

ADDITIONAL FUNDING – HEALTH AND WELLBEING

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report provides an overview of the planned spend of the additional £600,000 funding agreed by Council to boost the wellbeing and build back the resilience of young people, in particular those most vulnerable, following the Covid-19 pandemic, including counselling and increased provision of childcare for children under three.
- 1.2 It is recommended that the Community Services Committee notes the spending plan as outlined in Appendix 1.

ADDITIONAL FUNDING – HEALTH AND WELLBEING

2.0 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Council agreed to fund a £600,000 package of measures to boost the wellbeing and build back the resilience of young people, in particular those most vulnerable, following the Covid-19 pandemic, including counselling and increased provision of childcare for children under three.
- 2.2 The spending proposals that we are outlining reflect the terms under which elected members awarded additional funds. All of the spending proposals offer educational benefits to our children and young people and reflect our vision and strategy outlined in our 6 key objectives contained within Our Children, Their Future.
- 2.3 They also reflect and link closely to the promotion of prevention and early intervention for mental health and wellbeing in our strategy document: Argyll and Bute Our Children Their Mental Health and Wellbeing January 2019.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 This report provides an overview of the planned spend of the additional £600,000 funding agreed by Council to boost the wellbeing and build back the resilience of young people, in particular those most vulnerable, following the Covid-19 pandemic, including counselling and increased provision of childcare for children under three.
- 3.2 It is recommended that the Community Services Committee notes the spending plan as outlined in Appendix 1.

4.0 DETAIL

4.1 There are 3 broad areas covered within the spending plan:

- Mental Health and Resilience
- Health and Wellbeing
- Childcare and Nurture.

4.2 The spending plan outlines the areas where the Service will target further interventions to support our children and young people.

4.3 The total cost of the spending plan is £613,700 with the additional £13,700 being funded from the Education Service budget.

5.0 CONCLUSION

5.1 The additional funding received by the Education Service to support the health and wellbeing of our young people during the post Covid recovery period will greatly enhance the current strategies in place and add capacity to where it is needed most.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Policy – The Standards in Scotland’s Schools etc. Act 2000 places a duty on Education Authorities to provide children and young people with school education and (in terms of raising standards) requires Authorities to endeavor to secure improvement in the quality of that school education.

6.2 Financial – None

6.3 Legal – None

6.4 HR – None

6.5 Fairer Scotland Duty:

6.5.1 Equalities - protected characteristics

6.5.2 Socio-economic Duty – None

6.5.3 Islands – None

6.6. Risk – None

6.7 Customer Service – None

Douglas Hendry, Executive Director with responsibility for Education

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Appendix 1 – Additional Funding Plan

	Expenditure	Income	Description
Funding		600,000	
Spending Plan			
Mental health and resilience	167,900		<p>Increasing the capacity of the existing counselling service for one year will support recovery, extend access to an already familiar and established service and prevent further mental health problems.</p> <p>Enhance our educational psychologist service capacity across Argyll and Bute for 1 year with a focus on supporting a successful full return to school for all children. This additional capacity will ensure that we target interventions to those children and young people who are identified as requiring health and wellbeing support during recovery from Covid. Already we are seeing an increased need to support and rebuild relationships with some of our children.</p>
Health and wellbeing	355,840		<p>Outdoor Programme delivered by three outdoor centre partners to provide enhanced support to schools and children across Argyll and Bute supporting physical and mental wellbeing in the full return to school following a second "lockdown". Extension of the Health and Wellbeing support worker posts which build on the very positive work previously undertaken on a supply basis to support the Health and Wellbeing of care experienced young people. These 1 year fulltime posts will be further developed to work 1:1 with</p>

			children most affected by COVID to support their recovery, attendance and attainment.
Childcare and nurture	90,000		Enhancement to our existing nurture staffing provision for one year will support the provision of nurture approaches across our schools in line with our nurture strategy. The post holder will work closely with the Education Psychology Team and the Principal Teacher of nurture to develop whole school approaches to nurture and offer enhanced support in the year of recovery. Already we are seeing an increased need to support and rebuild relationships with some of our children. Schools are also seeing a rise in the number of risk assessments required to ensure children are able to learn in a safe and calm environment. This post holder will mainly work remotely to support COVID specific relationships, restorative practices and risk assessments
	613,740	600,000	