

Whole Family Wellbeing Fund Guidance

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Whole Family Wellbeing Fund

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Background

On 1 July 2022, the Scottish Government announced that it is allocating £32m Whole Family Wellbeing Funding nationally as part of its commitment to support implementation of the findings of the Independent Care Review.

This review took place from 2017-2020 and listened to over 5,500 voices, over half of which, were our children and young people who have experience of the care system. The conclusion of this work was The Promise – a clear statement of what needs to change to support the lives and wellbeing of our children, young people, adults and families across Scotland.

In accordance with The Promise, the Scottish Government recognises that we need whole system change in line with the 10 Principles for Holistic Family Support (See Appendix 1) incorporating the following core components of how holistic, whole family support is delivered:

1. **Children and Families at the centre of design** - A children's rights-based approach to improved Family Wellbeing, with services designed with children, young people and their families' needs at the centre, supporting all families to flourish and thrive.
2. **Availability and access** - All families know how to and can access multi-sectoral, holistic, whole family support.
3. **Leadership, workforce and culture** – Cross-sectoral commitment to collaboration and innovation which empowers and supports the workforce to provide family-centred holistic support.
4. **Whole System approach** – A collaborative, multi-agency and multi-disciplinary approach to the funding, commissioning and delivery of family support.

The Scottish Government aims to ensure that every family that needs support gets the right family support at the right time, to fulfil children's rights to be raised safely in their own families, for as long as it is needed.

Dundee – Identified needs

Dundee still has significant levels of poverty and deprivation that impacts greatly on the lives of children and families across the city.

Some needs identified include:

- Dundee has significantly more than national average of care experienced children (ranked at the 5th highest in Scotland).
- There are a disproportionate number of 0-5 year olds on the Child Protection Register and in care when compared with the national averages.
- There are evident gaps in school attendance between mainstream children and looked after children.
- Looked after children ending up in the Criminal Justice system is proportionately high compared to those growing up in their own families.
- We have issues with high risk adolescents involved in offending including drug running - non-attendance (school).
- Non-attendance at school is significantly higher for those who are cared for at home or in kinship care compared to mainstream households, residential and foster care arrangements.
- Mothers having multiple babies removed and high-risk babies.
- Other gaps identified across Dundee in general are in relation to poverty, substance use, and economic inactivity.

Strategic priorities for Dundee Partnership include reducing child poverty and inequalities in incomes, education & health. Some of the actions to achieve this include:

Implementing a child poverty pathfinder and continuing to develop the local fairness initiatives in Linlathen and Stobswell West.

Continue to support those dealing with food and fuel poverty.

Continue to work with, and support, young people, particularly those care experienced. Areas include 16-19 year olds transitioning from school into work or higher education and increasing opportunities for young people to gain work experience and paid internships.

There also remains a focus on work to deliver on the child healthy weight strategy, reduce the number of drug deaths and improve mental health and wellbeing.

Whole Family Wellbeing Fund – Key Information

The Whole Family Wellbeing Funding has been provided to the Children’s Service Planning Partnerships (CSPPs) to build local capacity for transformational whole system change and to scale up and drive the delivery of holistic whole family support services.

Funding cannot be used to supplement or sustain existing services.

The Whole Family Wellbeing Fund is primarily focused on supporting operational and revenue costs, volunteer and one-off fixed term staff costs, expenses, equipment, etc. to fulfil the activity.

- The fund has been awarded from Scottish Government over a 4-year period between 2022/23 and 2025/26. This amounts to an overall total of £3,294,000 over this timeframe.
- This fund allocation will now be distributed over the next three years between 2023/24 and 2025/26 at the rate of **£1.16 million each year.**
- In year 1, £94,000 has been top sliced from the first year’s allocation of the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund for a Manager and an Engagement Worker’s posts to deliver a fair, equitable, open and transparent process to distributing the funds.

Many providers will be competing for the same funds therefore applications should avoid duplication where possible.

(The WFWF Manager and Engagement Worker can assist to connect organisations if required for this purpose.)

Applications are also welcome on behalf of community groups looking to request funds to meet their participatory bid needs for community groups or individuals.

There is no upper limit set to how much can be applied for in one bid. Bids however should be realistic, acknowledging that many organisations will be bidding for a share of the £1.16 million per year.

