

Agenda Item	9.
Report No	CPPB/4/24



Highland
Community
Planning
Partnership

Com-pàirteachas
Dealbhadh
Coimhearsnachd
na Gàidhealtachd

Highland Community Planning Partnership Board – 1 March 2024

Whole Family Wellbeing Programme - Progress Report

Report by the Chair of the Integrated Children's Services Board

1 Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Board Members on the progress of the Whole Family Wellbeing Programme.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Note the content of the report in line with the [Scottish Government's Route-map and National Principles of Holistic Whole Family Support](#).

3 Implications

- 3.1 **Resource** – No implications.

- 3.2 **Legal** - No implications.

- 3.3 **Community (Equality, Poverty, Rural and Island)** - Improvement to outcomes for infants, children, young people and their families outlined in this report consider the themes of equality, poverty, unmet need and rural issues.

- 3.4 **Climate Change / Carbon Clever** – No implications.

- 3.5 **Risk** – Risks are determined through a proposed Programme Risk Register to be established as part of the Programme development.

- 3.6 **Gaelic** – None.

4 Background

- 4.1 Through the Community Planning Partnership's Integrated Children's Service Plan 2023 - 2026 the Partnership has a vision for children and young people to have the best possible start in life and enjoy being young, ensuring they are loved, confident and resilient and can achieve their potential. Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC) is the National approach to improving outcomes for children and young people. GIRFEC

recognises that children's individual growth and development happens in the context of their family and care networks, local communities, and wider societal influences.

- 4.2 Our Integrated Children's Service Plan outlines how we are working towards ensuring the wellbeing of our children and young people will flourish, where every child's rights are upheld and where children and young people grow up loved, safe and respected to realise their full potential.
- 4.3 The Promise clearly identified the need to significantly upscale family support services and identified whole family support as a priority in the Promise Plan 21-24. Children and families should be able to access preventative, needs-based support when and where they need it, and for as long as they need it. This embodies the ethos of the Promise by supporting families at their time of need rather than at crisis point. This will enable them to flourish and reduce the chances of family breakdown and of children entering the care system.

5 Whole Family Wellbeing Fund

- 5.1 The Scottish Government has responded to this direction for family support and recognises the cultural shift that will be required to achieve these ambitions which provides funding in recognition of. It has committed to investing a £500m Whole Family Wellbeing Funding (WFWF) over the lifetime of this Parliament. WFWF will support the whole system transformational change required to reduce the need for crisis intervention, and to shift investment towards prevention and early intervention.
- 5.2 The WFWF has been provided to Local Authorities to deliver but that the approach to spend should be agreed through the Community Planning Partnership. This priority and the key principle of strengthening and supporting families to stay together whilst ensuring children feel safe and loved is reflected in the Scottish Government's Keeping The Promise Implementation Plan. This work also shares its ambition and works in harmony with the:
 - [Scottish Government's Route-map and National Principles of Holistic Whole Family Support](#)
 - The Promise Plan 2021 – 2024 [Plan 21-24 \(thepromise.scot\)](#)
 - Best Start Bright Futures – Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan 2022 – 2026 [Executive Summary - Best Start, Bright Futures: tackling child poverty delivery plan 2022 to 2026 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)
 - National Trauma Training Framework [The National Trauma Training Programme \(NTTP\) | NHS Education for Scotland \(scot.nhs.uk\)](#)
 - Families Affected by Drug and Alcohol Use in Scotland – A Framework for Holistic Whole Family Approaches and Family Inclusive Practice [Families Affected by Drug and Alcohol Use in Scotland : A Framework for Holistic Whole Family Approaches and Family Inclusive Practice \(www.gov.scot\)](#)
 - UNCRC
 - GIRFEC
 - COVID Recovery Strategy – For a Fairer Future

It is also aligned with the Partnership's strategic approach to wellbeing across education, health, justice, transport and communities.

- 5.3 Allocation of the WFWF across Scotland resulted in Highland receiving an allocation of funding of:

£1.42M Year 1 (2022/2023)

£1.42M Year 2 (2023/2024)

Allocation letter is awaited from Scottish Government prior to commencement of new financial year 2024/2025.

- 5.4 The 2022/2023 and 2023/2024 allocations were distributed on an Allocation Matrix using four weighted components:

- The population of children and young people aged 0-17 (45%)
- The number of children in low-income families (40%)
- Rurality, estimated number of children aged 0-17 in rural areas (5%)
- Multiple deprivation, the number of children in low-income families in the top 20% most deprived data zones (10%)

- 5.5 The first weighted component reflects local populations of children and young people.

The second weighted component reflects the clear evidence that links child poverty with experience of the care system.

The third weighted component aims to provide additional weighting to account for the specific challenges faced in delivering services in rural areas.

This equates approximately to a 100% uplift for children in rural areas, relative to children in non-rural areas.

The fourth and final weighted component reflects the specific challenges arising in supporting families in areas of multiple deprivation.

This equates to an approximately 66% uplift for children in low-income families in the top 20% most deprived data zones relative to other children in low-income families.

