# Integrated Impact Assessment – Summary Report

Each of the numbered sections below must be completed

Please state if the IIA is interim or final

## Title of proposal

Edinburgh Family Support Partnership

## What will change as a result of this proposal?

The proposal aims to develop community based multi-disciplinary teams (MDT) in each of the four localities across the city. This will provide an access point for anyone seeking whole family support. The delivery model will be consistent across the localities but responsive to individual child and family’s needs within the unique context of their own community.

 The collaborative consists of City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) Social Workers (inclusive of Social Care Direct and Family Group Decision Making); Barnardo’s Family Support; Children 1st; Safe Families, The Citadel Youth Centre and Edinburgh Community Food.

In addition, other partners including Council Education Wellbeing Officers and the Whole Family Wellbeing Team have also committed to being part of the MDT Community Teams.

## Briefly describe public involvement in this proposal to date and planned

Parent/carer feedback has been gained via engagement events led by the Whole Family Wellbeing Team (WFWT). The WFWT also attended parents’ evenings and school coffee mornings Our engagement focused on several key questions, including:

* What makes a service accessible?
* What makes you feel welcomed?
* When should the service be delivered?
* Where should the service be delivered?
* How should it be signposted and
* What should it be called?

In total, we have consulted with approximately 600 parents and carers. Further, 327 votes were cast relating to the name of our support hubs. Following on from this, we consulted with 6- children and young people on the logo design for our hubs.

Edinburgh’s Corporate Parenting Board has also been utilised as a platform to seek the views of those with experience of the care system. The Council has recently received funding from the Corra Foundation to employ a Parent Participation Officer. This officer will develop a Family Advisory Board and this collaborative will have strong links with this board with a view to the development of the MDTs and “sense checking” our delivery of services to children and families.

## Is the proposal considered strategic under the Fairer Scotland Duty?

Yes.

## Date of IIA

22 November 2024

## 6. Who was present at the IIA? Identify facilitator, lead officer, report writer and any employee representative present and main stakeholder (e.g. Council, NHS)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Name | Job Title | Date of IIA training |
| **Karen Pedder** | **Head of Service** |  |
| **Scott McCallum** | **Team Manager** | **30 October 2024** |
| **Kareen Caldwell** | **Team Manager** |  |
| **Nichola Dadds** | **Operations Manager** | **23 June 2021** |
|  |  |  |

