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Authorised By	Lindsey Byrne
Designation	Head of Children's Services
Date	25/03/26

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COMMITTEE:	Members' Library Service
MEETING DATE:	March 2025
BY:	Head of Children's Services and Chief Social Work Officer
REPORT TITLE:	Children's Services Section 10 Funding 2026/27
REPORT STATUS:	Public

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 S10 of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 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 2026/27 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 2026/27 financial year is £642,000.00. S10 budget will also include an additional £50,000 from the Whole Family Wellbeing Funding. 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 2026/27 are as follows:

- i) An allocation of S10 funding to voluntary organisations totalling £692,000 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 £77,040.00 of the full amount.
- ii) In addition, pre committed spend for two contracts; one for Independent Advocacy and one for Kinship Support Services together totalling £262,900 pa are included in the spend.
- iii) 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 2026/27 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 four-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 line with service priorities. In doing so they will reduce the need for statutory involvement and free resources to be targeted elsewhere.
- 4.3 'Services for Children, Young People and Families Commissioning Strategy 2024-28' 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: None.

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	<p>Yes</p> <p>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.</p>
Socio-economic disadvantage/poverty	<p>Yes</p> <p>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.</p>
Climate change, the environment and sustainability	<p>Yes</p> <p>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,</p>

Subject	Impacts identified (Yes, No or N/A)
	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

7 APPENDICES

7.1 Appendix 1 – List of organisations and grants recommended for 2026/27.

8 BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 None

9 AUTHOR AND APPROVAL DETAILS

Report Author(s)

Name	Jillian Peart
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Date	23 March 2026

Head of Service Approval

Name	Lindsey Byrne
Designation	Head of Children's Services and Chief Social Work Officer
Confirmation that IIA and other relevant checks (e.g. finance/legal) have been completed	YES
Approval Date	25/03/2026

Appendix 1

Organisation funded	Amount Funded	Duration
Circle Scotland	£99,491.00	1 year April 2026-March 2027
Homestart East Lothian	£100,041.00	1 year April 26-March 2027
Can Do holiday provision	£125,000.00	1 year April 26-March 2027
Independent Advocacy Service – Who Cares Scotland	£128,000.00	3 year April 26-March 2028/9
Kinship Support Service – Adoption UK	£134,900.00	3 year April 26-March 2028/9
Pre committed spend (CHAS & Action for Children)	£77,040.00	1 year April 26-March 27
Total spend	£664,472.00	
Total budget including additional Whole Family Wellbeing Fund contribution.	£692,000.00	
Remainder for commissioning	£27,528.00	