



SOCIAL POLICY - POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL

FUNDING AWARDED BY THE BIG LOTTERY FOR WEST LOTHIAN'S WHOLE FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICE

REPORT BY HEAD OF SOCIAL POLICY

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To advise the Social Policy PDSP of the award of Big Lottery Funding.

B. RECOMMENDATION

To note the positive allocation of £297,154 for West Lothian's Whole Family Support Service

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I Council Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Focusing on our customers' needs– Being honest, open and accountable– Providing equality of opportunity– Developing employees– Making best use of resources– Working in partnership
II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	None
III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None
IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators	Improved Performance in relation to school attendance and avoidance of accommodation
V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	Our Children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed. We live in resilient, cohesive and safe communities People most at risk are protected and supported to achieve improved life chances
VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	Increased funding

VIII Other consultations**D. TERMS OF REPORT**

The National Lottery Improving Lives Fund has awarded West Lothian Council £297,154 for the delivery of it's West Lothian Whole Family Support Service.

The award is for the period April 2019 to March 2022 and will enable the project to support 70-100 families per year.

The Whole Family Support Service aims to support families with multiple and complex needs with a child under 16 through the provision of whole family key worker support.

The key workers will work directly with families to rebuild family relationships; maintain positive routines for children, ensure adequate school attendance, provide positive behavior management strategies, improve conditions in the home, reduce antisocial behaviour.

Workers will have a caseload of 5 to 8 families each and will work with families for up to a year, 9 hours per week.

The award will fund the salaries and on costs of 2.25 FTE equivalent key workers, with match funding from West Lothian Council taking the total staff complement to 12FTE.

This funding has been awarded on the basis of the success of the Whole Family Support. The teams current outcomes over 2017/18 are:

Parenting skills have improved-

42 out of 49 (86%) families where parenting skills were cited as an issue were assessed to have improved their parenting skills.

Families will benefit from a reduction in family violence and will feel safer at home- Of the 30 families who reported feeling unsafe at the outset of work, 29 (97%) reported reductions in the level of family violence.

Families will benefit from increased skills to provide a stable well maintained home environment-

29 out of 36 families (81%) were assessed as having improved their home conditions, where they were problematic.

Improvement in skills to practical skills such as maintaining a home, budgeting and routines-

33 out of 42 families (79%) were assessed to have improved practical skills such as routines etc.

Reduction in problematic substance misuse-

16 out of 19 families who identified problematic substance use have been assessed as having reduced this over the time they have been working with the service (84%).

Children will benefit from increased engagement with education through improved attendance and timekeeping-

Of the 30 children where school attendance was an issue, 29 have shown an improvement (97%), and 19 out of 22 children have shown an improvement in timekeeping (86%).

Children will develop confidence and skills through engagement in groups or training-

100 out of 115 children (87%) have shown an improvement in their self-confidence.

Children at risk of accommodation have remained at home-

57 out of 73 (78%) children who were either accommodated or at risk of accommodation have remained at home or returned home during WFSS involvement

E. CONCLUSION

This positive investment is the second time the Big Lottery, through investment, has noted the positive impact of the work of West Lothian Council. This will ensure that families in West Lothian are supported to remain at home and avoid accommodation of children.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

Appendices/Attachments: None

Contact Person: Susan McKenzie,
Senior Manager, Children's Services (Interim)
Tel: 01506 281936
Email: Susan.McKenzie@Westlothian.gov.uk

Jo MacPherson, Head of Social Policy (Interim)

Date of Meeting: 18th January 2019