

Agenda Item	8
Report No	HCW/11/25

The Highland Council

Committee: Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Committee

Date: 28 May 2025

Report Title: Whole Family Wellbeing Programme Update

Report By: The Assistant Chief Executive – People

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update members of the progress of the Whole Family Wellbeing Programme. The Whole Family Wellbeing Programme is a change and innovation programme driven by several wide-ranging National policies and strategies. The programme supports a whole family approach, that is family and person centred, with a strong emphasis on reducing inequalities and improving outcomes for children, young people and their families, by strengthening supports for families, to reduce crisis and family breakdown and to meet the Promise in Highland.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to:
 - i. Note and comment on the update with reference to the [Scottish Governments Route-map and National Principles of Holistic Whole Family Support](#).

3. Implications

- 3.1 **Resource** – The Scottish Government have committed to multi-year funding from 2022 to 2026, which in Highland has been confirmed as £7,403 million. In addition, The Highland Council has agreed to increase this resource by £200k for 2025/26 to ensure that families access the right support at the right time. This additional resource will be allocated through the Whole Family Wellbeing Funding Strategy outlined in this report.
- 3.2 **Legal** – No implications.
- 3.3 **Risk** – Risks are determined through the Integrated Children's Services Planning Board and the Whole Family Wellbeing Change Leadership Group.
- 3.4 **Health and Safety (risks arising from changes to plant, equipment, process, or people)** – None.

3.5 **Gaelic** – None.

4. Impacts

4.1 In Highland, all policies, strategies or service changes are subject to an integrated screening for impact for Equalities, Poverty and Human Rights, Children's Rights and Wellbeing, Climate Change, Islands and Mainland Rural Communities, and Data Protection. Where identified as required, a full impact assessment will be undertaken.

4.2 Considering impacts is a core part of the decision-making process and needs to inform the decision-making process. When taking any decision, Members must give due regard to the findings of any assessment.

4.3 This is an update report and therefore an impact assessment is not required.

5. Background

5.1 The Whole Family Wellbeing Programme is a change and innovation programme driven by several wide-ranging National policies and strategies. The programme is a Community Planning Partnership programme overseen by the Highland Integrated Children's Services Planning Board which reports to the Community Planning Partnership Board.

The programme is outlined in the [Integrated Children's Services 2023 -26 Plan](#).

5.2 The programme supports a whole family approach, that is family and person centred, with a strong emphasis on reducing inequalities and improving outcomes for children, young people and their families, by strengthening supports for families, to reduce crisis and family breakdown and to meet the Promise in Highland.

5.3 The Scottish Government have committed to multi-year funding from 2022 to 2026, which in Highland has been confirmed as £7,403 million. This partnership funding is hosted by the Highland Council, in line with the national agreement through CoSLA for the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund to be held by Children's Planning Partnerships, which in Highland is the Integrated Children's Services Planning Board.

5.4 The Scottish Government have created a [Route-Map](#) for delivery of the Whole Family Wellbeing approach. This Route-Map outlines the four pillars of the programme and the ten holistic principles of whole family support, which are:

Pillars

- Children and families at the Centre
- Available and Access
- Whole System Approach/Joined Up Support
- Workforce and Culture

Principles

- Timely and Sustainable
- Children's Rights
- Needs Led
- Non-Stigmatising
- Collaborative
- Assets and Community Based

- Promoted
- Skilled Workforce
- Whole Family
- Voice of Families

5.5 Through a locality focussed evidence-based and needs-led approach, the Programme will deliver innovative change through a locality model.

5.6 This model is defined as:

- Place-based - responsive to the needs of the local community
- Community led - developed in locality, with voices of children and families at the centre
- Assets-based - building on local successes and capacity and identifying where gaps exist
- Family centred - available and accessible support for families in communities they live
- Developed workforce - enhancing capacity, shared understanding, promotes collaboration
- Needs-led - local hubs/community teams, co-located, family need focused

5.7 The Programme is delivered by a Programme Manager and a team of Locality Co-ordinators. These posts are partnership posts, hosted by the Highland Council. Through investment from the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund, these posts will ensure the successful delivery through the locality model to embed the Whole Family Wellbeing Programme across Highlands' nine Community Partnership localities.

5.8 Through locality partnerships, the Programme will work towards holistic, early prevention focussed family support that addresses needs and tackles inequalities.

5.9 It is vital that partners from locality areas who have experience, knowledge and understanding of the services accessed by children and families, along with the challenges they face, contribute to the work of the Programme. Ensuring that any work undertaken, funded, or supported is being driven by the needs identified in each locality.

