

# COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR BARROW

Meeting date: 6 March 2020

From: Executive Director – Corporate, Customer & Community Services

## SUPPORTING CHILDREN & STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

### **1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**1.1** *This report provides Local Committee with an update on the Supporting Children & Strengthening Families.*

### **2.0 STRATEGIC PLANNING AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

**2.1** *The Council Plan vision is to be a council that works with residents, businesses, communities and other organisations to deliver the best services possible within the available resources. Outcomes include “people in Cumbria are healthy and safe” with “children, young people and the most vulnerable will be protected from harm” and be given the support they need to achieve their ambitions. Supporting outcomes such as locally responsive services will be in place to meet the different needs of different communities across Cumbria. The approach and work of the Supporting Children & Strengthening Families Working Group contributes to the vision and outcomes.*

**2.2** *The 0-19 funding is available for Local Committees to allocate within their areas to support positive outcomes, targeted and mainstream, designed to improve outcomes for children and young people and families to reduce inequalities. This funding can be targeted to initiate new activity or to enhance/complement existing provision according to locally determined need.*

**2.3** *Guidance agreed by Cabinet states that in allocating these funds Councillors should satisfy themselves that projects address at least one of the following:*

- *Provide access to play, recreational activities leisure or outdoor activities.*
- *Provide access to care or educational activities.*
- *Provide access to safe and enjoyable places for children and young people to go.*
- *Provide access to holiday, weekend or out of school activities.*

- *Enable children and young people's involvement and participation eg forum, youth council, engagement, empowerment, decision-making.*
- *Support children and young people to take part in volunteering or community action.*

**2.4** *The Barrow Area Plan sets out the three targeted priorities for the area, which are around Health and Well-Being, Early Help, and Economic Development, and details how the Council is delivering its services in support of them.*

### **3.0 RECOMMENDATION**

**3.1** *Members note the work of the Supporting Children & Strengthening Families Group at Appendix A.*

**3.2** *Members agree to approve £11,000 to Furness Carers for Universal Services provision from Universal Services Funding Budget.*

**3.3** *Members agree to approve £9,690 to Drop Zone for Furness Forward Fest Programme from 0-19 Strategic Grants Services Budget.*

**3.4** *Members agree to approve £17,693 to Friends of Bram to support the development of a Family and Wellbeing Hub from 0-19 Strategic Grants Services Budget.*

**3.5** *Members agree to approve £5,000 to Greengate Junior School for creating a community garden from 0-19 Strategic Grants Services Budget.*

**3.6** *Members agree to approve £3,000 to Drop Zone for commissioning ad-hoc outreach youth engagement work in the Barrow Borough from Universal Services Funding Budget*

**3.7** *Members agree to approve £2,792 to Love Ormsgill for youth activities in Ormsgill from Universal Services Funding Budget.*

### **4.0 BACKGROUND**

**4.1** The group had a detailed discussion on a number of key issues at this meeting. Cumbria Police gave an update on Operation Fuschia a police initiative in partnership with CCC Education Services to ensure the welfare of young people who were being home-schooled and may have been invisible to a number of services for a period of time. A similar project had been undertaken successfully in Durham. A multi-agency working group had been set up to ensure information was shared.

**4.2** The issue of a need to ensure that more alternative education provision is available was flagged and it was felt that this should be raised at the Children's Trust Board. There was also concern regarding funding that was attached to the child and what happened to the funding if a child was taken out of School. This was to be queried at Children's Scrutiny Board. The Supporting Children & Strengthening Families would be the vehicle for the Operation to feed into.

- 4.3 An update was provided on supporting teenagers to return to the family. Children's Services had employed a Resilience Worker who can provide intensive direct support with the family. A case study was provided detailing the emotional and practical support within the family home to support both parent and children over a period of time. This enabled the child to return home and the parent to have the tools to manage and avoid other children being taken into care. It was highlighted that most cases were due to managing behavioural issues. There was an opportunity to undertake the resilience work at an earlier stage to prevent children coming into the system.
- 4.4 The group flagged that there is a need to provide a youth facility with land in the town centre area to support young people with emotional resilience support and diversionary activities as part of the Our Town Our Future project. The group agreed that youth provision facility should be raised through the Town Deal Board.
- 4.5 The group were made aware that there were currently 30 babies awaiting adoption in the Barrow area which was a big increase. The reasons behind this still need to be identified with questions such as were parents getting the advice and support they needed; were there courses on contraception etc that could be delivered by Health; how could Family Action be involved in terms of antenatal, targeted work etc. It was however noted that from September Secondary schools as part of their curriculum would have lessons on relationships and sexual education.

#### Grants

- 4.6 **Furness Carers** is the only generic Carers organisation within the Barrow and Furness area. They are registered with the Charity Commission and at Companies House and work with Carers of all ages who look after family, a partner or friends in need of help due to their illness, disability or frailty and the care they provide is unpaid. The organisation supports Carers through their All Ages Carers Services and have dedicated staff to support Adult Carers those 18+ (including Parent Carers of a child with a disability) and Young Carers for children and young people aged 5-18 years old. They have recently redesigned their way of working and now offer an improved holistic and whole family approach.
- 4.7 The organisation require the grant to facilitate and run a weekly Young Carers After School Group. This support has been previously funded through the Universal Provision Programme. Furness Carers wish to continue to deliver this service to ensure Young Carers can receive appropriate support, the opportunity of a break from their caring role and responsibilities and to improve their health and wellbeing. Young Carers need to have an avenue to receive targeted support as many have difficulty in engaging with mainstream youth provision.
- 4.8 The organisation is applying for Universal Provision funding to enable them to run a weekly After School Group over 50 weeks; the sessions are facilitated by qualified staff and delivered from their Carers Centre located in Hindpool Community Centre where they utilise the facilities, equipment and activities that have been developed for supporting Young Carers. Their aim is to achieve and offer an environment that Young Carers can come and have a complete break from their caring role which will improve their health and wellbeing. It also provides an avenue to receive peer support from the

other Young Carers who are experiencing similar issues and concerns and receive appropriate support from qualified staff who are able to offer not only group support but one to one support with day to day problems.

