

CARE EXPERIENCED CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 The main purpose of this report is to update members of the Community Service Committee with information about interventions being taken within Education Services to ensure that Care Experienced Children and Young People achieve the best possible educational outcomes.

1.2 The report also details the expenditure against the grant allocated by Scottish Government to Argyll and Bute for session 2018/19 from the Scottish Attainment Challenge Care Experienced Children and Young People Fund and the intended spending of the same grant for session 2019/20.

1.3 Recommendations

It is recommended that Community Services Committee:

- a) Continues to endorse the work undertaken by Argyll and Bute Education Services as part of the Corporate Parenting Group to improve the educational attainment and life chances of Care Experienced Children and Young People.
- b) Agrees that the spending plan for the grant allocated by Scottish Government to Argyll and Bute for session 2019/20 from the Scottish Attainment Challenge Care Experienced Children and Young People Fund will be produced and managed by the Education Lead (Principal Teacher) for Looked After Children, in consultation with key partners and specifically the Social Work Lead for Looked After Children, the Chief Education Officer and Chief Social Worker.
- c) Agrees that the Head of Education: Lifelong Learning and Support continues to provide updates on the improved outcomes for Care Experienced Children and Young People to Corporate Parenting Board and Community Services Committee.

CARE EXPERIENCED CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

2.0 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 In 2018, as part of the National Improvement Framework for Scottish Education and Attainment Scotland Fund (a targeted initiative focused on supporting young people affected by poverty and deprivation across Scotland), specific funding was directed towards supporting Care Experienced Children and Young People. The term 'care experience' is now a widely used term within the sector to describe any person who has experience of being in care, regardless of their placement length, type or age; this term is used (as opposed to the statutory term 'Looked After Children') to ensure that our practice is inclusive and provides for all groups of young people who experience care.

Argyll and Bute Council was awarded £88,000 for session 2018/19 to take forward improved outcomes for our care experienced children and young people. The outcomes and spending plan for the grant were identified and agreed by the Chief Social Worker and the Chief Education Officer, based on the qualitative and quantitative data available. An update on progress was provided to the Community Services Committee on 13th June 2019.

Argyll and Bute Council has now been awarded a grant of up to £118,800.00, payable over the current academic year 2019/20 (up to £79,200.00 payable by 14 February 2020 and the remaining amount of up to £39,600.00 by 29 May 2020).

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Community Services Committee:

- a) Continues to endorse the work undertaken by Argyll and Bute Education Services as part of the Corporate Parenting Group to improve the educational attainment and life chances of Care Experienced Children and Young People.
- b) Agrees that the spending plan for the grant allocated by Scottish Government to Argyll and Bute for session 2019/20 from the Scottish Attainment Challenge Care Experienced Children and Young People Fund will be produced and managed by the Education Lead (Principal Teacher) for

Looked After Children, in consultation with key partners and specifically the Social Work Lead for Looked After Children, the Chief Education Officer and Chief Social Worker.

- c) Agrees that the Head of Education: Lifelong Learning and Support continues to provide updates on the improved outcomes for Care Experienced Children and Young People to Corporate Parenting Board and Community Services Committee.

4.0 DETAIL

- 4.1 Argyll and Bute Council was awarded £88,000 from the Scottish Attainment Challenge – Care Experienced Children and Young People Fund for session 2018/19 to take forward improved outcomes for our care experienced children and young people. The outcomes and spending plan for the grant were identified and agreed by the Chief Social Worker and the Chief Education Officer, based on the qualitative and quantitative data available. An update on progress was provided to the Community Services Committee on 13th June 2019. The detail of the spend against the grant is as follows:

Expenditure Category	Expenditure in Academic Year 2018/19
Employee Costs	36,057.71
Training	50.00
Equipment for Education Lead	1,204.93
Resources for Care Experienced Children and Young People	5,800.00
Travel and Subsistence	2,276.45
Total	45,389.09

The underspend of £46,211 at the end of 2018/19 was carried forward as the funding related to the academic year.

