

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

Housing & Health Committee – 4 February 2009

SUICIDE PREVENTION/CHOOSE LIFE BUDGET 2008/09

Executive Director, Housing & Community Care

ABSTRACT

This report confirms the outcome of the process to agree funding for Choose Life and suicide prevention in 2008/09.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee notes the funding proposals agreed by the Community Planning Partnership's Strategic Health Partnership to allocate Choose Life funding in 2008/09 and the actions taken to implement these proposals.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At its meeting on 21 May 2008 the Council's Housing & Health Committee agreed to refer £94,000 for allocation by the Strategic Health Partnership to continue the programmes previously funded through Choose Life and to deliver activities to reduce suicide in Perth and Kinross (report 08/279 refers).
- 2.2 The meeting of the Strategic Health Partnership on 9 September 2008 agreed to a report outlining the priorities and processes for funding to promote the Choose Life and suicide prevention programme in 2008/09 and remitted to the Chairs of both the Strategic Health Partnership and Health and Well-being Strategic Forum to approve detailed funding proposals.
- 2.2 Proposals that meet the general principles agreed by the Strategic Health Partnership were invited from previously funded projects and other groups or organisations working with the priority groups identified.
- 2.3 A total of fifteen bids were received, of total value £193,410. Several issues were identified that required further clarification, including in some cases the need to provide details of likely estimated expenditure by 31 March 2009, the period for which the current funding is available.
- 2.4 The views and approval of the convener of the Strategic Health Partnership, and convener of the Health and Wellbeing Strategic Forum were sought on the proposals for funding and the outcome reported to the Health and Wellbeing Strategic Forum on 27 October 2008.
- 2.5 The outcome was then reported to the Strategic Health Partnership on 18 December 2008 along with a further recommendation for using the remaining balance of the funding for actions identified by a multi-agency Self Harm Sub-

group of the Perth and Kinross Child Protection Committee, which was approved.

- 2.6 The successful organisations have been informed of the outcome of this process and have subsequently been finalising and implementing their proposals.

3. PROPOSALS FOR FUNDING

- 3.1 The number and value of the bids received significantly exceeds the amount of funding available and the proposed allocation of funding is summarised in the attached appendix and detailed below.

- 3.2 It should be noted that in some cases further discussion has been held or is ongoing on some details of the proposals, such as level of management fees indicated, and on the amount of the budget that can be spent by the projects prior to 31 March 2008.

- 3.3 Bids were received from four projects that had received funding in 2007/08 and it was agreed to continue to fund these projects as follows: -

	2007/08	2008/09
MindSpace:		
Young People's Counselling Service	40,000	17,628
Counselling for men with mental health issues		5,876
Training to deal with men with anger issues		960
Perth & Kinross Schools Bereavement Project	6,785	4,933
Perth Samaritans	7,600	6,000
Women's Rape & Sexual Abuse Centre	7,500	13,074
Total	£61,885	£48,471

Perth Samaritans have subsequently sought an additional £1,000 to implement their proposals and it should be possible to accommodate this within the overall funding available.

- 3.4 It was also agreed to fund the following additional projects: -

	2008/09
Cruse Bereavement Care Scotland	8,000
Perthshire Women's Aid	5,756
Plus Perth	1,500
Strathmore Centre for Youth Development Self Harm Group	2,851
WEB Project – Counselling for young people in Kinross	11,207
Total	£29,314

- 3.5 The above proposals allocate a total of £77,785 of the total £94,000 funding that is available for 2008/09, subject to any further discussions on the detail of the bids.

