these proposals and programmes.

## **8. Background reading/external references**

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- 8.1 [Council Commitments – Delivering an Economy for All.](#)
- 8.2 [Scottish Government's Parental Employment Support Fund.](#)
- 8.3 [Scottish Government - Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan 2022-26.](#)
- 8.4 [Scottish Government's No-one Left Behind policy.](#)

## 9. Appendices

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9.1 None.