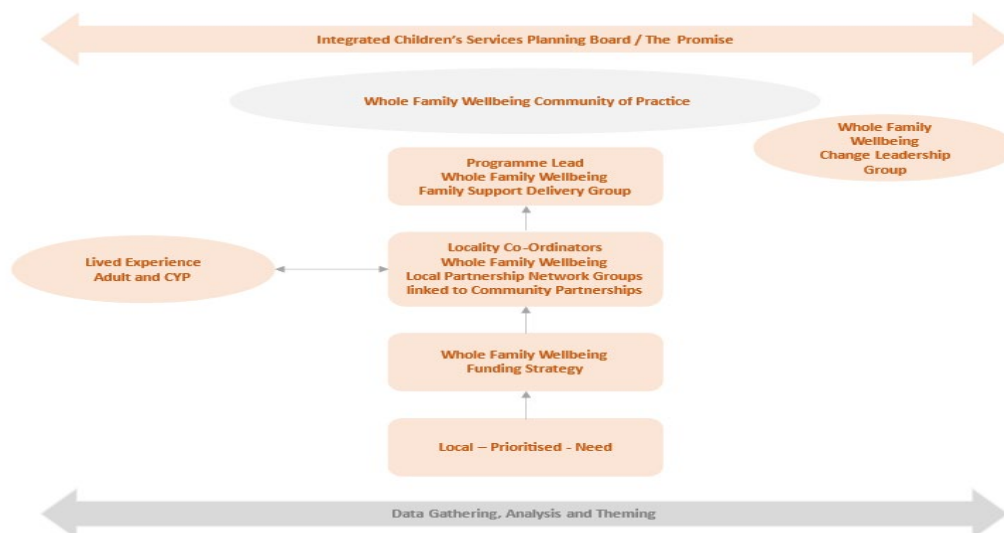
6. Whole Family Wellbeing Programme Funding Strategy

6.1 The [Whole Family Wellbeing Programme Funding Strategy](#) has been developed as a framework for the activity of the Programme.

6.2 The aim of this strategy is to define the approach, application/allocation process and governance of the Whole Family Wellbeing fund, to services who are providing Holistic Whole Family Wellbeing Support across Highland.

6.3 Governance is provided for strategic oversight of priorities and themes for change and the funding allocation, through the Whole Family Wellbeing Programme Change Leadership Group.

6.4 This group provides multi-sector strategic leadership to develop transformational change and to ensure alignment to Pillar 3 – *Whole System Approach/Joined-up Support*.



6.5 The above diagram outlines that governance and shows the link between locality partnerships, The Promise Board, through the Family Delivery Group, all reporting upwards to the Integrated Children's Services Planning Board.

7 Programme Activity

7.1 Formation of the Local Partnership Network Groups (LPNG):

These groups are now formed within each of the nine Community Planning Partnership localities and are led by the Programme's Locality Co-Ordinators.

Membership of these groups consists of locality-based community, statutory and Third Sector organisations/services who provide support to families within their communities.

These are strong multi-agency partnerships which report activity to the Community Partnerships through the People strand of the Highland Outcome Improvement Plan.

These groups will hold a remit for:

- To support the WFWP to gather evidence of need per locality area.
- To act as a Community of Practice for the locality in matters affecting Whole Family Wellbeing and Holistic Whole Family Support.
- To share information and where applicable resources to support the Programme per locality area.
- To contribute to the direction of activity, whether through Programme funding or through partnership working to maximise benefits to children, young people and families who need to access services in the locality area.
- To ensure a partnership approach is taken with all partners respectful of other agencies and the part they play in supporting children, young people, and families per locality.
- To ensure that all activity undertaken or directed as a Whole Family Wellbeing LPNG is aligned with the Pillars of the Whole Family Wellbeing Programme and the Principles of Holistic Whole Family Support.

Development sessions with the LPNGs in Lochaber and Badenoch and Strathspey have now taken place. These sessions were undertaken to assist the groups to explore and identify priorities which can be aligned to the partnership working or funding applications within those localities around local supports for families.

7.2 **Element 1 Fund: Locality Community Based Activity Small Grant - Grants up to £10K:**

This fund was opened in September 2024 for one month to support local community-based activities, addressing family wellbeing activities based on locality need. It prioritised tackling Poverty based inequality, and focussed on the following family types:

Family Type
Families where the mother is under 25
Lone Parent Families
Families which include children or adults with disability
Larger Families
Minority Ethnic Families
Families with a child under 1

Applications for up to £10K were invited by smaller grass roots third sector organisations and encouraged joined-up approaches in locality to avoid duplication and siloed working.