All proposals need to align with locally identified needs and all current related developments in service provision. They should take the pressure off services dealing with crisis through the delivery of early intervention and preventative approaches.

Guidance on Application Form

Section A Guidance: Basic Information

This is for the details for the organisation that is applying as the lead for the proposal. Contact details if applying as a consortium or partnership can be added in Section B.

Section B Guidance: Project Details

Following the detailed summary of your project you are able to list the contact details for all the partners involved if this is a consortium or partnership bid.

Collaborative or partnership bids are welcome and encouraged but bids must demonstrate meaningful collaboration across organisations in the delivery of whole family support. The associated methods and means should be clearly outlined within the application.

Being named on more than one application is acceptable but please state whether you are aware if any partners have also applied for similar funding. (All partners are required to sign the proposal if in agreement or they can be copied into the email when submitting the proposal for the same purpose.)

Q6 asks you to refer to the Principles for Holistic Whole Family Support (see appendix 1). It is important that these have been considered in the development of your proposal.

The ambition to #KeepthePromise also underpins this fund, therefore it would be helpful to reference how your project will work towards achieving this.

Q9 looks at the project outcomes which have been set by Scottish Government who aim to shift investment towards early intervention and prevention activities, ensuring that families can access support before they reach crisis point.

- 1. Improved family wellbeing**
- 2. Reduced inequalities in family wellbeing**
- 3. Reduction in families requiring crisis intervention**
- 4. Reduction in the number of children and young people living away from their families**
- 5. Increase in families taking up wider supports**

The application form asks you to provide contextual information as to how you will meet these.

Q10 provides space to reflect on how your proposal has been developed by taking into account families' voices. It is important to ensure that children and families are meaningfully involved in the design, delivery, evaluation and continuous improvement of services. We are aware that a level of this work has already been carried out so please make reference to any data you have gathered.

If you wish to add additional evidence to support your bid then you are free to do so **within reason**. For example, a more detailed breakdown of costs or lived experience photos/videos that evidence the work already been carried out by a project is acceptable as long as the volume of attachments are not excessive. This can be provided in the form of an appendix if necessary and it is by no means mandatory that you do this.

Section C Guidance: Performance and Finance

This section allows you to provide details of the Key Performance Indicators of your project – please list all that are relevant. (10 boxes are supplied but you may not have as many KPI's as this.)

The remainder of this section relates to project costs and financial governance.

Bidding Criteria

The Whole Family Wellbeing Fund has been established to support transformative and systemic change and the following criteria **applies to both Third Sector and Statutory Services equally.**

The fund criteria sets out the broad parameters for how funding should be allocated to community organisations. However, this is intended to be flexible in order to allow local partnership groups to identify their own priorities for spend within the terms of the fund criteria.

1. Where allocations are used to scale existing transformational activity, the funding **must only be used to fund the scaled element of the approach**, with a view to integrating this into long term investment plans.
2. The funding must not be used to support business as usual, or be used to replace funding already in the system for providing support to families. **Rather, the funding must be used as additional resource to support transformation** of the system in line with the National Principles of Holistic Family Support (See Appendix 1) and the ambition set out to [#KeepThePromise](#).

Funding cannot be used to supplement or sustain existing services.

Applications are open to community groups and organisations (i.e. voluntary or community organisations; registered charities; groups or clubs; not-for-profit companies or Community Interest Companies, and, Community Councils) as well as statutory services.

All applications must evidence a new systems approach that works towards building transformational capacity and/or scaling up existing services within the CSPP.

This fund cannot be used to replace funding which is already, or should be, funded by statutory services. All applications must be new innovations.

In addition:

- The activity supported by the fund must incorporate effective and formative learning and evaluation which supports national learning and improvement.

- Funded activity must be able to demonstrate intended impact on the wellbeing of children and families, in line with agreed WFWF outcomes.
- Planned spending must undergo relevant impact assessments, including Equality Impact Assessments and Children’s Rights Impact Assessments, as appropriate.
- The expectation is that this early phase of development will focus on supporting six priority family types identified in the Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan, including;
 - Lone parent families
 - Families which include a disabled adult or child
 - Larger families
 - Minority ethnic families
 - Families with a child under one year old
 - Families where the mother is under 25 years of age

Timeframes

Application process will open on the **5th June 2023** and will close on the **17th July 2023**.