- 5.6 In the context of the Whole Family Wellbeing Funding, family support means multi-disciplinary and multi-agency support which aligns with the National Principles of Holistic Whole Family Support and is experienced as integrated by the family. The support should be available when needed for as long as it is needed, and could relate to a range of needs including mental health, substance use, parental imprisonment, domestic abuse, disability, poverty, unemployment, welfare support, etc.

- 5.7 Providing holistic support that addresses the needs of children and adults in a family, at the time of need rather than at crisis point, aims to support families to flourish and reduce the chances of family breakdown and of children entering the care system. The same preventive interventions should also support adults in a family's ability to engage with other support that helps them access the labour market, pursue qualifications, or progress in employment, thereby enabling them to improve their financial situation and overall resilience.

6 The National Principles for Holistic Whole Family Support

6.1 Holistic whole family support will be readily available across Highland to families that need it, with the National Principles of Holistic Whole Family Support ('the National Principles') embedded into the planning, commissioning and delivery of services provided to support children and families.

6.2 These principles have been integrated into the Integrated Children's Services Plan 2023 -2026. They will be used to deliver high quality, preventive, holistic whole family support through their services for children and families.

6.3 The Programme will ensure that:

- The support from services that families receive is experience as integrated.
- Families have access to the range of services they need to help them flourish and thrive.
- They will have the support they need, when they need it, and for as long as they need it.



6.4 **Non-stigmatising:** Support should be promoted and provided free from stigma and judgement. Services should be as normalised as accessing universal services.

6.5 **Whole Family:** Support should be rooted in GIRFEC and wrapped around the whole family. This requires relevant join up with adult services.

6.6 **Needs based:** Support should be tailored to fit around each individual family, not be driven by rigid services or structures. It should cover the spectrum of support from universal services, more tailored support for wellbeing, and intensive support (to prevent or in response to statutory interventions). Creative approaches to support should be encouraged.

- 6.7 **Assets and community based:** Support should be empowering, building on existing strengths within the family and wider community. Families should be able to 'reach in' not be 'referred to'. Support must be explicitly connected to locations that work for local families and the community, such as schools, health centres, village halls and sports centres.
- 6.8 **Timely and Sustainable:** Flexible, responsive and proportionate support should be available to families as soon as they need it, and for as long as it is required, adapting to changing needs.
- 6.9 **Promoted:** Families should have easy, well understood routes of access to support. They should feel empowered to do so and have choice about the support they access to ensure it meets their needs.
- 6.10 **Take account of families' voice:** At a strategic and individual level, children and families should be meaningfully involved in the design, delivery, evaluation and continuous improvement of services. Support should be based on trusted relationships between families and professionals working together with mutual respect to ensure targeted and developmental support.
- 6.11 **Collaborative and Seamless:** Support should be multi-agency and joined up across services, so families do not experience multiple 'referrals' or inconsistent support.
- 6.12 **Skilled and Supported Workforce:** Support should be informed by an understanding of attachment, trauma, inequality and poverty. Staff should be supported to take on additional responsibilities and trusted to be innovative in responding to the needs of families.
- 6.13 **Underpinned by Children's Rights:** Children's rights should be the funnel through which every decision and support service is viewed.

7 Framework for Holistic Whole Family Approaches and Family Inclusive Practice

- 7.1 There requires to be synergy between the ambition of Whole Family Wellbeing Programme and the 'Framework for Holistic Whole Family Approaches and Family Inclusive Practice', which asks Alcohol and Drug Partnerships (ADPs), Children's Service Planning Partnerships and other local partners to implement 'A Whole Family Approach and Family Inclusive Practice.'
- 7.2 This paper recognises that within Scotland's National Alcohol and Drug Strategy, Rights, Respect and Recovery, that families are assets and key partners, with valuable knowledge and experience. Families have the right to support, in their own right, as well as the right to be involved in their loved one's treatment and support.
- 7.3 Within the paper Ministers believe, "that implementation of this framework will save lives, reduce harms and transform the quality of life for families and we urge local areas to review their current provision and plans against the recommendations within this framework and initiate action".

- 7.4 The paper also acknowledges that supporting adults is central to this work and that partners at National and Local levels across Children and Adult Services need to work together to ensure whole family support is provided. Recognising also that women in particular can face a range of barriers that can hinder them entering and sustaining attendance with treatment and recovery programmes. It states that Whole Family Approaches, specialist services and mainstream statutory providers need to ensure their service responses are designed to support women overcome the trauma and loss that they often experience when involved in Child Protection and lose the care of their children.
- 7.5 In short, strong, enduring, collaborative working arrangements are needed between Adult Alcohol and Drug Services, Adult Services and Children and Families' Services.
- 7.6 The Programme has secured funding from the Highland Drug and Alcohol Partnership to fund a Drug and Alcohol Whole Family Wellbeing Co-Ordinator post, aligned to the Whole Family Wellbeing Programme. The role of this Co-Ordinator post will be to work across the Highland area to co-ordinate the development of local services and support around families impacted by drug and alcohol issues as part of the Whole Family Wellbeing Approach and support delivery of the [Families Affected by Drug and Alcohol Use: A Framework for Holistic Whole Family Approaches and Family Inclusive Practice](#)

The post will work as an integrated member of the Whole Family Wellbeing Programme to improve the health and wellbeing of Highland families affected by drug and alcohol use through early intervention and prevention and better co-ordination of all locality supports and resources, ensuring families stay together receiving the support they need in their local communities, with a key focus on reducing inequalities.

