
Report To: Inverclyde Integration Joint Board **Date:** 20 March 2023

Report By: Kate Rocks
Chief Officer
Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership **Report No:** IJB/17/2023/CG

Craig Given
Head of Finance, Planning & Resources
Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership

Contact Officer: Marie Keirs
Senior Finance Manager **Contact No:** 01475 715365

Subject: Cost Of Living Support

1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

1.1 For Decision For Information/Noting

1.2 This purpose of this report is to update the Integration Joint Board on the progress in relation to the range of measures agreed by the IJB at its meeting of 28 November 2022 to provide cost of living support for citizens of Inverclyde up to the value of £430,000 as follows:-

- Increase access to Health staff to cash assistance under Section 12 of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 and Section 22 of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 to reduce the impact of harm through the cost of living crisis and promote welfare principles as per the legislation.
- Ensure that the increased cash distribution meets the principals of Early Help by Health Staff having direct access to resource without referral to Social Work.
- Increase the provision of warm boxes to Care at Home service users and commissioned providers.
- Create small grants to Third Sector providers for hardship payments for affected individuals within the community.

1.3 Officers have developed standard operating procedures in relation to the extension of Section 12 and Section 22 support, which has been rolled out to staff during January and February. A cash first approach has been adopted with supermarket vouchers also available as an alternative option as appropriate. An electronic payment method has been sourced and is expected to be implemented in 2-3 weeks' time, which it is anticipated will be the preferred method once it is in place.

- 1.4 Third sector partners have begun an application process for constituted community organisations who will be able to apply for grants of up to £5,000 to enable them to issue cash assistance to those in need who they come into contact with on a day to day basis.
- 1.5 An initial 500 warm boxes have now been issued to service users receiving a Care at Home package from the HSCP identified as having a need in this area.
- 1.6 £50,000 from the overall amount approved has been allocated for the continuation of the existing Warm Hand of Friendship programme administered within the Council, which is in line with the cost of living support principles.
- 1.7 More detailed updates are provided in section 4 – Progress to Date – of this report.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the Integration Joint Board:

1. Notes the progress in relation to the extension of support under Section 12 of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 and Section 22 of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 to additional HSCP staff;
2. Notes that a Standard Operating Procedure has been developed which ensures delivery of support within a governance framework;
3. Notes the distribution of an initial 500 warm boxes to service users receiving a Care at Home package from HSCP and commissioned providers via colleagues in Education Services at an estimated cost of £30,000 funded from the 2022/23 underspend;
4. Notes the work with the Third Sector to implement a new funding distribution scheme to assist individuals in the community and promote social welfare under Section 10 of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 up to the value of £100,000 funded from the 2022/23 underspend;
5. Notes the progress to date detailed in Section 4 of this report.

Kate Rocks
Chief Officer
Inverclyde Health and Social Care Partnership

3.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

3.1 At its meeting of 28 November 2022, the IJB approved the use of £0.430m from the projected underspend for 2022/23 to introduce a package of measures to mitigate the cost of living crisis implications for the residents of Inverclyde. This was agreed to be implemented via the following methods:-

- Increase access to Health staff to cash assistance under Section 12 of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 and Section 22 of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 in order to meet the immediate financial needs of individuals who staff come into contact with;
- Issue of warm boxes to service users receiving a Care at Home package with a need as identified by social care staff; and
- Third sector funding initiatives via grant payments to community organisations

4.0 PROGRESS TO DATE

4.1 Section 12 and 22 payments

Since the IJB gave its approval on 28 November 2022, officers have developed a standard operating procedure, and have updated and simplified forms for the Section 12 and Section 22 cost of living support which have been distributed to HSCP staff. A number of drop in sessions have taken place to allow staff who are unfamiliar with the legislation the opportunity to ask questions, and to empower them to issue funds as they carry out their duties. These have been well attended with 70 staff from a range of services including homelessness, school nursing, occupational therapy, welfare rights and business support coming along to drop in sessions so far with further sessions to be arranged if required.

4.2 The funds will be disbursed on a cash first approach, but a supply of supermarket vouchers have also been purchased to make available as an alternative option, should this be more appropriate. An electronic solution, which would allow cash, heating vouchers and shopping vouchers to be issued via mobile phones or email addresses, has been identified and will be made available as soon as it is ready, but is expected to go live in the next 3-4 weeks.