A total of 30 projects were successful with a total of £286,583.64 of the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund being released. (See **Appendix 1**).

The below graphic is a representation of how this Element 1 funding has been distributed by Community Partnership area:



Moving forward the Element 1 fund will become a rolling process, enabled through partnership working by the Locality Co-Ordinators and the respective LPNGs, to ensure community based opportunities can be seized.

7.3 **Element 2: Collaborative Partnership Fund - Grants up to £50K – two per Community Partnership Locality:**

This fund will enable local partnerships through the Community Partnerships and LPNGs to apply for longer term funding to meet identified locality need. This will be based on Programme led locality data and data and intelligence from across the partners within each LPNG.

Applications will require evidence of a collaborative, co-production approach, to ensure activity is stronger, more sustainable, with a locality/community focus. Hybrid models of statutory and third sector collaboration will be encouraged and welcomed. Applications will be required to evidence longer term sustainability by outlining exit strategies.

In view of the fact that this fund will be for larger improvement activity, and particularly those addressing Pillar 4 – *Whole System Approach/Joined-Up Support*, applications will be applied for using the Highland Whole Family Wellbeing Programme – Project/Test of Concept Proposal Application process (as outlined in the WFWP Funding Strategy).

Inviting Tests of Concept, funds will be awarded over a maximum period of 18 months. These will be subject to monitoring for periodic measurements of improvement and evidence on outcomes supported by evaluation pieces.

These applications will be considered for scale-up based on evaluation evidence of improved outcomes. This will be governed by the Whole Family Wellbeing Programme Change Leadership Group.

Work continues through the Local Partnership Network Groups to identify gaps and need to support proposal applications to this fund.

7.4 **Element 3: Transformational Commissioning Fund:**

This Fund will prioritise specific activity addressing wider system changes identified and will take due consideration of opportunities for Pan-Highland services, scale-up and hybrid models.

The fund will be directed at specific activity to embed the key principles of Holistic Whole Family Support within our systems and structures. Building capacity for achieving the transformational change needed in how families are supported across Highland.

Through the Governance of the Change Leadership Group a wider range of strategic proposals have now been supported, examples of these include:

Thriving Families

To make a significant contribution to improving outcomes for children and young people with additional support needs across Highland. This will be achieved by increasing the holistic, flexible, tailored, one-to-one support available to families and their wider circles of support by expanding the capacity of Thriving Families to deliver this support across Highland.

Autism and Neurodiversity North Scotland

Implementation of a leading neurodiverse specific facility in Dingwall, from which newly recruited and trained A-ND staff will deliver specialised neurodiverse specific Outreach Support Services and a Day Care of Children Services, which includes a playscheme and afterschool club for neurodiverse children and young people.

Family Links (Test of Concept)

This Test of Concept incorporates the partnership of three Third Sector organisations – Care and Learning Alliance (CALA), Thriving Families and Home-Start East Highland who have come together as an alliance to provide Holistic Whole Family Support through a Home-School Link model within the Inverness High School ASG area.

Three Holistic Whole Family Support Workers are now recruited to post, each provider hosting one post across the alliance. This is a significant step forward with the first Programme led, Holistic Whole Family Support worker posts commencing in Highland.

A number of design workshops were undertaken with key stakeholders which is outlined in the [Report on project design workshops](#).

As the Test of Concept arrives at the six-month evaluation point, two development sessions were undertaken on Thursday 20th and Friday 21st March 2025 again with key stakeholders. A report is now being prepared to outline this six-month evaluation point. It will be presented to the Integrated Children's Services Planning Board and once agreed will be published for wider information.



KINDS OF SUPPORT WE CAN OFFER

- WORKING WITH YOU TO CREATE A SUPPORT PLAN AND PUT IT INTO ACTION
- SIGNPOSTING AND REFERRING YOU TO USEFUL SERVICES
- ACCOMPANYING YOU TO MEETINGS, APPOINTMENTS, ETC.
- SUPPORTING YOU TO HAVE YOUR VIEWS HEARD
- TAKING TIME TO GET TO KNOW YOU AND SUPPORTING YOU IN A WAY THAT IS RIGHT FOR YOU

WHAT WE DO

HOLISTIC FAMILY SUPPORT

We work closely with families to identify and address their specific needs around well-being and school engagement. Through our partnerships with schools and community organisations, we aim to build **meaningful connections** to enhance the **wellbeing of the family** and promote children and young people's learning and development.

ABOUT US

We are an **alliance of three community organisations** with decades of experience supporting families in Highland – the **Care and Learning Alliance (CALA)**, **Home-Start East Highland** and **Thriving Families**. This project is funded and supported by the **Highland Whole Family Wellbeing Programme** to work alongside families in a holistic way.