The post is currently in the process of preparation for advertisement.

8 Programme Progression Overview

- 8.1 The Programme remains aligned to the model agreed by the Community Planning Partnership Board, namely:
- It is place-based and responsive to the needs of the local community.
 - It is people led and developed from the locality up with the community voice and the voices of children and families at the centre.
 - It takes an assets-based approach – building on local successes and capacity but identifying where gaps may exist.
 - It is built on COVID learning and resilience approaches developed.
 - That measuring impact is critical to designing the new approach, being clear about what we want to achieve.
 - That a tiered-intervention approach is adopted with a focus on strengthening supports through universal services.
 - That it is needs led and evidence based.
 - That it tackles inequalities and is trauma informed.

8.2 The Programme is defined under the four pillars of the [Scottish Government's Route-map and National Principles of Holistic Whole Family Support](#):



8.3 Following the recruitment, formation and on-boarding of the Whole Family Wellbeing Programme team between May 2023 and September 2023, the Programme entered the Evaluation Phase on 30th September 2023.

The Evaluation Phase is designed to ensure that the framework of the Programme remains within the four Programme Pillars (as defined in 8.2), and that it remains evidence-based and predicated by need, at a locality level.

To ensure this, the following approach has been developed.

Data Gathering

Recognising that no single source of data will be sufficient to provide robust evidence of need, a mix of evidence from a range of sources is being utilised, namely;

- **Performance Data** in the form of the Integrated Children's Services Planning Board Performance Management Framework, the Highland Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and [Public Health Profile Data](#).
- **Stakeholder Views** in the form of:

Practitioner Participation Sessions, providing the voice of practitioners within Statutory and Third Sector organisations in Highland, who deliver support services to families. Gathered between October 2023 - January 2024. Now complete this data is in the process of being themed and will then be published.

An initial summary of this activity is outlined below:

Preliminary results from the Whole Family Wellbeing Programme Participation Sessions



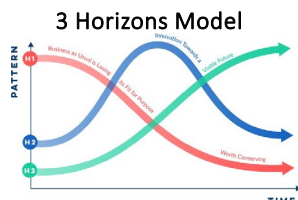
In order to truly align to the locality model, the practitioner participation sessions were held in the following localities across Highland. These were also supported by five on-line sessions.



Practitioner Participation Sessions

- Dingwall
- Fort William
- Golspie
- Grantown
- Halkirk
- Inverness x 2
- Military Liaison Group
- Newtonmore
- Portree
- Tain
- Ullapool
- Wick
- 5 online sessions
- 2 postponed sessions: Kinlochbervie & Ardgay

The Three Horizons methodology was utilised to facilitate the practitioner participation session, as explained here:



Horizon 1

- What is not working currently in terms of support for families?
- Which parts of the status quo do we need to leave behind?
- What do we need to stop doing?

1237 comments inspired by **Horizon 1**

Horizon 3

- What is the viable, sustainable future we aspire towards?
- Where do we want to get to in terms of holistic, whole family support?
- What do we need to work towards?

1255 comments inspired by **Horizon 3**

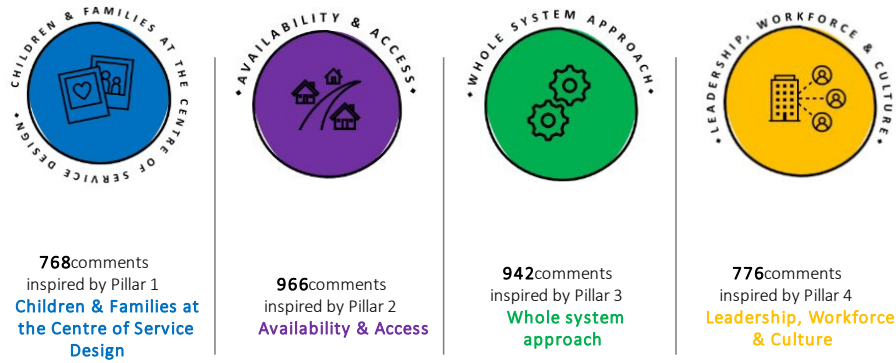
Horizon 2

- Where are the seeds of the future already visible in the present?
- What innovations / changes in approach do we need to harness and expand?
- What are our first steps towards the future we want to see?

960 comments inspired by **Horizon 2**

This resulted in **3,452** comments being captured, which has been aligned to the four pillars as shown here:

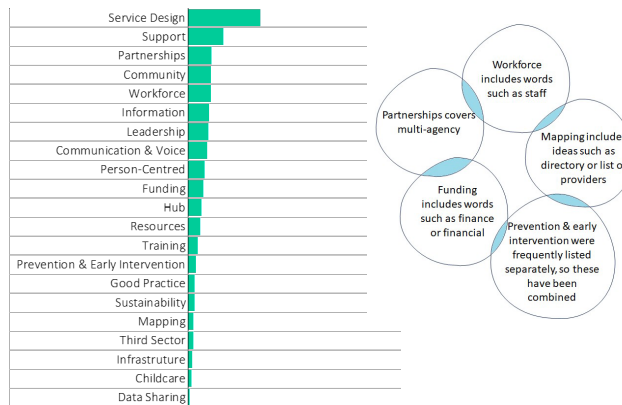
4 Pillars



Mentimeter software was utilised to capture data from across Horizon 2 – ‘What are the seeds of future already in the present?’, ‘What innovations / changes in approach do we need to harness and expand?’, ‘What are our first steps towards the future we want to see?’, this provided the following themes:

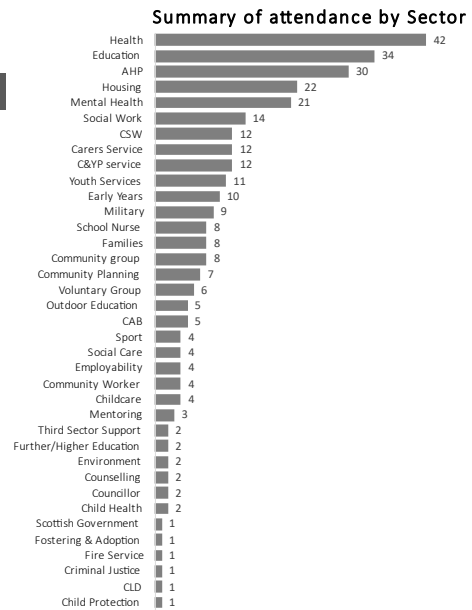
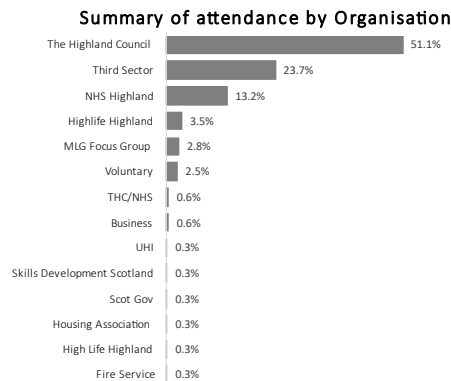
Key themes from Menti results

Percentage score of most repeated words from summary of all sessions



The below information outlines the summary of attendance by organisation and by sector:

Participant Headlines



Children and Families Participation, providing the voice of families from across Highland about support provision and access to support – utilising the Integrated Children’s Service Board Participation Strategy and gathering wider community-based consultation data. This will be commencing in March 2024.

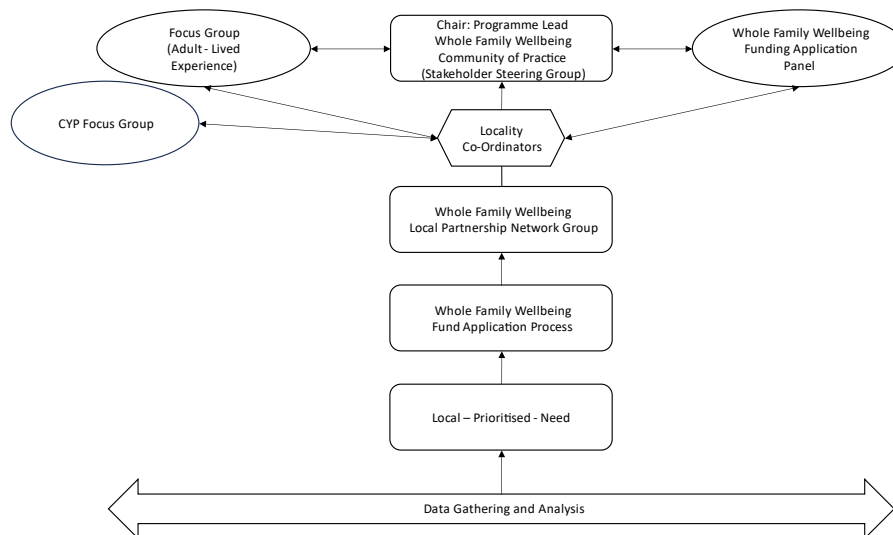
Whole Family Wellbeing Funding - National Self-Assessment Toolkit has been refined and will be undertaken by Statutory and Third Sector organisations in Highland, who deliver support services to families. This will also commence in March 2024.

Service Provision Scope/Mapping will be incorporated into the Whole Family Wellbeing Funding - National Self-Assessment Toolkit process. Commencing March 2024.

The gathering and analysis of this data set will ascertain predicated need around each of the nine Community Partnership localities and will further allow for the process of funding applications to commence in line with the Whole Family Wellbeing Programme Funding Strategy.

The strategy has been developed to support the application process, which provides for linkage between locality partnerships and an overarching Whole Family Wellbeing Community of Practice (Stakeholder Steering Group). This strategy also provides for families to be involved in this process, as part of Focus Groups made up of lived experience adults and children and young people, aligning to Pillar 1 - *Children and Families at the Centre*.

As shown in the below diagram:



Consideration of the development of the Focus Group being extended to invite the lived experience families to further play an integral part in service provision reviews and policy reviews across the Partnerships.

The identified local prioritised needs will form the basis for invitations for the submission of applications to apply for Whole Family Wellbeing Programme funding. Providing evidence that activities align the Principles of Holistic Whole Family Support and that they are innovative, collaborative and provide sustainability in their approach.