4.3 Expenditure will be monitored centrally by the Finance team, who will analyse the use of funds on an ongoing basis over the coming weeks to ensure sufficient funds and vouchers are available when and where they are required. The management team and staff will be kept up to date on the level of funds and be informed in advance when the funds are coming to an end to allow control of expenditure.

4.4 An amount of £50,000 from the agreed £430,000 has been allocated to the team within the Council responsible for the Warm Hand of Friendship programme, for continuation of their current project, which is in line with the cost of living support principles.

4.5 Warm boxes

4.6 500 warm boxes have been prepared and issued to residents of Inverclyde since the IJB gave their agreement to the expenditure in November 2022.

4.7 Third Sector funding initiative

4.8 Officers are working with third sector partners, CVS to facilitate the allocation of £100,000 to constituted community organisations via an application process, which was launched on 22nd February 2023 via the CVS e-bulletin and via their social media. Applications are able to be submitted on a rolling basis with no deadline at present to allow continuous allocation of funds

until the maximum allocation is reached. A Service Level Agreement has been set up to ensure that funds are allocated to all areas within the Inverclyde region, and that they are issued in a secure and equitable manner. Monitoring data will be received from CVS on a two weekly basis to provide us with information on the geographical areas and amounts being issued.

Officers are also in discussion with Barnardos, who will facilitate the issue of funds to families in need who they identify as they go about their day to day business.

4.9 Data

Data will be held on the number and amount of payments issued, whether they have been issued to individuals or families, geographical areas of beneficiaries and also the SIMD (Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation) level for each area to allow us to analyse the level of need addressed and any trends emerging for future consideration. As at 3 March 2023, 96 individuals/families have been assisted through the Section 12 and 22 cost of living support process and 500 warm boxes have been delivered. A verbal update on the latest number of residents assisted, including individuals and organisations assisted via third sector funding, will be provided to IJB at the 20 March meeting.

4.10 Finance

Spend is being recorded and monitored by Finance, and regular updates will be provided to the Senior Management Team. Staff will be notified prior to and also when the funds are coming to an end. Updates on spend will be provided to both Scrutiny Panel and IJB via the budget monitoring reporting process. Should an under spend remain against any of the allocated funds at the end of the financial year, this will be earmarked for continuation of support in 2023/24.

Expenditure recorded and committed, and remaining funds to date is as follows:-

| | |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Funding available | £430,000 |
| Category | £ |
| Section 12 and 22 | 18,060 |
| Warm boxes | 30,000 |
| Warm Hand of Friendship | 50,000 |
| Third sector grants via CVS | 100,000 |
| Grant to Barnardo's for payments to families | 25,000 |
| Total committed spend to date | 223,060 |
| Remaining funds to be committed | £206,940 |

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation(s) is(are) agreed:

| SUBJECT | YES | NO | N/A |
|---------------------------|-----|----|-----|
| Financial | x | | |
| Legal/Risk | x | | |
| Human Resources | x | | |
| Strategic Plan Priorities | x | | |
| Equalities | x | | |

| | | | |
|----------------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Clinical or Care Governance | | x | |
| National Wellbeing Outcomes | x | | |
| Children & Young People's Rights & Wellbeing | | x | |
| Environmental & Sustainability | | | x |
| Data Protection | | | x |

5.2 Finance

One off Costs

| Cost Centre | Budget Heading | Budget Years | Proposed Spend this Report | Virement From | Other Comments |
|-------------|----------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| 03156 | various | 2022/23 | Already agreed 28/11/22 - £0.430m | From underspend | One –off funding – any underspend to be earmarked at year end |

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

| Cost Centre | Budget Heading | With Effect from | Annual Net Impact | Virement From (If Applicable) | Other Comments |
|-------------|----------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|
| N/A | | | | | |

5.3 Legal/Risk

Section 22 of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 states that Local Authorities can support the welfare of children in need by “giving assistance in kind, or in exceptional circumstances, cash”.

The Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 makes it a duty for Local Authorities to promote welfare in their area. This duty includes providing, in terms of Section 12, helps to “a person in need requiring assistance in kind, or in exceptional circumstances, cash”.

