

## Members' Library Service Request Form

Date of Document	19/03/25
Originator	Jillian Peart
Originator's Ref (if any)	
Document Title	Funding for CS S10 Grants 2025-2026

Please indicate if access to the document is to be “unrestricted” or “restricted”, with regard to the terms of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985.

Unrestricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Restricted	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------	-------------------------------------	------------	--------------------------

If the document is “restricted”, please state on what grounds (click on grey area for drop-down menu):

For Publication
-----------------

Additional information:

Authorised By	Lindsey Byrne
Designation	Head of Children's Services
Date	20/08/25

For Office Use Only:	
Library Reference	94/25
Date Received	28/08/25
Bulletin	August 25

<b>COMMITTEE:</b>	Members' Library Service
<b>MEETING DATE:</b>	20 August 2025
<b>BY:</b>	Head of Children's Services and Chief Social Work Officer
<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	Children's Services Section 10 Funding 2025/26
<b>REPORT STATUS:</b>	Public

---

## **1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 S10 of the 1968 Social Work (Scotland) Act enables a local authority to make contributions by way of grant or loan to any voluntary organisations, the sole or primary objective of which is to promote social welfare. Grant funding of projects within our voluntary organisations recognises the important contribution to funding early intervention help and support to children and families in East Lothian to reduce the level of need from statutory social work intervention.
- 1.2 This report updates Elected Members on the approval of Section 10 annual grant funding to voluntary sector partners for the financial year of 2025/26 and highlights key partners in providing collaborative, whole family support in East Lothian.
- 1.3 The total allocated funding by East Lothian Council Children's Services to support the department objectives and wider council in the 2025/26 financial year is £642,000 in S10 grants. Cross service assessment of the applications along with a Lived Experienced Panel made recommendations approved by the Services for Children Commissioning and Procurement Board members and are contained in Appendix 1 for information.

## **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

Members are recommended to:

- 2.1 Service Managers from across departments of the council providing services for children along with representation of the voluntary sector

through TSI Chief Officer have reviewed the applications made for funding proposals along with a Lived Experienced Panel to determine the best use of funding awards as appended in this report. Elected Members therefore, to note the allocation of annual grant funding from the Children's Services Section 10 budget.

2.2 The funding recommendations for 2025/26 are as follows

- i) An allocation of S10 funding to voluntary organisations totalling £642,000 with the purpose of providing early help and support to children and families in East Lothian reducing the need for statutory social work intervention. This amount includes pre committed amounts to two organisations where a multi partner contract is in place. This totals £67,846 of the full amount.
- ii) The full budget amount has been allocated as noted in Appendix 1.

### **3 BACKGROUND**

3.1 As noted, Section 10 of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 allows local authorities to make grants to voluntary organisations to promote social welfare. The purpose of this is to fund projects undertaken by voluntary organisations with the aim to provide early help and support to families to limit the need for statutory social work intervention. Grant funded projects align with the service priorities of Children's Services and the Children's Strategic Partnership to support this work.

3.2 Organisations have applied for grant funding in 2025/26 under the following priorities:

#### **Children's Strategic Partnership Priorities-**

Children and young people's rights.

Whole family Wellbeing.

Children and young people's mental health.

#### **Children's Services Service Priorities -**

We will ensure our practice, and our service prevents the need for children and young people to leave their family where this is safely possible.

We will build capacity in internal care resources

We will bring CYP back to East Lothian from external placements.

3.3 Awards, as outlined in this report, will enable Children's Services to work in partnership with voluntary organisations to build resilience within families and feed into the wider council strategic objectives.

3.4 Applicants are encouraged to make external funding applications to funding sources out with the council before applying to S10. This will

reduce financial dependency on the council especially given known financial constraints within the council currently.

- 3.5 Through guidance provided to potential applicants, organisations are asked to seek support from Volunteer Centre East Lothian (VCEL), East Lothian's TSI. VCEL are able to provide support and guidance with funding applications and alternative/ additional sources of funding.
- 3.6 Applications were made through Bisaccount over a 5-week period. Following this time and streamlined with One Council Partnership Fund to eliminate duplication, assessment of applications was undertaken by a cross-service panel including TSI as well as a Lived Experienced Panel. Recommendations for funding were then approved by the Services for Children Commissioning and Procurement Board.