MEET THE TEAM

Family Links Workers

If you or your child / young person attends one of the schools below, please reach out to the Family Links Worker in your area:

Lisa-Marie
Dalneigh Primary
Inverness High School
Lisa-Marie@home-start
easthighland.org.uk
07523 915168

Isabelle
Central Primary
St Joseph's RC Primary
Inverness High School
i.struckmeier@cala
childcare.co.uk
07742 911470

Roni
Merkinch Primary
Bishop Eden's Primary
Inverness High School
roni.smith@thriving
families.org.uk
07563 554568

7.5 The Pines Website:

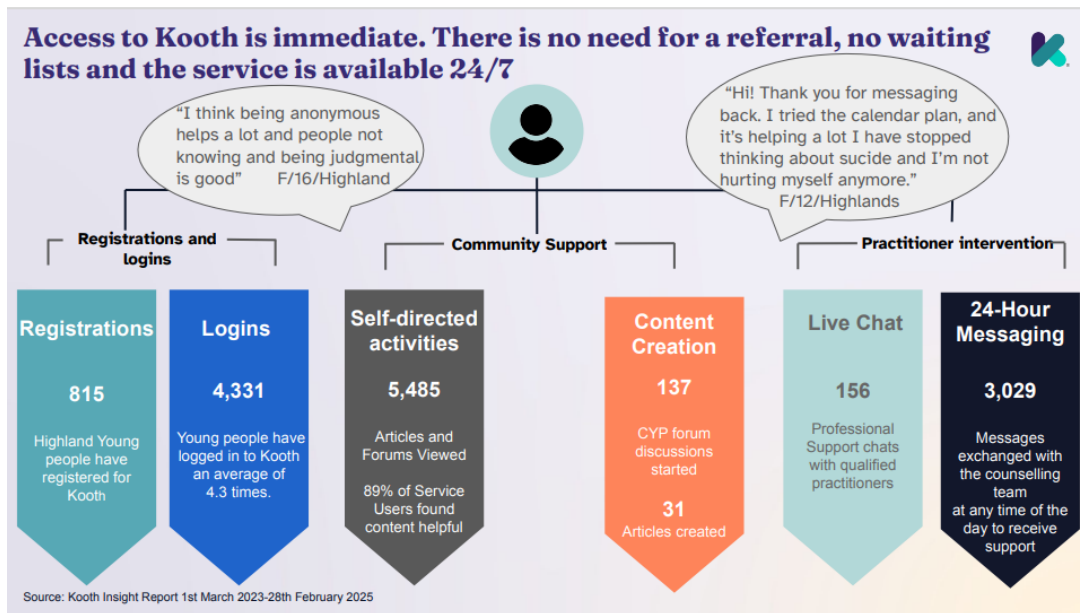
A proposal application was agreed for the development of a new Pines Website by Thriving Families, this also included the management of the site over the next four years.

The proposal seeks to undertake a full review of content to ensure that it is up-to-date and relevant. This will include rebranding the site as a neurodevelopmental support information hub.

7.6 Kooth

For the past 12 months Kooth have been funded from the Whole Family Wellbeing Programme fund. As the contract has reached renewal a solution was sought for future funding for the contract. The Change Leadership Group have agreed that the CYP Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund will be utilised to cover the 12-month contract for Kooth for FY 2025/2026.

Kooth provides anonymous on-line therapeutic content and activities, peer support which is pre-moderated to ensure safety and professional support through asynchronous messaging and live chat functionality.



7.7 Contextual Safeguarding Project

The Contextual Safeguarding Project is a partnership between Action for Children, Barnardos, The Anchor Project, Police Scotland and Highland Child Protection Committee.

The multi-agency team will be co-located in Rail House, Inverness alongside existing Action for Children and Anchor spaces.

This will enable improved collaborative working and a 'four rooms' approach for families in a single setting (this will be replicated in buildings across Highland which have been created using Bairns' Hoose standards).

The project will be supported by an Exploitation Steering Group to continue to develop contextual safeguarding approaches for children and young people at risk of community harm.

The project has been developed using the Scottish Approach to Service Design methodology using the voices of practitioners and young people, as well as self-evaluation and wider quality assurance work. It was also developed in response to the Inspection of Children's Services for children at risk of harm in 2022 where responses to community harm were highlighted as an area for improvement.

The funding for this project will come from 3 sources – Alcohol and Drugs Partnership, Bairns' Hoose funding (through Child Protection Committee) and Whole Family Wellbeing Programme. This demonstrates the key elements required to address Exploitation through a Holistic Contextual Safeguarding approach.

