

**Highland Community Planning Partnership**  
**Community Planning Board – 15 March 2017**

Agenda Item	9.
Report No	CPB 06/17

Edge of Care Programme

The Centre for Excellence for Looked after Children in Scotland (CELCIS) has received funding from The Robertson Trust to support Community Planning Partnerships in their efforts to improve the wellbeing of children and families living on the edges of the statutory care system.

CELCIS is inviting expressions of interest from CPPs, to work with them, the Robertson Trust and other independent funders, over the next six months to scope out and develop a new, innovative programme. The programme involves reviewing the design of local services, and considering changes which can better provide children and families with the right support at the right time, thereby reducing the likelihood of problems escalating.

The Robertson Trust is aiming to achieve a decisive shift towards early intervention and prevention work with families, through effective partnership between statutory, third sector, independent and community providers. This provides an option for the CPP to partner with third sector organisations to access bridging finance from independent sources that will support the expansion of existing, effective partnership approaches, or the introduction of new, innovative models.

The scoping work will be conducted from April to June 2017, and will involve working with up to three CPP areas to:

- Define the group of children ‘on the edges of care,’ which may include children who are looked after at home, in informal kinship placements, on the child protection register, and families who are engaging with social work on a voluntary basis.
- Identify and assess the needs of children and families on the edges of care.
- Map the existing infrastructure of support available to these children and families, including statutory, third sector, independent and community provision.
- Engage with children and families about how the current system is operating, and to plan new approaches to meet their needs at the earliest opportunity.
- Prepare a detailed plan for how additional / alternative evidence-based approaches could meet the identified needs, and provide a shift to an earlier model of support, which produces the best possible outcomes for children and families.

- Consider resource implications, with the possibility of support to access funding from the Robertson Trust and other independent funders, to cover the start-up costs of new initiatives, where this is required

The scoping work will form the basis of a funding proposal to support later phases of the programme, which is anticipated to run for three to five years. Further information is attached.

Ultimately, the aim of the programme is to reduce the number of children who are accommodated as a result of their needs not being met at an earlier stage.

Expressions of interest had to be submitted by 27th February 2017, and this was done by the Director of Care & Learning, enabling more detailed discussions to take place with CELCIS.

Given the timescale of this work, the CPP Board is asked to give support in principle to Highland being part of this programme, dependent on the outcome of these discussions.

**Bill Alexander**  
**Director of Care & Learning**  
**Highland Council**

## Edges of Care Programme: Information sheet

### What are the phases of the programme?

**Phase 1:** Scoping work (March – June 2017)

**Phase 2:** Planning, design and testing of approaches (July 2017 – December 2018)

**Phase 3:** Ongoing implementation support to sustain positive change (January 2019 onwards)

The Robertson Trust has funded phase 1 of this programme. A funding application will be completed over the course of phase 1 to support the delivery of action plans in phases 2 and 3 of the work.

### What are the broad aims of the programme?

- To improve child and family wellbeing
- To reduce the number of children accommodated, and the associated negative impact of family breakdown
- To decrease local spend on late-stage, crisis interventions
- To develop and enhance preventative and early intervention options within local communities
- To grow local capacity to support practice improvement and implementation
- To expand and/ or introduce effective child-welfare practice
- To accelerate the realisation of GIRFEC for children on the edges of care

### What is the nature of the work that will take place over phase 1?

- Definition and identification of population of children who are on the edges of care
- Tracking these children and families' journeys from the point they become known to services
- Analysing the range of children's and families' needs
- Mapping the system 'as is,' including third sector and community provision
- Understanding organisational structures
- Identifying barriers and challenges
- Costing of current infrastructure of support

### What is the support on offer?

The CELCIS Edges of Care Project Lead will work with the local implementation team to:

- Undertake the scoping work
- Report on progress to the CPP

- Develop an action plan which outlines how to improve the outcomes of children and families on the edges of care, which will form the basis of a funding application to support phases 2 and 3 of the programme
- Apply improvement and implementation approaches
- Co-ordinate engagement with children and families, staff working in the statutory and third sector, and community groups.
- Design and test new and existing approaches, based on a full understanding of need and the local CPP context
- Create data systems to support the aims of the work
- Implement and sustain effective approaches to supporting children on the edges of care

### What must CPP leaders commit to?

- Supporting a programme of change for children on the edges of care, which is designed in partnership with children and families, statutory and third sector providers, and community groups
- Actively driving the programme in their area, through overseeing its development and monitoring progress
- Reflecting their commitment to, and prioritisation of, this agenda in the Children's Services Plan
- Accommodating an in-depth scoping exercise to understand the current approach to supporting children on the edges of care
- Identifying a minimum of three members of staff from the CPP to work with the CELCIS Edges of Care Project Lead to drive the programme locally
- Through the local leads, co-ordinating engagement with a wider group of stakeholders
- Supporting the design of a data and evaluation system which reflects the aims of this work
- Moving to phases 2 and 3 of the programme

### Join our community of practice

For CPP areas interested in this work, but not able to participate at this time, we would suggest joining our mailing list which we will use to distribute information about the programme, publicise upcoming events and roundtable discussions, and to carry out consultations.

Please submit your contact details to [lisa.macaskill@strath.ac.uk](mailto:lisa.macaskill@strath.ac.uk), and include the reference 'edges of care community of practice.'

For further information, and to submit an expression of interest, please contact Dominique Harvey, Edges of Care Project Lead by email: [dominique.harvey@strath.ac.uk](mailto:dominique.harvey@strath.ac.uk) or by telephone: 0141 444 8547.