

# Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 27 August 2024

## No One Left Behind – ASN Provision

Executive/routine  
Wards

Routine  
All

### 1. Recommendations

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- 1.1 It is recommended that Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee note the outcome of the grant bidding process for Additional Support Need (ASN) employability Stage 1 provision.

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## No One Left Behind – ASN Provision

### 2. Executive Summary

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- 2.1 This report outlines the work undertaken by the Council and the Local Employability Partnership (LEP) to put in place a Stage 1 Additional Support Needs (ASN) employability service, funded by the Scottish Government under the No One Left Behind (NOLB) strategy, for 2024/25 and asks Committee to note the outcome of the grant commissioning process.

### 3. Background

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- 3.1 NOLB is the Scottish Government strategy for placing people at the centre of the design and delivery of employability services. It promotes a strengthened partnership approach where the Scottish and Local Government work together with public, third, and private sector partners to identify local needs and make informed, evidence-based decisions. NOLB Stage 1, the first implementation phase of this strategy came to Local Authorities for delivery in 2019, with the formal launch in April 2020.
- 3.2 On 5 December 2023, Committee [agreed](#) to award third-party grants to seven services, up to a maximum total cost of £301,000 per annum, to support young people at risk of a post-school negative destination, focusing particularly on those residing in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) areas of the city.
- 3.3 At the same meeting it was [reported](#) that the co-production for this new provision had highlighted the need for a specific Stage 1 service for young people with ASN, recognising that they need more intensive specialist 1:1 support during the transition between school and employment.
- 3.4 Committee therefore agreed to allocate £100,000 to launch an open grants process to expand the existing NOLB programme with a specific citywide ASN Stage 1 provision.
- 3.5 On 14 May 2024, due to time constraints of co-production and start of service delivery, Committee [agreed](#) to delegate authority to the Executive Director of Place to award a grant of £100,000, to the LEP's recommended provision following the scoring process.

## 4. Main report

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- 4.1 Notification of the grant process and consultation events were advertised on the City of Edinburgh Council, Joined Up for Jobs, and Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations Council (EVOC) websites and circulated to employability providers.
- 4.2 The application process opened in May 2024 and was open for four weeks. Support with applications was provided by Capital City Partnership to those who requested it. The full specification can be found in Appendix 1.
- 4.3 Consultation events for key stakeholders took place online in April. The attendees included parents/carers, educational providers, and the wider Joined Up for Jobs network.
- 4.4 A bidders' event was held online on 23 May 2024 to provide more detail of the process and to allow for questions to be asked by interested parties.
- 4.5 A total of nine applications were received from the following providers:
  - 4.5.1 Barnardo's;
  - 4.5.2 Edinburgh Development Group;
  - 4.5.3 Enable Scotland;
  - 4.5.4 Into Work;
  - 4.5.5 Move On;
  - 4.5.6 The Salvensen Mindroom Centre;
  - 4.5.7 Tipereth;
  - 4.5.8 Triage; and
  - 4.5.9 Volunteer Edinburgh.
- 4.6 An experienced scoring panel of representatives from the LEP and wider specialist ASN Steering Group were identified to review and score the applications and hold a moderation meeting, in July 2024. The group included representatives from the Council's Business Growth and Inclusion team, specialist schools, mainstream schools, educational psychologists, Skills Development Scotland, and Capital City Partnership.
- 4.7 A total of 12 people took part in the scoring process, working in pairs to agree a score.
- 4.8 Each application was reviewed by two pairs of scorers. During a moderation meeting each application was discussed and scores were considered. Where there was a difference in scores allocated by the pairs, a moderated score was agreed.
- 4.9 Applications scored were based on alignment to the specification, evidence for demand, evidence of successful previous delivery, value for money, outcomes and progressions, and partnership working.

- 4.10 A preferred bidder was identified but the scoring panel required clarification on an element of their application. The bidder was contacted for this and provided a very detailed and comprehensive response. The panel were satisfied with this and recommended the bid for final approval by the LEP before an award recommendation is made.
- 4.11 The preferred bidder is Barnardo's. All other bidders have been notified of the outcome of their bid and offered feedback.

## **5. Next Steps**

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- 5.1 The preferred bidder has been working with Capital City Partnership to ensure that the service design fully meets the specification and delivery commenced on 14 August 2024.
- 5.2 Officers will continue to engage with colleagues in Children, Education and Justice Services to launch and integrate the new ASN Stage 1 provision alongside existing provisions and will monitor the delivery of the provision.
- 5.3 A progress update will be provided to Committee along with recommendations for future delivery on 25 February 2025.

## **6. Financial impact**

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- 6.1 There is no financial impact to the Council as all estimated costs for the services identified in this report will be fully funded by the NOLB grant award from the Scottish Government.

## **7. Equality and Poverty Impact**

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- 7.1 The impact on protected characteristic client groups will be positive as the recommendations outlined in this paper will enable them to enhance their employability and develop new skills to help them secure or progress in employment.
- 7.2 Partnership working is at the heart of the development of this proposal within the Council and with other partners and has been designed to complement the current strategic skills pipeline. This work was considered in the recent undertaking of the NOLB [Integrated Impact Assessment](#) in late 2023/24 to ensure no one is adversely affected by this provision. An integrated impact assessment was undertaken as part of the coproduction process for the NOLB Stage 1 provision which was used to help engagement and scoping activities.

## **8. Climate and Nature Emergency Implications**

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- 8.1 The impacts of this report have been considered in relation to the three elements of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 Public Bodies Duties requiring public bodies to contribute to climate change mitigation and to climate change adaptation, and to act sustainably. Relevant Council sustainable development policies have also been considered.
- 8.2 The proposals in this report help achieve a sustainable Edinburgh primarily by improving the areas of social justice, economic wellbeing and a just transition to a sustainable economy. By supporting local employment opportunities in local businesses and helping young people with ASN into positive destinations there is a positive impact on inclusion, employment and training, and shared prosperity.
- 8.3 There are no direct negative impacts in the effects of climate change or improving the resilience to the effects of climate change as a result of this report.
- 8.4 There are no direct nature emergency implications as a result of this report.

## **9. Risk, policy, compliance, governance and community impact**

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- 9.1 All previous and current NOLB-funded projects were originally awarded using a co-production methodology. The review and subsequent procurement and award of any replacement service specifications have been co-produced. This was undertaken through a fully consultative process that includes and takes into account input from key stakeholders, service providers, and service users.
- 9.2 A NOLB Integrated Impact Assessment and Data Protection Impact Assessment is in place and has been reviewed as part of the coproduction exercise for input into service specifications.

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

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- 10.1 [No One Left Behind.](#)
- 10.2 [Learning Disabilities, Autism and Neurodivergence Bill: consultation](#)
- 10.3 [Scotland's Labour Market Overview: December 2023](#)
- 10.4 [Fairer Scotland for disabled people – employment action plan: progress report – year 2](#)

## **11. Appendices**

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None.