#### **4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 Children's Services benefits from the support of Council colleagues and partners in the voluntary sector to develop support services for children and their families in East Lothian. By maintaining a shared vision and strong partnership with the voluntary sector we will be able to continue to support children and families, minimising Children's Services input.
- 4.2 The grant assessment process has identified these organisations as being best placed to support vulnerable children and their families. In doing so they will reduce the need for statutory involvement and free resources to be targeted elsewhere.
- 4.3 Children's Services' Commissioning Strategy seeks to move towards further early intervention support aligning with the purpose of S10 grant. This is also in keeping with The Promise in providing support at an early stage to help keep families together where it is safe to do so.
- 4.4 Current financial constraints within council highlight the increasing need to ensure best value and most efficient use of resources. Working in partnership with VCEL as TSI, organisations are encouraged to seek guidance to explore external funding resources out with the council to maximise resource brought into East Lothian.

#### **5 RESOURCE AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

##### **5.1 Finance:**

The detailed financial implications have been assessed in conjunction with colleagues in finance and the recommendations contained within this report will be accommodated within the approved budgets.

##### **5.2 Human Resources:**

None

##### **5.3 Other (e.g. Legal/IT):**

None

5.4 Risk:

## 6 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

6.1 **Select the statement that is appropriate to your report by placing an 'X' in the relevant box.**

An Integrated Impact Assessment screening process has been undertaken and the subject of this report does not affect the wellbeing of the community or have a significant impact on: equality and human rights; tackling socio-economic disadvantages and poverty; climate change, the environment and sustainability; the Council's role as a corporate parent; or the storage/collection of personal data.

☐

**or**

The subject of this report has been through the Integrated Impact Assessment process and impacts have been identified as follows:

☒

Subject	Impacts identified (Yes, No or N/A)
Equality and human rights	Yes  The purpose of the grant funding is to provide additional services through Children's Services to support children and families. This is aligned to the Promise in providing scaffolding and support to keep families together where safe to do so and enabling a human rights approach. The fund results in early intervention support building resilience within families and communities, developing networks of support and options of preventative support to minimise statutory social work input.
Socio-economic disadvantage/poverty	Yes  The third sector organisations funded through S10 grants are able to provide opportunities and support to enable families to access income maximisation as well as building skills and reducing

Subject	Impacts identified (Yes, No or N/A)
	barriers to young people and families to seek employment, appropriate benefits and services as required.
Climate change, the environment and sustainability	Yes  S10 grant funding follows the same fair work practices and ethical commissioning as other procurement processes. The projects funded are not directly related to environment and energy efficiency but promote the reduction of inequality, maximise resilience and reduction in poverty.
Corporate parenting and care-experienced young people	Yes  S10 grant funding strengthens supports available to families and communities providing early help supports to care experienced young people and others into adulthood.
Storage/collection of personal data	Yes  Data is collected from funded organisations to provide evidence of future commissioning and service planning.
Other	

The Integrated Impact Assessment relating to this report has been published and can be accessed via the Council's website:

[https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/info/210602/equality\\_and\\_diversity/12014/integrated\\_impact\\_assessments](https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/info/210602/equality_and_diversity/12014/integrated_impact_assessments)

## **7 APPENDICES**

7.1 Appendix 1 – List of organisations and grants recommended for 2025/26.

## **8 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

8.1 None

## 9 AUTHOR AND APPROVAL DETAILS

### Report Author(s)

<b>Name</b>	Jillian Peart
<b>Designation</b>	Service and Practice Development Officer
<b>Tel/Email</b>	Jpeart2@eastlothian.gov.uk
<b>Date</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> March 2025

### Head of Service Approval

<b>Name</b>	Lindsey Byrne
<b>Designation</b>	Head of Children's Services and Chief Social Work Officer
<b>Confirmation that IIA and other relevant checks (e.g. finance/legal) have been completed</b>	Yes
<b>Approval Date</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> August 2025

## **Supporting Good Decisions**

**Promoting Equality & Human Rights,  
Reducing Inequality and Protecting the  
Environment**

### **Integrated Impact Assessment Form**



**Integrated Impact Assessment Form**  
**Promoting Equality, Human Rights and Sustainability**

<b>Title of Policy/ Proposal</b>	Children's Services Section 10 Funding Grant Decision
<b>Timescale for Implementation</b>	Annual grant programme awarded in March each year for services beginning in April – the new financial year.
<b>IIA Completion Date</b>	19/3/25
<b>Completed by</b>	Jillian Peart, Service and Practice Development Officer
<b>Lead officer</b>	Nicola Clark, Service Manager, Children's Services

**Section 1: Screening**

**1.1 Briefly describe the policy/proposal/activity you are assessing.**

Section 10 of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 allows East Lothian Council to make contributions, by way of grants or loans, to any voluntary organisation whose sole purpose is the promotion of social welfare and aligns with East Lothian Children's Services Partnership Priorities as follows:

- Children and young people's rights.
- Whole family Wellbeing.
- Children and young people's mental health

And with at least one of ELC Children's Services - Service Priorities:

- We will ensure our practice, and our service prevents the need for children and young people to leave their family where this is safely possible.
- We will build capacity in internal care resources
- We will bring CYP back to East Lothian from external placements.