Section 10 of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 allows the Local Authority to make contributions by way of grants or loans to any voluntary organisation whose sole purpose is the promotion of social welfare.

5.4 Human Resources

As detailed in the report, an operating procedure has been developed and staff drop in sessions organised to address any issues.

5.5 Strategic Plan Priorities

The proposals in this report will contribute to the targets and priorities set out in the Strategic Plan.

5.6 Equalities

- (a) **This report has been considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) process with the following outcome:**

| | |
|---|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| x | YES – Assessed as relevant and an EqIA is available at https://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/equalities |
| | NO – This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, assessed as not relevant and no EqIA is required. Provide any other relevant reasons why an EqIA is not necessary/screening statement. |

- (b) **Equality Outcomes**

How does this report address our Equality Outcomes?

| Equalities Outcome | Implications |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| People, including individuals from the above protected characteristic groups, can access HSCP services. | Positive impact on people with disabilities who may be disproportionately affected by the cost of living crisis |
| Discrimination faced by people covered by the protected characteristics across HSCP services is reduced if not eliminated. | None |
| People with protected characteristics feel safe within their communities. | None |
| People with protected characteristics feel included in the planning and developing of services. | None |
| HSCP staff understand the needs of people with different protected characteristic and promote diversity in the work that they do. | Additional staff able to meet the immediate financial needs for people with disabilities who may be disproportionately affected by cost of living crisis |
| Opportunities to support Learning Disability service users experiencing gender based violence are maximised. | None |
| Positive attitudes towards the resettled refugee community in Inverclyde are promoted. | None |

5.7 Clinical or Care Governance

There are no clinical or care governance implications arising from this report.

5.8 National Wellbeing Outcomes

How does this report support delivery of the National Wellbeing Outcomes?

| National Wellbeing Outcome | Implications |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| People are able to look after and improve their own health and wellbeing and live in good health for longer. | None |
| People, including those with disabilities or long term conditions or who are frail are able to live, as far as reasonably practicable, independently and at home or in a homely setting in their community | None |
| People who use health and social care services have positive experiences of those services, and have their dignity respected. | None |
| Health and social care services are centred on helping to maintain or improve the quality of life of people who use those services. | This policy helps to maintain service users ability to live independently and maintain their quality of life through financial support during this cost of living crisis |
| Health and social care services contribute to reducing health inequalities. | None |
| People who provide unpaid care are supported to look after their own health and wellbeing, including reducing any negative impact of their caring role on their own health and wellbeing. | None |
| People using health and social care services are safe from harm. | None |
| People who work in health and social care services feel engaged with the work they do and are supported to continuously improve the information, support, care and treatment they provide. | Allows additional staff access to financial support as part of package of measures supporting our residents |
| Resources are used effectively in the provision of health and social care services. | Positive use of resources to assist residents/service users in financial need |

5.9 Children and Young People

Has a Children’s Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment been carried out?

| | |
|---|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | YES – Assessed as relevant and a CRWIA is required. |
| X | NO – Assessed as not relevant as this report does not involve a new policy, function or strategy or recommends a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy which will have an impact on children’s rights. |

Environmental/Sustainability

5.10 Summarise any environmental / climate change impacts which relate to this report.

Has a Strategic Environmental Assessment been carried out?

| | |
|---|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | YES – assessed as relevant and a Strategic Environmental Assessment is required. |
| X | NO – This report does not propose or seek approval for a plan, policy, programme, strategy or document which is like to have significant environmental effects, if implemented. |

5.11 Data Protection

Has a Data Protection Impact Assessment been carried out?

| | |
|---|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | YES – This report involves data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals. |
| X | NO – Assessed as not relevant as this report does not involve data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals. |

6.0 DIRECTIONS

| | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Direction Required to Council, Health Board or Both | Direction to: | |
| | 1. No Direction Required | X |
| | 2. Inverclyde Council | |
| | 3. NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde (GG&C) | |
| | 4. Inverclyde Council and NHS GG&C | |

7.0 CONSULTATION

The report has been prepared by the Chief Officer of Inverclyde Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) after due consideration with relevant senior officers in the HSCP.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 None.