Application forms will be scored by the Focus Groups and those that are deemed to align to the strategy, will then be assessed by a multi-agency panel for decisions to be made of successful applications.

In taking this approach the Programme will strengthen and enhance the provision of community-based support and activities for families, seeking to reduce inequalities, addressing unmet need and improve the health and wellbeing of our families. The Whole Family Wellbeing Funding - National Self-Assessment Toolkit will be utilised also in the process. This will bring two main benefits.

Firstly, by having the self-assessment toolkit linked to the funding application process, we will ensure that organisations have had the opportunity to reflect on their practice and approach to family support and wellbeing activities. This will then be reflected in their applications for funding, assisting them to ensure that any activities fully align to the Principles of Holistic Whole Family Support and the four Pillars of the Whole Family Wellbeing Programme.

Secondly, it will provide a starting point for ongoing quality assurance measures, across Highland, ensuring that organisations who are providing support to families continue to align fully to the principles and the pillars.

This will support a culture of continual professional development and continual review of services across our region, ensuring that services remain aligned to the Principles of Holistic Whole Family Support and the four Pillars of the Whole Family Wellbeing Programme, when providing support and services to families in Highland.

8.4 In addition to progression of the above strategy, the Programme has commenced supporting a number of local improvement projects. These projects are outlined below.

8.4.1 **Inverness High School ASG – Attendance and Attainment Project**
Test of change for third sector whole family support roles

With a particular focus on the Community Partnership Locality Community Action Plan for Merkinch and South Kessock, a number of potential opportunities have been identified for partnership work, supported by the Whole Family Wellbeing Programme, to be undertaken to improve outcomes for children and young people and their families specifically within the Merkinch and South Kessock area.

Project Locality Demographic Information

The Highlands has 17 data zones ranked in the most deprived 15% in Scotland according to the Scottish Government's Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD).

Several of these are within the city of Inverness including Inverness Merkinch North; Inverness South Kessock; Inverness Merkinch East; Inverness Central and Longman; Inverness Merkinch South; Inverness Hilton West; Inverness Merkinch Telford; Inverness Raigmore North.

Relevant SIMD data pertaining to Merkinch and South Kessock is provided in Appendix A.

Background

Meetings had previously taken place, between Area Education, Primary School Head Teachers from the five feeder primary schools to the Inverness High School (ASG) and other local partners, specifically addressing attendance and attainment data.

IHS ASG:

- Inverness High School
- Merkinch Primary School
- Central Primary School
- Bishops Eden Primary School
- Dalneigh Primary School
- St Joseph's Primary School

There has been an acknowledgement that data around attendance and attainment are largely affected by the lateness of some children. It was further acknowledged that as these are primary aged children, who are largely dependent on their parents/carers to enable them to get to school on time, a focus on the cause was required to be established. This would be with a view to identifying the wider supports required within the family homes to support families to overcome the causes of non-attendance and lateness, along with helping them to be more resilient, improve wellbeing and tackling inequalities that they face.

Some activity, with the support of Inverness Caledonian Thistle Trust, where projects at Dalneigh and Merkinch Primary Schools had commenced. These were adopting a family approach, in the form of breakfast club and afterschool activities. This work continues and data is being gathered to measure the impact of having these activities available and how they are supporting and helping families.

An Improvement Model Infographic was prepared by the Inverness High School ASG Partnership and is attached to this report as Appendix B.

With the multi-agency local partnership established and the project aligned to the Whole Family Wellbeing Programme, the Whole Family Wellbeing Locality Co-Ordinator for Inverness continues to work alongside colleagues from Area Education to progress actions within the partnership.

This project will now also seek to implement a test of change, for three Holistic Whole Family Support Workers, from third sector providers to support the families within the ASG. The group is currently consulting on the role description of the Holistic Whole Family Support Worker posts and will then proceed to commissioning processes.

A proposal paper was submitted by the Programme Manager to the Integrated Children's Service Board on 6th December 2023, seeking agreement for the funding for an initial 18-month test of concept for the creation of the three third sector Holistic Whole Family Support posts, from the Whole Family Wellbeing Funding. This proposal was supported and the project continues to develop as outlined above.

8.4.2 Merkinch and South Kessock Family, Children and Young People Planning Group Project

The Community Planning Locality Partnership of Merkinch and South Kessock, Chaired by Police Scotland local Area Commander for Inverness, has undertaken a focussed piece of work in partnership with Youth Highland in response to an action within the locality plan, centred around children and young people's voice and participation, in the local community of Merkinch and South Kessock.

Project Locality Demographic Information

As in 8.4.1 and Appendix A.

