

To: Education and Children's Services Policy Board

On: 23 August 2018

Report by: Director of Children's Services

Heading: Care Experienced Fund – Attainment Challenge

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the care experienced children attainment fund which has recently announced by the Scottish Government in June 2018. This fund will become part of the Attainment Challenge strategy and aims to support care experienced children and young people in Renfrewshire.
 - 1.2 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.
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2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Members of the Education and Children's Services Policy Board are asked to approve the planning for the care experienced children attainment fund as part of the Attainment Challenge.
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3. Background

- 3.1 In June 2018, the Scottish Government announced it will invest £33 million specifically to support the educational needs of care experienced children and young people between now and the end of this parliamentary term.

- 3.2 This fund is part of the Scottish Government's commitment to ensuring that all care experienced children and young people are supported, underpinned by the getting it right for every child (girfec) approach to improve outcomes and support their wellbeing.
 - 3.3 With the agreement of COSLA, allocations have been calculated based on data from the annual Children Looked After Survey, for children aged between 5-15 who were looked after on 31 July 2017.
 - 3.4 For this initial part year to end March 2019, the funding amount for each child will be £800. Though the calculation is based on this age group, it is for the local authority to decide how the funding will be best used to improve the attainment of care experienced children and young people. For future years, the full year allocation will be the equivalent of £1,200 per child.
 - 3.5 The allocation for Renfrewshire in 2018/19 has been calculated at £359,200 based on 449 Looked after Children aged 5-15 on 31 July 2017.
 - 3.6 The funding should have a clear focus on delivering equity and improving educational outcomes for care experienced children and young people. It cannot be used to replace or replicate existing services.
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4. Progress

- 4.1 In anticipation of this funding the Senior Leadership Team met in June to discuss the strategy and initial considerations on how best to use the funding. Official notification was received on 9 July 2018 continuing the extent of the funding.
- 4.2 In line with national operational guidance, a collaborative project board has been established to identify the priority areas and plans for this fund. The project board includes representatives across Children's Services. This group will meet regularly to set outcomes, monitor and evaluate progress.
- 4.3 In the first instance, the project board will consider the current evidence base with regards to supporting care experienced children and young people. With this in mind, the board will liaise with appropriate agencies, to deliver additional activities, interventions or resources, specifically for the benefit of care experienced children and young people, and to enhance any current provisions.
- 4.4 The project board will include the champions board or other groups of care experienced young people to co-produce approaches, interventions or activities which could be funded.
- 4.5 The board will devise an action plan including clear outcomes, indicators and measures for evidencing impact. The board will also complete a quality assurance check-list and risk register as part of the Attainment Challenge project management process.

- 4.6 This board will form an Attainment Challenge work-stream. The authority will be accountable for the use of funding allocated and are required to report on spend, and any outcome measures available. Reporting will be done as part of existing relevant authority reporting requirements.
- 4.7 The Attainment Challenge Governance Board will have strategic responsibility of the fund and project board.
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Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – none
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – none
3. **Community Planning** – none
4. **Legal** – none.
5. **Property/Assets** – none.
6. **Information Technology** – none.
7. **Equality & Human Rights**

The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report because it is for noting only. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.

8. **Health & Safety** – none.
9. **Procurement** – none.
10. **Risk** –The Attainment Challenge is on the Children's Services Risk Register and the Council Strategic Risk Register. There is also a Governance Board which manages risks.
11. **Privacy Impact** – none.
12. **Cosla Policy Position** – not applicable.

List of Background Papers

(a) None

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