Children, Young People & Families Early Intervention and
Adult Learning & Empowering Communities Fund
Project Funding

CRITERIA

The following provides information on the themes we expect to deliver through this funding through directly supporting Scottish Government policy priorities. These priorities are set in the context of the Scottish Government response to the Christie Commission which sets out the need to prioritise prevention within the public sector. As stated in the general guidance, applications must explicitly use early intervention and/or prevention principles to address the outcomes and must be consistent with the following 2 overarching principles:

1. GIRFEC is the national approach to improving the wellbeing of children and young people and underpins all our work within Children, Young People & Families. The GIRFEC approach:

   • puts the best interests of the child at the heart of decisions;
   • takes a holistic approach to the wellbeing of a child;
   • works with children, young people and their families on ways to improve wellbeing;
   • advocates and enables preventative work and early intervention to support children, young people and their families; and
   • supports and challenges professionals to work together in the best interests of the child.”

2. Equalities also sits at the heart of this Fund. Applicants must take into account diverse needs and experiences in order to ensure that all children, young people and their families are able to access and benefit from their services (for example, disabled children, minority ethnic children). We would hope to see continuous engagement with a diverse group of service users.

Fund themes

To be successful proposed projects must contribute to one or more of the following themes through early intervention and prevention:

1. Promoting parenting and family skills as set out in the National Parenting Strategy
2. Contributing to reducing the attainment gap through early/family learning and out of school approaches
3. Improving life chances for looked after children
4. Improving the safety of children and young people
Priority will also be given to projects that will successfully address inequalities.

Some detail about what will be considered within these themes is set out below:

1. **Promoting parenting and family skills as set out in the National Parenting Strategy**
   - Projects where assertive outreach is used to reach families who are ‘just coping’ and help divert them towards pathways to universal services.
   - Projects with new approaches to building parenting and family capacity and skills - in particular promoting attachment and parenting/family support.
   - Innovative approaches to working with young people and their families to improve health and wellbeing.

2. **Contributing to reducing the attainment gap through early/family learning and out of school approaches**
   - Supporting delivery and uptake of funded early learning and childcare for 2 year olds, and looking at innovative ways of providing ELC for this group of children.
   - Supporting increases in flexibility and accessibility of ELC, especially in rural areas and sharing successful approaches with SG.
   - Integrating family support, out of school care and funded early learning and childcare.
   - New models or approaches to family learning programmes, in particular learning at home and in the community.
   - Develop strong partnerships (with schools, partners and community) that focus on closing the attainment/poverty gap and developing skills, including through joint professional working across disciplines.

3. **Improving life chances for looked after children**
   - Work with families in the early stages of distress to prevent children becoming looked after.
   - Support for families where children are looked after at home.
   - Testing ways to help care experienced young people move successfully between key life stages.

4. **Improving the safety of children and young people**
   - Projects that reduce the likelihood, or impact of, neglect.
   - Proposals that develop creative ways of working in partnership with families to build family capacity in order to keep children safer.
   - Projects that raise awareness of, improve protection against, and encourage reporting of child sexual exploitation (CSE), particularly in minority ethnic communities.

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