

**South Ayrshire Council**

**Report by Head of Children's Health, Care and Justice Services  
to Leadership Panel  
of 17 September 2019**

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**Subject: Termination of Target Leisure and Establishment of a Permanent Post for Corporate Parenting Officer**

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**1. Purpose**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval from the Leadership Panel to repurpose budget from the Target Leisure provision and establish a permanent post for the Corporate Parenting Officer to support care experienced children and young people.

**2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 **It is recommended that the Panel approves the establishment of a permanent post for the Corporate Parenting Officer through redirecting budget from Target Leisure.**

**3. Background**

**3.1 *Target Leisure***

- 3.1.1 Developed historically in the South of the authority, Target Leisure was set up to support vulnerable young people who found difficulty in engaging with other community education and outdoor provision. Many of these young people at the time were coming to the attention of statutory services. Target Leisure offered a drop-in 'group work type service' for these young people and was delivered within Glendoune Community Centre for young people residing in the Girvan area.
- 3.1.2 When first initiated Target Leisure had 4 members of staff: a Full-Time, Project Worker (35 hours per week); and 3 Part-Time Project Workers (1 x 20 hr and 2 x 12 hrs per week). The group originally met twice a week and supported up to 6 young people. Referrals for the service came from the Girvan Locality Social Work Team to provide targeted youth work interventions as part of youth diversionary activity.
- 3.1.3 Over the years the service gradually diminished due to a high level of turnover in part-time project workers and alternative youth provision in the Girvan area.

- 3.1.4 From 2010, when the full-time Project Worker retired, the service further reduced and the provision was eventually rebadged. Other project workers left the posts in 2016 and 2017, and those posts were not filled.
- 3.1.5 Referrals and engagement with the service were low, undoubtedly impacted by the lack of staff, but mainly because young people had access to other community-based youth work resources in Girvan.
- 3.1.6 Currently, all of these posts are vacant following the departure of the remaining member of staff, in April 2019.

## 3.2 **Champion's Board**

- 3.2.1 The Champions Board was established in June 2017 with 3 years temporary funding received from the Life Changes Trust (LCT). Temporary posts (2 years) for a Corporate Parenting Officer and 2 x 0.5 Participation Assistants were established and the Corporate Parenting Officer took up the post in June 2017. The contract for the Corporate Parenting Officer was due to conclude on 5 June 2019, however, this has been extended to March 2020 utilising funds from vacant Target Leisure posts. The extension is to continue and sustain our commitment to care experienced young people and fulfil our duties as corporate parents. The Participation Assistants have been in post since June 2017 and as there has been a change in the people who have undertaken these posts, there is no immediate pressure around these contracts until June 2020.
- 3.2.2 South Ayrshire Champions Board has been recognised as a leader in the range of activity undertaken and the impact their work has had on a wide range of services, making a significant positive impact on the lives of our looked after young people. This is a service the HSCP and partners would not seek to lose due to the potential for positive outcomes for our looked after young people.

## 4. **Proposals**

- 4.1 It is proposed to utilise budget from the Target Leisure Provision to create a permanent post of Corporate Parenting Officer.
- 4.2 Further work will be undertaken to seek to make the Participation Assistant posts permanent and this will be subject of a further report to Leadership Panel on 17 March 2020.

## 5. **Legal and Procurement Implications**

- 5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.
- 5.2 There are no procurement implications arising from this report.

## 6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 There is currently a budget of £65,644 allocated to Target Leisure and this will now be used to fund the permanent post of Corporate Parenting Officer at a cost of £49,680.
- 6.2 The remaining balance of £15,963 will be available to meet some of the costs of making the Participation Assistant posts permanent and provide supplies and services to facilitate service delivery.

## 7. Human Resources Implications

7.1 The following Target Leisure posts are currently vacant and will be deleted:

- Target Leisure Project Worker 12hrs;
- Target Leisure Project Worker 12hrs;
- Target Leisure Project Worker 20 hrs; and
- Target Leisure Project worker 35 hrs.

7.2 The post of Corporate Parenting Officer Level 10 SCP 75 will become permanent.

## 8. Risk

### 8.1 *Risk Implications of Adopting the Recommendations*

8.1.1 There are no risks associated with adopting the recommendations.

### 8.2 *Risk Implications of Rejecting the Recommendations*

8.2.1 The risks associated with rejecting the recommendations are that the council lose capacity in transforming the quality of life and well-being of care experienced young people by involving them in the decisions that affect their own lives. It is an approach that local authority and community planning partnerships are adopting in partnership with care experienced young people.

## 9. Equalities

9.1 The proposals in this report allow scrutiny of performance. The report does not involve proposals for policies, strategies, procedures, processes, financial decisions and activities (including service delivery), both new and at review, that affect the Council's communities and employees, therefore an equality impact assessment is not required.

## 10. Sustainable Development Implications

10.1 *Considering Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)* - This report does not propose or seek approval for a plan, policy, programme or strategy or document otherwise described which could be considered to constitute a plan, programme, policy or strategy.

## 11. Options Appraisal

11.1 An options appraisal has not been carried out in relation to the subject matter of this report.

## 12. Link to Council Plan

12.1 The matters referred to in this report contribute to the Council strategic objective of:

12.1.1. Reduce poverty and disadvantage and develop learning and care systems that place schools at the heart of communities, targeting children and families in need, especially looked-after children; and

12.1.2 Health and care systems that meet people's needs.

12.2 The matters referred to in this report contribute to the Council strategic objective of 'Health and Care Systems that meet People's Needs' and within that to the outcome 'Actively promote the responsibilities of corporate parenting and ensure that the Council prioritises the wellbeing of those in its care'.

## 13. Results of Consultation

13.1 Consultation has taken place with Councillor William Grant, Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People, and the contents of this report reflect any feedback provided.

## 14. Next Steps for Decision Tracking Purposes

14.1 If the recommendations above are approved by Members, the Head of Children's Health, Care and Justice Services will ensure that all necessary steps are taken to ensure full implementation of the decision within the following timescales, with the completion status reported to the Leadership Panel in the 'Council and Leadership Panel Decision Log' at each of its meetings until such time as the decision is fully implemented:

<i>Implementation</i>	<i>Due date</i>	<i>Managed by</i>
Establish permanent post of Corporate Parenting Officer	30 September 2019	Head of Children's Health, Care and Justice Services
Submit further report on Participation Assistant posts to Leadership Panel	17 March 2020	Head of Children's Health, Care and Justice Services

**Background Papers** [Champions Board – Life Changes Trust – Care Experienced Young People Programme - Annual Report – 26 April 2019](#)

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