- 3.6 It was also agreed to use part of the remaining balance to fund Safetalk and ASIST training for staff and volunteers within the Council, Health and voluntary sectors to equip them to deal with clients at risk of suicide. A provisional estimate has been made of £4,000 to meet these costs but will be subject to further consideration.
- 3.7 A multi agency bid was also received from a multi-agency Self Harm sub group of the Child Protection committee for Perth & Kinross for employing a Self Harm Coordinator for a one year period, to be employed at a total cost of £28,013 of which £14,464 was identified as expenditure prior to 31st March 2009. It was agreed to not offer funding for this bid, to employ a co-ordinator, but to discuss further with the applicants the requirements for supporting work on the issue of self harm and the links with Choose Life and suicide prevention.
- 3.8 Further discussion with the Chair of the multi-agency Self Harm Group, indicated that following key pieces of work relating to the agreed action plan for addressing Self Harm in Perth & Kinross could be commissioned and completed by 31 March 2009: -
- Mapping of current activity and identification of gaps.
 - Development of an interagency protocol for Self Harm.
 - Development of training plan to support the protocol.
 - Development of clear referral routes and access to services.
 - Organisation and delivery of a multi-agency conference designed to share good practice, undertake further consultation and educate a range of professionals and young people.

This work would support the objectives of the Choose Life Funding and support the Child Protection agenda and costs are likely to be in the region of £12,000 the amount of Choose Life budget remaining unallocated. The Strategic Health Partnership on 18 December 2008 approved the recommendation to proceed with this work, the outcome of which is to be reported back to the Partnership in early 2009/10.

- 3.9 It was agreed to **not** offer funding from the Choose Life budget for the following applications that had been received: -

	2008/09
Checkin Group/Giraffe Community Interest Company	£4,525
Wisecraft "Slim Pickings"	£13,235
Scottish Association for Mental Health (SAMH)	£37,995
Total	£55,755

- 3.10 The proposals from both the Checkin Group/Giraffe Community Interest Company and the Wisecraft "Slim Pickings" dealt with clients with mental health issues and offered support towards gaining more confidence, self esteem or gaining employment. In the case of the Checkin Group, the bid was for additional funding of a project already being supported from other grants and the Wisecraft bid was to pilot the initial period of a new project that had no alternative funding identified for the period after 31 March 2009. While these projects were felt to be worthwhile and should be supported, they were not seen as the main focus or priority for the Choose Life funding.
- 3.11 The proposal from Scottish Association for Mental Health (SAMH) was for a locally based project in Muirton and Letham but to-date the organisation had not carried out any work in the area and it was felt that the issues covered by the proposals could be carried out through other local projects and initiatives.
- 3.12 The estimated costs of the above proposals total approximately £94K, the amount of funding available for 2008/09 and a summary of the approved proposals is attached as an appendix.
- 3.13 The Executive Director (Housing & Community Care) is responsible for the monitoring and reporting on this expenditure, which will be included within the Housing & Community Care performance and budget reporting framework.

4. COUNCIL CORPORATE PLAN OBJECTIVES 2006-2010

- 4.1 The proposals contained within this report contribute towards all five of the Objectives laid out in the Council's Corporate Plan 2006-2010, which provide clear strategic direction, inform decisions at a corporate and service level and shape resources allocation. These Objectives are as follows:-
- (i) A Safe, Secure and Welcoming Environment
 - (ii) Healthy, Caring Communities
 - (iii) A Prosperous, Sustainable and Inclusive Economy
 - (iv) Educated, Responsible and Informed Citizens
 - (v) Confident, Active and Inclusive Communities

5. EQUALITIES ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 The Council's Corporate Equalities Assessment Framework requires an assessment of functions, policies, procedures or strategies in relation to race, gender and disability and other relevant equality categories. This supports the Council's legal requirement to comply with the duty to assess and consult on relevant new policies to ensure there is no adverse impact on any community group or employees.
- 5.2 The proposals presented in this report will have an impact on the well being of people in Perth and Kinross, particularly those that are vulnerable. The implementation of the proposals will require equality assessment to ensure

compliance with the duty to ensure that there is no adverse impact on any community group.

6. STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

- 6.1 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a legal requirement under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 that applies to all plans, programmes and strategies, including policies (PPS).
- 6.2 The proposals in this report were considered under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the determination was made that the items summarised in this report do not require further action as they do not qualify as a plan, programme or strategy as defined by the Act.

7. CONCLUSION

- 7.1 The above proposals take into account the priorities previously identified for Choose Life and suicide prevention and agreed by the Strategic Health Partnership.
- 7.2 Funding is being made available to both projects that have been previously successful in dealing with this issue and for a range of new interventions and support covering the Perth and Kinross area, including providing counselling or support services to people identified as at particular risk.

Dave Roberts
Executive Director Housing & Community Care

Note: No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report.

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Council Text Phone Number 01738 442573

Appendix

Funding allocated for Choose Life/Suicide Prevention in Perth and Kinross for 2008/09:

Organisation/Project	Amount requested	Period Covered by proposal	Target Group	Received 2007/08	Funding Proposed	Full year costs	Comments:
CheckIn Group/Giraffe Community Interest Company	4,525	until 31st March	Supporting adults with mental health issues into employment		nil		Rejected as not main priority target client group
Cruse Bereavement Care Scotland	8,000	until 31st March	Training including for three additional volunteers		8,000	8,000	Accepted as training new volunteers so ongoing benefits
Mindspace	960	until 31st March	Training to deal with men with anger issues		960		Accepted as staff training so ongoing benefits
Mindspace	5,876	five month pilot	Counselling for men with mental health difficulties		5,876	14,102	Accepted subject to check level of management & admin fees.
Mindspace - Young People's Counselling Service	17,628	until 31st March	Young people age 11-25 with mental health difficulties counselling service	40,000	17,628	42,306	Accepted subject to check level of management & admin fees.
Coordinator for Self Harm multi-agency sub-Group	14,464	five months only	Co-ordinator for self-harm initiative for young people		12,000	28,013	Alternative proposals to deliver actions agreed
Perth & Kinross Schools Bereavement Project	9,600	one year	Children and young people	6,785	4,933	9,600	Reduced to training & set up costs plus five months
Perthshire Women's Aid	16,580	one year	Clients at risk of suicide and/or self harm		5,756	16,580	Reduced to five months only - as discussed with project
Plus Perth	7,000	preparation for one-off event	Organisation of Mental Health & Wellbeing Week 2009		1,500		Contribution to admin costs up to March only (event in October)
Samaritans	9,200	one year	Recruitment of additional volunteers and increased hours	7,600	6,000	9,200	Costs of training promotion, training and IT plus 4 months
SAMH	37,995	until 31st March	Suicide Intervention Training in Muirton and Letham		nil		Rejected as no local contact and work could be covered elsewhere
Strathmore Centre for Youth Development - Self Harm Group WEB Project	6,842	one year	Young people in Blairgowrie/Strathmore		2,851	6,842	Reduced to five months but assume higher level at start
	23,816	one year	Young people age 12-25 in Kinross-shire		11,207	23,816	Agreed set up costs plus five months only
Wisecraft - "Slim Pickings"	13,235	six months pilot only	Pilot activities for clients with mental health issues in Blairgowrie		nil		Reject as target client group not highest priority and not able to sustain funding
Women's Rape & Sexual Abuse Centre	15,689	six months only	Clients at risk of suicide and/or self harm	7,500	13,074	30,000	Reduced to five months but allow for start up costs
Women's Rape & Sexual Abuse Centre	2,000	One-off training	ASIST training for new staff member(s) for above		incl below		PKC to provide training with place funded from budget below
Provision for Safetalk and ASIST Training for voluntary projects and PKC staff			Targeted training for staff working with priority groups.		4,000		Training including costs of materials and subsidised places
Total	£ 193,410			£ 61,885	£ 93,785	£ 188,459	

Please note:

Some of the above figures are provisional and may be subject to revision but it is anticipated that overall expenditure will be contained within the £94,000 allocated by the Housing & Health Committee on 21 May 2008.