**1.2 What will change as a result of this policy?**

Grants will be awarded to Third Sector organisations who provide a service to children and families from/ in East Lothian in line with the priorities within 1.1. Third Sector funded organisations will provide early help and support to families to reduce the need for statutory social work intervention.

**1.3 Deciding if a full Impact Assessment is needed.**

Please answer the following questions:

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
1. The policy/ proposal has consequences for or affects people e.g. how they can access a service?	x	
2. The policy/proposal has potential to make a significant impact on equality?	x	

3. The policy/proposal is likely to have a significant environmental impact?		x
4. The policy/ proposal has implications for the storage/ collection of personal data?		x

- If you have answered yes to questions 1 and 2 above, please proceed to complete the Integrated Impact Assessment. If you have answered No then an IIA does not need to be completed. Please keep a copy of the screening paperwork.
- If you have identified that your project will have a significant environmental impact, please proceed to complete the Integrated Impact Assessment. You will also need to consider whether you need to complete a Strategic Environmental Assessment. Please contact
- If you have answered yes to question 4, please seek further advice from the Data Protection Officer.

## Section 2: Integrated Impact Assessment

### 2.1 Have those who are affected by the policy had the opportunity to comment on new proposals?

Decisions to award monies were made on the basis of applications with a clear list of criteria against which they would be assessed. These applications are assessed by a panel of cross council staff alongside a representative of our TSI, chief officer as well as a Lived Experienced Panel. The Lived Experienced Panel are able to represent voice, share experience and local knowledge and contribute to the decision making process from an expert by experience viewpoint.

### 2.2 What information/data have you used to inform the development of the policy to date?

Monitoring reports are received on a quarterly basis from current funded providers. This provides data informing needs of service and how services are used. In addition to this there is the introduction of a Commissioning and Procurement Board for Services for Children which will share local data and service mapping to enable decisions around equitable spend and service planning. Collaborative work has been undertaken with third sector colleagues through the Children, young person and families forum as well as other council areas and boards to share data and information to ensure best use of S10 resource.

### 2.3 What does the evidence/ research suggest about the policy's actual or likely impact on equality groups and those vulnerable/ or experiencing socio-economic disadvantage?

Evidence	Comment
----------	---------

Which groups are in particular need of this service?	<p>Children, young people and their families who require additional support. Grant funding will provide early help and support to families to reduce need for statutory social work input.</p> <p>All funded agencies provide a service to children/ young people and their families from protected and vulnerable groups.</p> <p>Monitoring will take place of the services funded to ensure identified outcomes are achieved. The overall aims and criteria of the fund are noted above in 1.1.</p> <p>Service users will receive an individual service from the funded organisation tailored to their needs. Feedback is collected from service users directly, through social work practitioners and through Lived Experienced Panel assessing grant applications.</p> <p>Care plans are co-produced with children/ young people and their families which may include support from one of the funded organisations. A Lived Experienced Panel have directly contributed to the assessment of S10 applications and therefore involvement in service planning and delivery.</p>
What level of service uptake/ access is there from protected and vulnerable groups?	
Can you identify positive outcomes for service users	
What is the service user experience of those from protected or vulnerable groups?	
What opportunity have those from protected groups had to co-produce or comment on the service/ plans?	

#### 2.4 How does the policy meet the different needs of groups in the community?

<b>Equality Groups</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Older people, people in the middle years</li> <li>• Children and young people</li> <li>• Women, men and transgender people (includes issues relating to pregnancy and maternity)</li> <li>• Disabled people (includes physical disability, learning disability, sensory impairment, long-</li> </ul>	<p>S10 funding is aimed at supporting vulnerable children and families within the community to provide early intervention support to prevent the need for further statutory services involvement. Although not directly, some of the organisations funded take a whole family support approach. In addition one service is specifically targeted towards children with complex disability.</p>