- 4.9 The grant will directly benefit Young Carers aged 11 to 18 years old and indirectly their cared-for, other siblings and family members by ensuring the Young Carers receive appropriate support and a break from their caring role and responsibilities.
- 4.10 **Drop Zone Youth Projects** is an established youth organisation which provides support to young people aged 7-21 years and up to 23 years for vulnerable young people. In summer 2019 the organisation piloted a project called Furness Forward Fest with partner organisations. The project targeted post 16 young people who had no clear path when they left School eg College, apprenticeship route. The aim was to support those young people to access different activities, one to one sessions and training to identify opportunities for a pathway.
- 4.11 To date the pilot has supported 48 young people with referrals still coming through. The pilot has evidenced that there is a need for this provision in terms of supporting young people earlier before they leave School and it was identified for the last 2 years of School. Schools will refer the young people in and then it will be tailored to the young person with one to one or small group work to look at pathways to post 16 provision. For the post 16 provision referrals will come in from Schools, PRU, Local Authority, Doctors, health professionals, CAMHS, targeted youth support and other organisations working with young people.
- 4.12 This project would also need to continually run throughout the year and in order to do so Drop Zone requires funding to provide qualified staff to deliver the project throughout the year. The project as detailed above is working with partner organisations (voluntary, statutory & business) providing volunteering/work experience opportunities to provide a path down the apprenticeship, training and employment route.
- 4.13 Discussions have taken place with **Friends of Bram** to support the development of a Family and Wellbeing Hub in Bram Longstaffe looking at how services and facilities can be provided with partners to develop a Hub targeted at meeting community need. Community engagement activity and events are being undertaken with the community as part of this work through the Barrow Island Partnership.
- 4.14 The funding for **Greengate Junior School** is to transform a small piece of derelict land at the corner of Sutherland Street into a green space where children and residents can relax, grow plants, socialise and learn. Greengate Junior School has a specialist nurture unit where teachers help the children with life skills which enables them to access a curriculum at an appropriate level. The staff would oversee these children as they help to clear and redevelop this area. The benefits and confidence this idea would give the children would be priceless.
- 4.15 Working with Barrow Borough Council, they have agreed to gift the piece of land to the school. The plan is, alongside other agencies and working with local residents, to clear the area and turn it into a community garden with plants, fruit trees and encourage wildlife to return such as bees. This will create a positive attribute to the area. The Community Garden will be

accessible and managed by Greengate Junior School & Ramsden Infants School, and will provide a place of pride in the community. The funding is towards the cost of planters, trees, plants and gardening equipment.

- 4.16 The funding for **Drop Zone** is to provide a flexible response for outreach work in the Barrow Borough area. Although the aim is to ensure that projects undertaken are long-term and have a more sustainable impact there is a need to address and engage on a short-term ad-hoc basis. This would be undertaken on a needs basis identifying hot spot areas. This allows initial engagement to be undertaken in partnership therefore providing an understanding of the issues and addressing through the long-term sustainable approach method.
- 4.17 **Love Ormsgill** is a newly-formed group originally Friends of Ormsgill and is working with community undertaking activities and events and will use Ormsgill Hub as its community facility. This funding is to further support the development and provision of youth activities to support young people.

## **5.0 OPTIONS**

- 5.1 Members may choose to approve, vary or reject the recommendations in 3.2 to 3.7 in respect of proposed financial commitments of the grant award.

## **6.0 RESOURCE AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There are currently £49,175 of unallocated funds 0-19 Services Budget. If Local Committee decide agree the grants in recommendations 3.2 to 3.7 the 0-19 Services Budget would be fully committed.

## **7.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

## **8.0 CONCLUSION**

- 8.1 The Supporting Children & Strengthening Families new approach focusing on key thematic areas provides opportunities to work in a different way to address some challenging issues faced by young people and families.

**Dawn Roberts**  
**Executive Director – Corporate, Customer & Community Services**

*21 February 2020*

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## **APPENDICES**

**Appendix A – Supporting Children & Strengthening Families Minutes  
5 February 2020**

Electoral Divisions: Barrow Borough

Executive Decision

Yes	
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Key Decision

	No
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If a Key Decision, is the proposal published in the current Forward Plan?

		N/A
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Is the decision exempt from call-in on grounds of urgency?

	No
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If exempt from call-in, has the agreement of the Chair of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee been sought or obtained?

		N/A
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Has this matter been considered by Overview and Scrutiny?  
If so, give details below.

	No
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Has an environmental or sustainability impact assessment been undertaken?

		N/A
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Has an equality impact assessment been undertaken?

		N/A
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### **PREVIOUS RELEVANT COUNCIL OR EXECUTIVE DECISIONS**

*No previous relevant decisions.*

### **CONSIDERATION BY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY**

*Not considered by Overview and Scrutiny.*

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

*No background papers.*

### **REPORT AUTHOR**

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