This fund is a recurring fund for three years. **From 2023/24 through to 2025/26**.

Successful bidders for 2023/2024 can expect to be notified, and awarded funds, by week ending 11th August 2023. If you are unsuccessful in your bid you will be notified by email of this decision.

Distribution of the WFWF

The Whole Family Wellbeing Funding has been allocated by Scottish Government to Dundee City Council on behalf of the Children’s Service Planning Partnerships (CSPPs).

The funds will be held and distributed from the CSPP. DVVA is the organisation responsible only for project management of the dissemination of the fund.

DVVA have designed the application process and will apply a proportionate approach to evaluation, ensuring there are adequate processes in place to satisfy minimum standards of accountability and due diligence.

How will the WFWF be Monitored and Evaluated?

Further information on requirements to follow.

Ongoing contact between TSI's, local partnerships and the Scottish Government will be established to support progress.

Local processes should be adopted to monitor grant awards and progress.

Project Governance will be overseen by the Steering Group. Membership and Terms of Reference for which can be viewed in Appendix 2.

Stakeholder groups will be held to agree the final criteria and will also support applicants formulate their bids. Terms of Reference for this group can be viewed in Appendix 3.

Ongoing Support for Successful Projects

A WFWF Community of Practice will be set up for the successful bidders to be able to collaborate and share ideas throughout the duration of the lifespan of the fund. This will be supported by the WFWF Manager and Engagement Worker until March 2024.

Appendix 1. National Principles for Holistic Whole Family Support

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

2. Whole Family: Support should be rooted in GIRFEC and wrapped around about the whole family. This requires relevant join up with adult services & whole system, place based, preventative addressing inequalities.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. 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. 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.

7. 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.

8. Collaborative and Seamless: Support should be multi-agency and joined-up across services, so families don't experience multiple 'referrals' or inconsistent support.

9. 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.

10. Underpinned by Children's Rights: Children's rights should be the funnel through which every decision and support service is viewed.

Appendix 2

The Children's Services Planning Partnership Steering Group – Terms of Reference:

Chair – Glyn Lloyd (CSPP)

Members:

Glyn Lloyd, DCC (Chair)

Paul Fleming, DCC

Marie Dailly, DCC

Laura Menzies, DCC

Elaine Cargill, NHST

Karen Head, Barnardo's

Christina Cooper, DVVA

The group will operate on behalf of the Children's Service Planning Partnership (CSPP) to manage deployment and evaluation of WFWF funding, in support of DVVA as the lead for engaging with stakeholders and coordinating bids.

Ensuring that:

- Planning and decision-making is collaborative which is an inherent part of the DVVA approach, engaging with stakeholders, community groups and families, supporting the development of bids.
- Decisions are based on an assessment of local need including local evidence of need/priorities to inform final CSPP decisions on allocation.
- Decisions are taken with appropriate consultation of children, young people, families and existing local providers including Third Sector organisations who are not currently commissioned by the CSPP.
- Funding is not used to replace or substitute funding for existing services, but supports investment, a key factor, in both shaping bids and making decisions on allocations.
- Commissioning and procurement of services supports the project outcomes sought.
- Arrangements are in place to ensure that monitoring and reporting contributes to evaluation of the funding and demonstrate progress against the project outcomes.
- Evaluation will inform exit and/or sustainability strategies in the context of the wider financial partnership position beyond March 2026.

- The Steering Group will identify members to sit on the WWF Panel, ensuring that they have a good understanding of the needs for children and families across the city. Where there are any conflicts of interest arising in the panel it is expected these will be declared and the organisation represented will remove themselves from making a decision on providing funds to their own organisation. DVVA will host and facilitate these panels ensuring fairness, openness and accountability throughout the process.

Appendix 3

Whole Family Wellbeing Fund Stakeholder Group – Terms of Reference:

Host: Katie Angus/Ailsa McAllister

The group will act as a support system, for those organisations across the third sector who wish to bid into the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund.

Purpose:

To be clear about the bidding criteria and application process and outcomes sought.

To collaborate with partners to submit joint bids where duplication is identified.