<p>term medical conditions, mental health problems)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minority ethnic people (includes Gypsy/Travellers, migrant workers)</li> <li>• Refugees and asylum seekers</li> <li>• People with different religions or beliefs (includes people with no religion or belief)</li> <li>• Lesbian, gay, bisexual and heterosexual people</li> <li>• People who are unmarried, married or in a civil partnership</li> </ul>	<p>The overall priorities to be met by S10 are noted in section 1.1 of this document.</p>
<p><b>Those vulnerable to falling into poverty</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unemployed</li> <li>• People on benefits</li> <li>• Lone Parents</li> <li>• Care experienced children and young people</li> <li>• Carers (including young carers)</li> <li>• Homeless people</li> <li>• Those involved in the community justice system</li> <li>• People with low literacy/numeracy</li> <li>• Families with 3 or more children</li> <li>• Those with a child/ children under 1</li> </ul>	<p>The organisations funded provide a range of whole family supports to children and families. Reducing inequality and poverty are aims of this fund.</p>
<p><b>Geographical communities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rural/ semi-rural communities</li> <li>• Urban Communities</li> <li>• Coastal communities</li> <li>• Those living in the most deprived communities (bottom 20% SIMD areas)</li> </ul>	<p>The organisations funded by S10 work throughout East Lothian therefore accessible to those in all communities through face to face work and or online contact.</p>
<p><b>Communication Needs:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gaelic Language Speakers</li> <li>• BSL users</li> <li>• English as a Second Language</li> <li>• Other e.g. Deaf Blind, Plain English, Large Print</li> </ul>	<p>Within the S10 application form the organisations applying are asked how they intend to ensure their service is accessible and takes account of the Equality Act 2010.</p>

**2.5 Are there any other factors which will affect the way this policy impacts on the community or staff groups?**

The overall aim of the fund is to provide early intervention support to families to contribute to East Lothian's efforts to keep the Promise, minimise statutory involvement with families and uphold children's rights.

**2.6 Is any part of this policy/ service to be carried out wholly or partly by contractors?**

If yes, how have you included equality and human rights considerations into the contract?

All services will be carried out by third sector organisations who are aware of and take into consideration equality and human rights. Consideration of the Equality Act 2010 is specifically noted in the S10 application form questions in relation to staff and with regard to accessibility of service for service users. The fund takes a human rights approach to support enabling families choice about the services they access, minimising statutory intervention.

**2.7 Have you considered how you will communicate information about this policy or policy change to those affected e.g. to those with hearing loss, speech impairment or English as a second language?**

Information about the funded organisations and services they will provide will be shared with Children's services staff who will discuss with children and families.

As required, additional information will be provided in a variety of formats as required by service users.

**2.8 Please consider how your policy will impact on each of the following?**

**Equality and Human rights**

- Promotes / advances equality of opportunity e.g. improves access to and quality of services
- Promotes good relations within and between people with protected characteristics and tackles harassment
- Promotes participation, is inclusive and gives people control over decisions which affect them
- Preserves dignity and self-respect of individuals (does not lead to degrading treatment or stigma)
- Builds support networks, resilience, community capacity

The purpose of the grant funding is to provide additional services through Children's Services to support children and families. This is aligned to the Promise in providing scaffolding and support to keep families together where safe to do so and enabling a human rights approach. The fund results in early intervention support building resilience within families and communities, developing networks of support and options of preventative support to minimise statutory social work input.

### **Reduces Poverty**

- Maximises income and/or reduces income inequality
- Helps young people into positive destinations
- Aids those returning to and those progressing within the labour market
- Improves employability skills, including literacy and numeracy
- Reduces the costs of taking part in activities and opportunities
- Reduces the cost of living

The third sector organisations funded through S10 grants are able to provide opportunities and support to enable families to access income maximisation as well as building skills and reducing barriers to young people and families to seek employment, appropriate benefits and services as required.

### **Protecting the Environment and Improving Sustainability:**

- Reduces the need to travel or increases access to sustainable forms of transport
- Minimises waste / encourages resource efficiency / contributes to the circular economy
- Ensures goods / services are from ethical, responsible and sustainable sources
- Improves energy efficiency / uses low carbon energy sources
- Protects and/or enhances natural environments / habitats / biodiversity
- Promotes the transition to a low carbon economy
- Prepares and/or adapts communities for climate change impacts

S10 grant funding follows the same fair work practices and ethical commissioning as other procurement processes. The projects funded are not directly related to environment and energy efficiency but promote the reduction of inequality, maximise resilience and reduction in poverty.

### Section 3.Action Plan

What, if any changes will be made to the proposal/ policy as a result of the assessment?

Changes to be made	Expected outcome of the change	Resources Required	Timeline	Responsible person
Sustained use of Lived Experienced Panel	To ensure voice and that those using services are able to provide input and insight into decisions made.	Yearly panel, recruited, facilitated and supported. 2 council officers required for this. In addition resources to thank participants for their input.	Recruit panel September, concluded work February	Jillian Peart Service and Practice Development Officer.

### For consideration of the Head of Service

Can you identify any cumulative impacts on equality groups or vulnerable people arising from this policy, when considered alongside other changes across other services?

Sustained funding of third sector organisations providing early help will build resilience within communities, reduce stigma of seeking support and develop a partnership approach to support.

### Sign off by Head of Service



Name: Lindsey Byrne

Date: 20/08/2025