Background

This voice and participation consultation, involved over 400 children and young people, and has now been documented and the results analysed. Six clear priorities have been identified by the young people which are:

Problem	Solution
There are dangerous people in our communities who make young people feel unsafe	We want more trusted people in our communities who help to keep young people safe
There are no safe spaces and nothing to do - Boredom	Create safe spaces and more things to do - More choices
The community is run down, there is a lack of services, the park and streets are dirty and there is broken glass and litter	Create safe spaces, community needs to look nicer, playparks need to be safe for children
Adults don't listen to us	Young people need to know their rights, Youth led projects, Youth empowerment, Trust young people, Community empowerment / trust local people
Don't like school, no choices	More to do, lots of activities and learning opportunities, play, nature, arts, music, awards, pathways, jobs and futures
Antisocial behaviour, drugs, alcohol, crime, risk taking and Poverty	Access to specialist services locally, rules (Police presence), prevention work for young people to not follow same behaviours, HOPE for the future
	<i>'If we get it right for children the problems will stop'</i>

An agreement has been reached to take this project forward within the Community Locality Partnership of Merkinch and South Kessock, with Police Scotland, Youth Highland, HTSI and the Whole Family Wellbeing Programme, with the following approach:

- A small grants initiative aimed at supporting activity by third sector and community organisations to address the priorities outlined by the children and young people, is carried out through a Participatory Budgeting approach. This will be managed by HTSI, who will hold the funds and will manage and support the Participatory Budgeting process.
- Police Scotland will support this process, utilising the skills and experience of their Insight and Engagement Lead, given their experience of similar successful participatory budgeting approaches previously undertaken in [Caithness](#).
- Police Scotland will further provide £10,000 to fund the activity of Youth Highland.
- The Whole Family Wellbeing Programme will provide £30,000 to fund the Participatory Budgeting process for third sector community-based organisations activities. These will contribute to meeting the prioritised needs identified by the Children and Young People. This along with match funding will also fund the support, development and administration costs to facilitate this process. A proposal paper was presented to and approved by the Integrated Children's Services Board on 6th December 2023.
- Match funding is being explored for £15,000 by the partnership. To bring the fund total to £45,000.
- Independent research and evaluation into the effectiveness of the approach and linkage with Whole Family Wellbeing Programme fund, will be supported by Scottish Community Development Centre (SCDC).

In terms of linkage to the Whole Family Wellbeing Programme, the partnership will ensure that the following additional elements are within the scope of the project, in that;

- The approach remains collaborative with a cross-sector of partners to enable relevant stakeholder engagement. Particularly to ensure that other partners whether they are statutory, third sector or community based, are able to collaboratively contribute to the delivery of actions from the prioritised needs identified by the Children and Young People.
- Children, young people and adult family members/carers are all involved in the Participatory Budgeting process, to ensure that we stay fully aligned to the aspirations of the Programme Pillar 1 – *Children and Families at the Centre of Service Design and Delivery*.
- That the eligibility criteria for the Participatory Budgeting process contains the requirement for applicants to have outcomes which relate to the needs identified by the consultation, and which relate to at least one of the 4 Pillars of the Whole Family Wellbeing Programme:

Pillar 1 - *Children and Families at the Centre of Service Design and Delivery*

Pillar 2 - *Availability and Accessibility of Support*

Pillar 3 - *Delivering Support Using a Whole System / Joined-Up Approach*

Pillar 4 - *Supporting and Developing Leadership, Workforce, Culture and Training*

8.4.3 **Scottish Community Development Centre – Co-Production / Co-Design Offer**

Background

At the Highland Partnership Conference on the 8th November 2023, hosted by Highland Hospice, HTSI, and Connecting Carers, the Scottish Community Development Centre (SCDC) provided an input to the Conference on Co-Production/Co-Design.

Following this an offer was circulated to third sector organisations in Highland around support for Co-Production/Co-Design development work, supported by the Scottish Community Development Centre (SCDC).

The Whole Family Wellbeing Programme Manager reached out to third sector colleagues and the SCDC in order to explore if the support offers for Co-Production/Co-Design could be linked to the aspirations of the Whole Family Wellbeing Programme.

This was met with positive reception and has progressed to early developments of collaborative working for the locality areas of Caithness and Skye.

Caithness Co-Production/Co-Design Project

The Programme Manager met with the Project Officer at Here for Caithness and Chair of Caithness Cares, to discuss initial proposals around a joined-up approach for statutory and third sector services in Caithness. This is with a focus on improvements around information sharing, potential co-location, community shared space and enhancing Holistic Whole Family Support, developed through the Co-Production/Co-design offer.

This is in recognition that locally there is a desire for improvements around collaborative working, co-location of services (statutory and third sector) and GDPR - what can and cannot be shared.

As a result of this, an initial local partnership has been formed with partners from Caithness Voluntary Group (CVG), Police Scotland (Safer Caithness model), NHS Highland (Demonstrator Project), Whole Family Wellbeing Programme and Highland Council (Area Placed Based Planning). Early discussions have taken place at initial meetings in relation to the aims of the project and actions are progressing at this time to explore the potential wider use of the proposed Demonstrator Project hub at the Carnegie Library in Wick, as a multi-functional community space centred around whole family and wellbeing.

The Whole Family Wellbeing Programme will further support the project to provide an improvement methodology approach to ensure that actions remain SMART.

8.4.4 Skye and Lochalsh Co-Production/Co-Design Project

The Programme Manager met with the Chief Officer, Skye and Lochalsh Council for Voluntary Organisations (SLCVO) and the Community Engagement Officer, Highland Hospice to discuss possible joined-up working with SLCVO Co-Production/Co-Design offer and Whole Family Wellbeing Programme. Discussions identified a number of opportunities around support to build a coalition of third sector providers for the Skye and Lochalsh area. This was in recognition of the fact that service provision for community-based support services would benefit from improvements for this locality. Work continues to progress this project in partnership with the locality partners.