- 4.2 Argyll and Bute Council has been awarded a grant of up to £118,800.00 from the Scottish Attainment Challenge – Care Experienced Children and Young People Fund, payable over the current academic year 2019/20 (up to £79,200.00 payable by 14 February 2020 and the remaining amount of up to £39,600.00 by 29 May 2020).
- 4.3 In addition to the continuing activities outlined in the report submitted to the Community Services Meeting on 13th June 2019, the following activities and interventions have been undertaken and are ongoing. Those with an asterisk are activities which are likely to be identified as requiring additional funding from the

Scottish Attainment Challenge – Care Experienced Children and Young People Fund and will be detailed in the spending plan for session 2019/20.

- Tracking and monitoring pertaining to SQA attainment
- Tracking and monitoring of attainment of pupils within the Broad and General Education
- Support and challenge around exclusions *
- Regular monitoring of attendance and introduction of Welfare Call *
- Multi-agency work around risk and risk assessment (CPC Learning and Development Group)
- Multi-agency work around GIRFEC developments as part of GIRFEC Quality Improvement Group
- Extensive work with CARO and social work teams to ensure effective education involvement in Child Planning Processes (revised reporting format)
- Whole staff training in Hermitage Academy on understanding trauma
- Joint Working with the Lead Coordinator for Care Experienced Children and Young People, including joint showcasing of work at the Scottish Learning Festival; please see Appendix 2.
- Liaison with Education Scotland / E-Sgoil around alternative curriculum provision for pupils who cannot engage with education *
- Participation in the Virtual School and Care Experience network facilitated by CELCIS (The Centre of Excellence for Looked After Children in Scotland)
- Monitoring of Flexible Learning Plans for Looked After Children *
- Work with PACE (Permanence and Care Excellence), particularly around the testing of the 2 week planning meeting
- Intensive work around clarifying numbers and status of children in Argyll and Bute schools with formal or informal kinship status
- Ongoing support for Rights Respecting Schools Award programme
- Involvement in multi-agency trauma training pilot
- Visits to quality assure out of authority education provision
- Attendance at Foster Carer Support Day

4.4 Data on attendance, exclusions and attainment has been provided throughout the last session to the Corporate Parenting Board and to the Community Services Committee. A detailed analysis of SQA and Insight data relating to Care Experienced Young People is included in the Education Performance Data Analysis Report, also presented to Committee on 10 December 2019.

4.5 As of the end of October 2019 there are 140 Looked After Children on the rolls of Argyll and Bute schools. This number comprises 31 children who have been placed in Argyll from other authorities and 109 children who are looked after by Argyll and Bute. An additional 108 children have a status of Previously Looked After. 25 pupils who are Looked After by Argyll and Bute are in education settings outside of Argyll and Bute. These figures refer to pupils in Early Years, Primary and Secondary.

5.0 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 Significant improvements were made in relation to scrutiny, audit and outcomes for Care Experienced Children and Young People during Session 2018/19. With the continuation of funding the Scottish Attainment Challenge – Care Experienced Children and Young People Fund, these improvements will be sustained into Session 2019/20 and beyond.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Policy – None
- 6.2 Financial – Appropriate allocation of the Care Experienced Children and Young People Fund Grant
- 6.3 Legal – The statutory duties of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 and all previous relevant acts will be met.
- 6.4 HR – None
- 6.5 Fairer Scotland Duty – Providing equity and inclusion to meet the needs of all young people.
- 6.5.1 Equalities – protected characteristics – All legislative requirements will be met
- 6.5.2 Socio-economic Duty – N/A
- 6.5.3 Islands – No differentiated impact.
- 6.6 Risk – Ongoing scrutiny and audit will provide better outcomes for Care Experience Children and Young People.
- 6.7 Customer Service – Improvements in service to meet individual needs are being sought

Douglas Hendry, Executive Director with responsibility for Education

Anne Paterson, Head of Education: Lifelong Learning & Support

Councillor Yvonne McNeilly, Policy Lead for Education

For further information contact:

Anne Paterson, Head of Education: Lifelong Learning & Support
anne.paterson@argyll-bute.gov.uk / 01546 604333

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Corporate Parenting Board Report, November 2019

Appendix 2 Presentation of good practice showcased at the Scottish Learning Festival 2019