The project aims to bring together and scale up existing programmes to support young people affected by community harm, and particularly those at risk of Exploitation. Community harm can include risks relating to exploitation, youth justice, drugs and alcohol, harmful sexual behaviour and regular missing episodes. To date, the project has established that many young people accessing the services have multiple vulnerabilities within the community, often being on the edge of justice services, whilst being victims of Exploitation.

Whilst specialist services can provide intensive and direct support to the young person, support for families (and the wider community) to help reduce the risks and vulnerabilities is required to avoid an escalation of harm, and prevent young people being removed from their family and/or Highland for their own safety.

At present, Side-Step and RISE are offered as two distinct services along with support from Youth Action, HOST and ISS. This project aims to create an overarching Contextual Safeguarding Framework with a joined-up service to enable seamless support for young people and their families. This meets the Bairns' Hoose standards of having a 'four rooms' approach in one space – families should not have to seek out support, the support should be brought to them in a comfortable and safe setting.

7.8 Seasons for Growth:

Seasons for Growth is a small group change, loss and bereavement programme that is delivered across Highland, mostly within a school setting.

It is a universal small group, psychoeducational intervention which supports children and young people (and their families) who are experiencing significant change or loss, which ideally would be available to all families across Highland.

Where there is capacity and the programme has become embedded, children and young people self-refer to the group due to hearing about it via assemblies, from staff in their school or their peers recommending it to them.

A variety of staff from a range of professions have attended two-day training to deliver the CYP Programme and some who have furthered that training and attended a one-day Parent Programme Training, allowing them to deliver small group programmes to Parents too.

There are 237 trained CYP companions, of which 29 have gone on to train in the Parent Programme. These staff are predominantly Highland Council employees, based in our schools and across Health & Social Care.

There are a further 20 staff trained in the Third Sector in organisations such as Young Carers and the Ministry of Defence.

To develop this further, plans exist to enable support for staff from partner agencies to undertake the CYP Programme training and deliver a group so that they can become accredited in the CYP programme which in turn would allow them to train to deliver the Parent Programme. This would create capacity in the system.

8 Whole Family Wellbeing Programme Future Family Support Operating Model

8.1 Home-Start Caithness and Home-Start East Highland have been commissioned to develop, in partnership with the Whole Family Wellbeing Programme, a future operating model for a pan-highland holistic whole family support service.

This will enable accessibility for families within all localities to receive early family-centred, relationship-based supports to reduce unmet need and tackle inequalities.

The service will work alongside the Programme providing operational capability for the co-ordination and delivery of supports for families.

Work will continue to develop the operating model in partnership with other service providers who are also providing supports to families to ensure a joined-up approach.

It is also planned that the implementation and testing of the operating model will undergo full evaluation.

9 Whole Family Wellbeing Programme Strategic Needs Assessment Report

9.1 The Programme's Strategic Needs Assessment is now complete. Based on Poverty inequalities data it provides a focus on the six priority family types within the Scottish Government's [Best Start, Bright Futures – Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan 2022 - 2026](#):

- Families where the mother is under 25
- Lone Parent Families
- Families which include children or adults with disability
- Larger Families
- Minority Ethnic Families
- Families with a child under 1

This is a valuable document set for evidence of need for the nine locality Community Partnership areas and will provide a needs-led approach to the Local Partnership Network Groups in line with the Locality Model agreed for the Programme by the HCPP Board and Integrated Children's Services Planning Board in 2022.

Designation: The Assistant Chief Executive – People

Date: May 2025

Author: Ian Kyle, Chair Integrated Children's Services Planning Board
Jennifer Baughan, Programme manager, Whole Family Wellbeing Programme

Background Papers: N/A

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Element 1 Fund: Locality Community Based Activity Small Grants – Funded Projects