8.4.5 Lochaber Youth Alcohol and Drug Project

Discussions have commenced with the Whole Family Wellbeing Locality Co-Ordinator, Lochaber Voluntary Action Group and local partners in respect of a joined-up collaborative approach to address the ongoing youth disorder within the Fort William locality.

Colleagues from Planet Youth have provided support in respect of a co-ordinated approach to look at the voice of the local young people, where a survey previously undertaken could be utilised in similar ways to those seen in the Merkinch Project (see above at 8.4.2).

Local partners met on Thursday 15th February to discuss potential opportunities for this project to progress and this work continues in development.

The Whole Family Wellbeing Programme will further support the project to provide an improvement methodology approach to ensure that actions identified remain SMART.

- 8.5 The above projects provide for the Whole Family Wellbeing Locality Co-Ordinators to work within local partnerships to progress and support community-based initiatives. As outlined, some of the projects have existed as actions on current Community Partnership/Local Voluntary action plans or are initiatives that have developed out of local evidence-based need that has been established through our continued partnership working within the nine Community Partnership localities.

8.6 National Initiatives/Opportunities

The Whole Family Wellbeing Programme is also supporting a number of National projects within Highland, where tests of change are being introduced to regions across Scotland, through the Scottish Government Whole Family Wellbeing Funding support teams. These are outlined below.

8.6.1 Families Learning Together/PEEPLE – PEEP Training Test of Change

The Families Learning Together / PEEPLE, PEEP training offer, is a follow-on offer from previous training delivered by the Family Learning Scotland Programme, which focussed on practitioners from early learning and child-care settings across Local Authorities in Scotland.

This test of change will involve training practitioners from a wider variety of agencies and services to support ongoing development of collaborative practice and community capital building.

The offer comes with 50 funded PEEP LTP training (including Practitioner Accreditation) places, 25 Antenatal Programme places and 50 PEEP Progression Pathways places.

This offer therefore has the potential to make significant improvements in service provision around early years parental training programmes. Therefore, work is ongoing with the Whole Family Wellbeing Programme working in partnership with the Senior Early Years Worker, PEEP Co-Ordinator for Highland.

Mapping of the current cohort of trained staff has been completed and the identification of areas for improvement and potential geographical allocation of additional training (based on locality and need) is underway.

The offer requires us to broaden service provision and therefore approaches are being made to, but are not exclusive to, Third Sector service providers, Highlife Highland Libraries and Antenatal services.

More information about PEEPLE and the PEEP training programmes can be found [here](#).

8.6.2 Father's Network Scotland

The National project offered through Families Learning Together and Father's Network Scotland is to take a test of change in one locality in Highland. Through consultation with Perinatal and Infant Mental Health Services the locality of Caithness has been agreed.

The aim of the project is to improve children's lives and outcomes through the positive involvement of dads, father-figures and whole families.

Work continues to develop this project in the Caithness area, with colleagues in Perinatal and Infant Mental Health and the Whole Family Wellbeing Programme.

More information about Father's Network Scotland can be found [here](#).

8.6.3 IFF Research - Young People Research Offer

The Scottish Government have approached the Whole Family Wellbeing Programme in relation to the establishment of a youth panel, offering the chance for young people (aged 12-18) to learn about and engage in the IFF Research process. Ensuring that the IFF Research evaluation activity captures the voices and experiences of other young people effectively.

As partners to the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund, IFF Research have supported three Whole Family Wellbeing Fund Pilot Local Authority areas since the National Programme began.

The IFF have also produced the [Whole Family Wellbeing Funding \(WFWF\) Year 1 Process Evaluation Interim Report](#) and the [Whole Family Wellbeing Funding \(WFWF\) Year 1 Process Evaluation Final Report](#).

In this development the Senior Research Executive at IFF has offered three young people from Highland the opportunity to work as the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund Youth Panel. The young people will be invited to three online sessions (of 1 hour each) spread out across the year as below:

- **Session 1:** Collaboration with an IFF Researcher on development of our recruitment and interviewing materials for interviews with children, young people and families.
- **Session 2:** Looking at our early evaluation findings and discussing what they might mean for young people.
- **Independent task:** Young people will be asked to think and work independently to suggest ways of presenting some of our findings (e.g. poster/postcard/video/Social Media Post) to bring to the final session.
- **Session 3:** 'Show and tell' of outputs young people have created and a discussion of what should be done next.

The young people will each be given a £30 Amazon voucher for each session they attend.

Highland have been approached with this offer, in recognition of the work of the Integrated Children's Services Board Participation Strategy and the CYP Participation Group now running alongside the Board. A number of Young People have now been identified and work begins to have them on board for the first session.

8.7 Other Collaborative Work with Partners in Highland

The Promise – Brothers and Sisters

The Programme Manager is progressing with a piece of collaborative work in partnership with the Promise Programme Manager, the Children's Service Manager, Fostering & Adoption Service and the Promise Delivery Partner, The Promise Scotland.