Highland WFWP Element 1 funded projects – December 2024

Name of organisation and project	Summary of funded activity
<p>Brent Centre Highlands: Psychoanalytic/systemic parent/family therapy</p> <p>CP area: Inverness and Shire</p>	<p>This project will utilise psychoanalytic/systemic parent/family consultations to meet the needs of more young people. It will also offer group work to families of neurodivergent teens, supporting the needs of parents / carers to understand the diagnosis of autism, navigate school and employment, learn how to deal with social anxiety in family life, the impact on siblings, navigate restrictions and rigidity and enjoy the young people's strengths. Families will feel less isolated and have the offer of connecting with other families to share their lived knowledge and experience.</p>
<p>Broadford and Strath Community Company: Broadford School Garden</p> <p>CP Area: Skye, Lochalsh and West Ross</p>	<p>Horticultural therapy project supporting the whole family to access cherished community space. The project aims to see improved mental wellbeing and increased self-esteem through building social connections and access to green space and activity.</p>
<p>Caithness Klics: Older young carers transition programme</p> <p>CP area: Caithness</p>	<p>Caithness KLICS is dedicated to supporting young carers up to the age of 18 in Caithness. Listening to their young carers, they've identified a need for additional support for older carers aged 16-21 as they navigate transitions potentially into other community services. In collaboration with Listening Ear, they plan to launch a weekly group offering peer support, social inclusion, guidance, and a safe space. Co-designed with current and former young carers, this one-year pilot aims to ensure no young carer feels unsupported during this critical stage of life.</p>
<p>CCAST Highland: Housing Support – Tain</p> <p>CP area: East Ross</p>	<p>This project will provide a much-needed housing support service in Tain town for families considered to be at risk of poverty. The key aims are to provide: Housing Support to enable clients to retain their tenancies and live independently; addiction recovery support programmes such as SMART, Decider plus 1-1 support; employability support; food bank locally; community larder; warm Space / Fuel Poverty; parent and toddler group; Hannah House – vulnerable women's supported accommodation.</p>

<p>Create Lochalsh: Scribble and Giggle/Families Creating Together</p> <p>CP area: Skye Lochalsh and West Ross</p>	<p>A two-part project for families and young people with additional support needs. Part 1 - Scribble and Giggle for young people and Part 2 - Creative sessions for the young people and their carer(s). They aim to achieve increased self-confidence and self-worth and create a final public exhibition/event. Participants will do this through learning new artistic skills with isolation reduced and people more socially included.</p>
<p>Ewen's Room: Creative Therapies for Wellbeing (in collaboration with Kinlochlovin)</p> <p>CP area: Lochaber</p>	<p>The aim of this project is for parents and carers to feel calmer and more in control of their emotions. The project will work towards reducing conflicts within families through self and co-regulation skills, empowering families to cope with challenges when working with services, increasing the ability for families to engage with services, for example, social work and schools.</p>
<p>Fox & Friends Highland: Family Hub - The Perrins Centre</p> <p>CP area: East Ross</p>	<p>This project seeks to ensure that support and activities are readily accessible to every family in the Easter Ross area, by creating a community space which offers more opportunities for people, giving them the tools they need to build stronger more resilient community. Once open, the Hub we will bring people together in their community, to upskill, build friendships and seek support if they need it. The community space will help reduce social isolation and loneliness, and positively impact on the health and wellbeing for all.</p>
<p>Grantown YMCA Community Centre: Youth programme with increased accessibility</p> <p>CP area: Badenoch and Strathspey</p>	<p>Expansion of current youth programme and soft play sessions to improve accessibility. Weekly youth activities and soft play sessions will be developed, serving as a safe space for young mums, lone parents, and diverse families by introducing a free breakfast to address food insecurity for those who also rely on the food bank. The project will support school refusers by increasing outreach efforts to include more community projects. It will also ensure that facilities are more fully accessible and inclusive by acquiring an evacuation chair and defibrillator and providing appropriate training for staff on its use.</p>
<p>Highland Action for Little Ones: Bright Futures project</p>	<p>Expansion of current Bright Futures project, which provides accessible and flexible support to young mothers aged 25 and under in Inverness via a combination of drop-in sessions and workshops aimed</p>

CP areas: Inverness and Shire / East Ross	at addressing the specific needs of this demographic. This expansion will see the development of a second group in Inverness and the creation of additional groups in East Ross.
Hilton Family Support: Expansion of provision of holistic whole family support CP area: Inverness and Shire	To meet current demand, the service will employ an additional family worker who will support families to access groups which aim to encourage positive parenting, strengthen parent confidence and the relationship between parent/carer and child. The service also aims to reduce isolation and parental anxiety and depression.
Home Ed Teen Group CP areas: Inverness and Shire / Mid-Ross / Badenoch and Strathspey / Nairn and Shire / East Ross	This project is to facilitate support for a youth-led, self-directed and parent-supported group of home-educated teenagers who are feeling isolated - some living with traumas following negative experiences in and out of school - but all wanting to connect more fully with their peers and experience what life as a teenager could be. The group aims to do this by supporting the development of the teens' own ideas for collaborative projects as well as offering opportunities for them as a group to learn from local, skilled craftspeople and gain insights into possible avenues of skills development for themselves.
Home Start Caithness: Ad Hoc childcare CP area: Caithness	Home Start Caithness is seeking to establish a new childcare service offering slots of up to 2 hours providing tailored support for families. This service, based around their extensive understanding of the needs of young families in Caithness, is designed to help parents and carers attend crucial appointments, support meetings, or training sessions, ensuring they have reliable care when needed. Practitioners will also be able to refer families to this flexible and accessible resource, offering peace of mind during busy or challenging times.
Inspiring Young Voices: Youth-led participation	This project will develop and pilot a youth-led participation approach, working alongside young people with additional support needs and disabilities to develop their learning and understanding of inequality, stigma, discrimination and youth-led participation. The learning process will be informal and participative. From this, the young people will be supported to identify the barriers and enablers they face and use this to develop youth-led participation

CP areas: Inverness and Shire / Caithness	projects to bring about transformational change. The project will take place in partnership settings in Inverness and Caithness.
Kinlochleven Community Trust: Family Hub	First stage of developing a pilot family hub providing a safe place to address gaps in services. This will be space available 7/7 where parents and CYP can: meet up in a safe environment to foster relationship, fight isolation, particularly for lone parents; join activities/workshops/training tailored to various abilities and audiences; access information in one place, in a non-stigmatising environment to empower families with awareness, decision making and action; meet enablers and support agencies to break barriers such as transport or lack of childcare that prevents access to these services often in Fort William; access a computer and support towards employability and upskilling.
CP area: Lochaber	
Kinlochlovin: Creative Terapies for Wellbeing (in collaboration with Ewen's Room)	The aim of this project is for parents and carers to feel calmer and more in control of their emotions. The project will work towards reducing conflicts within families through self and co-regulation skills, empowering families to cope with challenges when working with services, increasing the ability for families to engage with services, for example, social work and schools.
CP area: Lochaber	
Kyleakin Connections Limited	Tis project aims to extend the work of the organisation to a wider target group through: 1. Completing installation of a sensory room. 2. Promoting the current facility in the Kyle and Lochalsh community to maximise its use to benefit all. 3. Running a pilot project to gather evidence on families' needs and wishes in the community. 4. Providing a base/drop-in facility to meet the needs and wishes in collaboration with individuals, partners and stakeholders. The developments aim to increase the provision of support that meets individual needs which will increase wellbeing, mental health, quality of life, and relationships whilst enhancing collaborative working to ensure accessibility to locally based support/guidance.
CP area: Skye, Lochalsh and West Ross	
Lairg and District Learning Centre: The Maker's Space (expansion)	The Maker's Space will provide a range of hands-on activities, like family cooking, creative arts, pottery, woodworking and crafting sessions. Participants can explore new ideas or bring their own projects to work

CP area: Sutherland	<p>on with support and tutor guidance. This new project will focus on intergenerational participation, encouraging skill-building and family connections. The project aims to bring generations together, allowing families to cook, craft, and build - while fostering stronger relationships and a sense of belonging. Families will be central in both participating and guiding the direction of the project.</p>
Lochview Rural Training: Family Pioneers Project	<p>The Family Pioneers project will focus on different elements, and will include support for parents, children and young people, and families. All three elements will support individuals and families to develop new skills, build self-confidence, peer and family relationships. Parents: adult workshops will be run to develop self-confidence and an understanding of the cost of living crisis, and how to address this through rural skills. LVRT will signpost and refer to support websites and organisations. Children and Young People: activities will focus on developing self-confidence, peer relationships, self-care, team building, numeracy and literacy.</p>
CP area: Sutherland	
Lyth Arts Centre: Whole family wellbeing project for early years and young families	<p>Lyth Arts Centre are developing a vibrant new social prescribing project which is designed to nurture whole family wellbeing by addressing social isolation, loneliness, and mental health through creativity. Local families will be offered a range of engaging activities led by trained creative facilitators and supported by mental health practitioners, support workers, and partner organisations. Some of the activities currently being planned include Junior Jammers Early Years Wellbeing Music, Babywearing Dance Classes, a Buggy Choir, and outdoor art clubs. The project will culminate in a Shareable Toolkit, inspiring others to explore creativity as a path to family wellbeing.</p>
CP area: Caithness	
Moniack Mhor - Creativity and Care: Outdoor Family Contact Time	<p>This project will provide an alternative to family 'contact time' in an indoor social care setting. Families and their workers will spend quality time together in an outdoor natural setting (Abriachan Forest) and they will have access to creative activities run by the Abriachan Forest Trust. Families will be encouraged and supported to try new things together - whether it's adventure outdoors or crafts, visual arts and reading indoors. A key aim will be to create experiences</p>