This work will look at how the Programmes can support work to create spaces for Care Experienced families to come together, including spaces for Brothers and Sisters, in line with [Who Cares? Scotland's Staying Together and Connected, Brothers and Sisters Participation Project](#).

Through our Programme mapping of community spaces and over-arching principle of de-stigmatised spaces within communities, and support for families, we will consider where there are opportunities to develop safe spaces for families, and in particular brothers and sisters to be able to come together to meet, across communities within Highland.

With the Programme in its Evaluation Phase, this is a timely request and feels perfect to include as a focus piece as we move into family voice and participation in the March 2024. With the evidence and need established, we would then be in a position to look at solution focused actions, to ascertain what work can be collectively aligning to the Promise Board Improvement Plan and the Whole Family Wellbeing Programme, as a collaboration piece.

Designation: Chair – Integrated Children’s Services Planning Board

Date: February 2024

Author: Jennifer Baughan, Programme Manager, Whole Family Wellbeing Programme

Appendix A

Source: Public Health Intelligence November 2022 Demography and Deprivation Partnership Profile

Table 10: Inverness data zones in the most deprived 20 percent of areas in Scotland

Data zone	Name	Rank in Scotland (1 = most deprived area 6976 = least deprived)	National decile of deprivation
S01010644	Inverness Merkinch North	8	1
S01010643	Inverness South Kessock	174	1
S01010641	Inverness Merkinch East	240	1
S01010642	Inverness Merkinch South	436	1
S01010620	Inverness Central & Longman	458	1
S01010608	Inverness Hilton West	535	1
S01010637	Inverness Central North West	682	1
S01010614	Inverness Hilton South	714	2
S01010633	Inverness Dalneigh South West	791	2
S01010639	Inverness Merkinch Telford	972	2
S01010622	Inverness Raigmore North	1,096	2
S01010650	Inverness West	1,220	2
S01010635	Inverness Dalneigh Central	1,225	2
S01010589	Inverness Inshes Wood	1,387	2

Source: Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020

Table 12: Number and percentage of the population who are income deprived by intermediate geography

	Population income deprived	Population income deprived (%)	Significance		Scotland	Council
			Lower bound	Upper bound		
Inverness Merkinch	1,225	35.5	33.9	37.1	*	*
Inverness Ballifeary and Dalneigh	894	19.8	18.7	21.0	*	*
Inverness Muirtown	626	15.9	14.8	17.1	*	*
Inverness Central, Raigmore and Longman	657	15.6	14.6	16.8	*	*
Inverness Hilton	539	14.0	12.9	15.1	*	*
Inverness Drummond	490	13.7	12.6	14.9	*	*
Inverness Kinmylies and South West	525	13.2	12.2	14.3	*	*
Inverness Smithton	375	11.9	10.8	13.1		*
Inverness West Rural	495	7.4	6.8	8.0	*	*
Inverness East Rural	393	7.1	6.5	7.8	*	*
Loch Ness	325	7.0	6.3	7.8	*	*
Inverness Culloden and Balloch	251	6.3	5.6	7.1	*	*
Inverness Scorguie	186	6.2	5.4	7.2	*	*
Inverness Westhill	381	6.2	5.6	6.8	*	*
Inverness Crown and Haugh	269	6.2	5.5	6.9	*	*
Inverness Inshes	253	4.5	4.0	5.1	*	*
Inverness Lochardil and Holm Mains	207	4.1	3.6	4.7	*	*
Inverness Slackbuie	117	3.5	2.9	4.1	*	*
Inverness Drakies	79	3.4	2.7	4.2	*	*

Source: Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020

Table 14: Number and percentage of the working-age population who are employment deprived by intermediate geographies in the area

	Working-age population employment deprived	Working-age population employment deprived (%)	Lower bound	Upper bound	Significance	
					Scotland	Council
Inverness Merkinch	575	25.3	23.5	27.1	*	*
Inverness Central, Raigmore and Longman	404	13.9	12.7	15.2	*	*
Inverness Muirtown	368	13.8	12.6	15.2	*	*
Inverness Ballifeary and Dalneigh	375	13.5	12.3	14.8	*	*
Inverness Kinmylies and South West	316	11.8	10.6	13.0	*	*
Inverness Hilton	247	10.2	9.0	11.4		*
Inverness Drummond	225	10.1	8.9	11.4		*
Inverness Smithton	193	9.2	8.0	10.5		*
Inverness Crown and Haugh	167	6.4	5.5	7.4	*	*
Inverness Culloден and Balloch	148	6.0	5.1	7.0	*	*
Inverness West Rural	222	5.5	4.8	6.2	*	*
Inverness Scorguie	102	5.3	4.4	6.4	*	*
Inverness Westhill	203	5.1	4.4	5.8	*	*
Inverness East Rural	176	4.9	4.2	5.7	*	*
Loch Ness	138	4.9	4.1	5.7	*	*
Inverness Locharhill and Holm Mains	113	3.8	3.2	4.6	*	*
Inverness Inshes	129	3.4	2.9	4.1	*	*
Inverness Drakies	45	3.1	2.3	4.1	*	*
Inverness Slackbuie	54	2.4	1.8	3.1	*	*

Source: Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020

Appendix B