CP areas: Highland-wide	together which can be recalled, remembered and, if wanted, captured in visual art form.
Moniack Mhor - Creativity and Care: Rural Care-Experienced Tasters	This project aims to reach and connect with the rural care experienced community - including kinship families - to offer creative experiences which could lead to further involvement creative activities locally in the longer term and encourage the establishment of lasting and beneficial connections between care experienced families and their local community. 'Tasters on Tour' creative sessions in six rural locations in Highland (to be confirmed) will be the first part of this process and will kick start these lasting and beneficial connections for participants.
CP areas: Data-guided tbc	
Moniack Mhor - Creativity and Care: Quiet Sundays Safe Space	This project will provide a safe space one Sunday per month for young people with anxiety who are not attending school and to develop creativity-designed programmes which the young people will take forward themselves. The young people will develop confidence in sharing their creativity, socialising in small groups and using this to go forward to school or alternatives to mainstream schooling.
CP areas: Travel distance to Moniack Mhor (Inverness-shire)	
Moniack Mhor - Creativity and Care: Transitions to Secondary School	This project will support and empower vulnerable young people in Inverness High School ASG before moving onto secondary school and with teens who are presenting differently at secondary than they did at primary. The young people identified will come together in a safe space to support each other and receive tutor and peer-led support for their mental health, confidence and ability. Creativity will be a key focus and the project will aim to create a template for support which can be used in other areas.
CP area: Inverness and Shire	
Rokzkool Academy: Youth Leadership Development Team	This exciting project empowers the Youth Leadership Team to shape the service in a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment, helping other young people build skills and friendships, with a focus on supporting the six family types most at risk. The team will play a key role in decision-making, backed by insights from market research and online surveys. Plans include creative fundraising through merchandise sales and setting up a small food bank/care cupboard to support local families, foster community engagement, and attract more people to the studio.
CP areas: Travel distance to Rokzkool Academy (Inverness)	

<p>Smithton Primary School Parent Council: Cost of the school day project</p> <p>CP area: Inverness and Shire</p>	<p>This project seeks to expand on Smithton Primary School's track record of delivering whole family support in different formats over the past few years by utilising the community room to deliver activities for families based on the cost of the school day. The Parent Council is working with the Child Poverty Action Group to develop this project and will use its toolkit to consult with families, children and staff to identify areas for improvement and further tailor what the school can do to support families.</p>
<p>SNAP: Self-finding families awaiting SDS reviews</p> <p>CP areas: Highland-wide</p>	<p>This project will focus on supporting families who currently self-fund their places at SNAP while awaiting outcomes of SDS (Self-Directed Support) reviews. Engagement with families highlighted a critical gap in financial support for these families, who faced a potential loss of access to beneficial activities at SNAP catering for their specific needs. This funding will contribute to ensuring that these families can continue to attend all sessions hosted by SNAP , which are crucial for fostering social connections and support networks.</p>
<p>Tain and North Highland YMCA: Family hub</p> <p>CP area: East Ross</p>	<p>This project will pilot a 'Family Hub' including an early mentoring programme for Tain. This is based upon identified needs following discussions with agencies, head teachers and families within the area. The Family Hub will be open on a Friday and build on existing family support provided along with linking in with other agencies e.g. Child Smile. We already provide a young carers support programme and two monthly discos on a Friday evening. An additional component will be the creation of the early years mentoring programme, which has been identified after discussions with local primary head teachers.</p>
<p>The Mama Tribe FW: Expansion of support for mothers</p>	<p>The aims and activities of this project will be to provide: a continued safe space for mums in Lochaber to go and talk about motherhood; provide group postnatal trauma counselling sessions; training such as paediatric first aid courses for mums to help with postnatal anxiety; yoga and movement sessions for mums; self-pampering evenings for mums to take some me time which they don't often get to promote their own wellbeing; more opportunities and support as they adapt to their new identity as a mother;</p>

CP area: Lochaber	to create partnerships with the health visitors and midwives to spread the word about what we do, so it's readily available and accessible to more mums.
The Place Youth Club - Drop-in: Upscaling of services	Providing and continually developing youth services within the town of Alness across two very different venues with an emphasis on encouraging and supporting engagement between young people from different ethnicities; young people's confidence by taking part in challenging activities; supporting young people to access diverse sources of support; creating positive relationships between staff and young people.
CP area: East Ross	
Viewfield Garden Collective: Family friendly workshops	Expansion of family friendly workshops, group sessions, community events and outreach and follow-up support. The aim is to offer the same support and educational services for health and wellbeing including outdoor activities, healthy produce and diet, and life skills to families as is currently offered to individuals.
CP area: Skye, Lochalsh and West Ross	