## 7. Evidence available at the time of the IIA

| **Evidence** | **Available – detail source** | **Comments: what does the evidence tell you with regard to different groups who may be affected and to the environmental impacts of your proposal** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Data on populations in need – where available use disaggregated data | Scottish Children’s Reporter Administration (SCRA) – Official Statistics 2023/2024  Scottish Government – Children’s Social Work Statistics 2022/2023  City of Edinburgh Council Data relating to:   * Social Care Direct referrals * Social Worker caseloads | In Edinburgh, the numbers of looked after children and children subject to child protection registration continues to reduce – this trend is replicated across the country.  Nevertheless, the data from Social Care Direct (Children’s Services) demonstrates that their remains a consistent level of need that sits beneath the threshold for statutory social work intervention. Between October 2023 and January 2024, Social Care Direct received 4799 contacts, 216 of those contacts were considered appropriate referrals for Social Work Practice Teams.  In summary, 4583 contacts are redirected or signposted to Named Person Services. Whilst more robust data is required, it is suspected that almost 50% of the 4583 contacts will be re-referred to Social Care Direct within six months – it is this group of children, young people and their families that this collaboration will engage with.  Children and Families Social Work routinely work with the six priority family types and those with protected characteristics at the intensive/statutory level of intervention. We know – from our data – that many of these families are denied a service until they are faced with a crisis. Our collaboration aims to address this issue by providing whole-family, community- based support to families before there is a crisis. |
| Data on service uptake/access | Locality Operational Groups – Impact Report (April 2023) | Social Care Direct - as the centralised “front door” of Children’s Social Work in Edinburgh - was introduced approximately 16 years ago. The service was designed to: provide consistency across the city as to how referrals were being managed; screen out inappropriate referrals and allow Social Workers to focus on the most vulnerable children and families.  Moving to a centralised approach to manage referrals has had the unintended consequence of discouraging families from seeking support from their local Social Work Office. With reference to the data detailed above, it is evident that families in need are not receiving the support they require until it becomes a crisis and likely resulting in an intervention from a local Practice Team.  The Locality Operational Groups – Impact Report (2023) emphasises this point and concludes that family support needs to be accessible, community-based and work collaboratively with local resources. |
| Data on socio-economic disadvantage e.g. low income, low wealth, material deprivation, area deprivation | Poverty and Social Justice (Scottish Government 2023)  Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD)  Scottish Government – Children’s Social Work Statistics 2022/2023 | The relationship between children and families on Social Worker caseloads and poverty is well-established.  This collaboration will prioritise engagement with the six priority families:   * Lone parent families * Minority ethnic families * Families with a disabled adult or child * Families with a younger mother (under 25) * Families with a child under one, and * Larger families (three or more children)   We aim to do this by establishing local, community-based hubs that are accessible and free from stigma.  These families continue to be at a higher risk of poverty and future policies should continue to focus on reaching families in poverty. There is a need for a holistic approach that addresses individual needs while recognising structural barriers, to avoid perpetuating patterns of exclusion.  Families often belong to more than one of the priority groups referred to above. |
| Data on equality outcomes | Equalities and Diversity Framework 2021 – 2025. | Our proposal is compatible with the 5 priorities of the Equalities and Diversity Framework. |
| Research/literature evidence | The Commission on the Future Delivery of Public Services (The Christie Report 2011)  Children’s Services Reform Research – Learning and Implications for Scotland (Celcis 2023)  The Promise (Scottish Government 2020)  GIRFEC – Early Help, Early Permanence and Quality of Care (Scottish Government 2015)  Edinburgh Children’s Services Strategy 2024 – 2027  Holistic Whole Family Support: Route Map and National Principles (Scottish Government 2022) | Early help and early intervention is central to the improvement agenda relating to Children and Families Social Work - we know that promoting children’s welfare is most effective when they receive early help and at a level according to their needs. The Christie Report (2011) emphasised a need for preventative public services that reduce inequalities, embeds community participation in their design and delivery, reduces silo mentality and moves towards integration.  Further, The Promise (2020) identified the need to significantly upscale Family Support Services and identified whole family support as a priority in *The Plan 21-24*.  The COVID-19 Children and Families Collective Leadership Group’s (CLG) vision and blueprint set out a clear ambition that children and families should be able to access preventative, needs-based support when they need it, for as long as they need it. This embodies the ethos of the Promise by supporting families at their time of need rather than at crisis point, enabling them to flourish and reduce the chances of family breakdown and of children entering the ”looked after” system. |
| Public/patient/client experience information | [Programme for Government](https://www.gov.scot/publications/programme-for-government-first-ministers-speech-4-september-2024/) (2024)  Locality Operational Groups – Impact Report (April 2023) | The Scottish Government are clear that public services need to be ‘coordinated, holistic services that meet (family) needs and are easy to access’ – the policy landscape  is dominated with studies and policy/academic papers that highlight how difficult it is for the public to access public services.  Locally, the above conclusion is illustrated in the Locality Operational Groups – Impact Report (April 2023).  Our collaborative’s approach will be underpinned by GIRFEC, with a focus on the whole family. |
| Evidence of inclusive engagement of people who use the service and involvement findings |  | At a local level, we have undertaken extensive engagement and consultation with children, young people and their parents/carers. We have facilitated focus groups on: service accessibility, what makes families feel welcomed, when should services be delivered, where should services be located and what should our service be called.  The feedback received relating to the above points has informed how we intend to deliver our services.  In addition, we met with our Champs Group, with a view to gaining their advice and views on our collaboration.  At a national level, The Promise (2020) is the most prominent policy document relating to Children and Families Social Work – this report presented the views of a significant number of families with lived experience. |
| Evidence of unmet need | City of Edinburgh Council Data relating to:   * Social Care Direct referrals * Social Worker caseloads | As stated above, a significant number of children, young people and their families are referred to Social Work but deemed not “eligible” for a service. Our collaboration aims to increase the number of families accessing early help by 30%. |
| Good practice guidelines | * Holistic Whole Family Support: Route Map and National Principles (Scottish Government 2022) * UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024 - part 3: statutory guidance | This collaboration is highly compatible with good practice guidelines and national policy relating to supporting vulnerable children and their families.  The collaboration is underpinned by children’s rights and key principles associated with whole family support. |
| Carbon emissions generated/reduced data | N/A | N/A |
| Environmental data | N/A | There are a disproportionate number of Edinburgh children and young people placed in out of authority care settings. This collaborative seeks to support families within their own communities, and this will not only evidence significant financial cost avoidance and savings but will also create strong and sustainable communities. |
| Risk from cumulative impacts | N/A | N/A |
| Other (please specify) | N/A | N/A |
| Additional evidence required |  | Further analysis/data is required relating to those families who were referred to Social Work and deemed not “eligible” for a service and whether a failure to respond at the initial contact resulted in “failure demand” ie those families being re-referred when concerns/issues have escalated. |

## 8. In summary, what impacts were identified and which groups will they affect?

| **Equality, Health and Wellbeing and Human Rights and Children’s Rights** | **Affected populations** |
| --- | --- |
| **Positive**  The concept of developing community based multi-disciplinary teams in the four localities within the city is transformational. These teams will be integrated and radically change the way we deliver services to our most vulnerable families. The basis of this delivery model is significantly influenced by the policy papers referred to above but is also deeply rooted in a transparent, trauma-informed and rights-based approach. | Children, young people and their families referred to Social Care Direct for a social work service but deemed not “eligible” for a service.  We will routinely engage with the six priority family types:   1. Lone parent families 2. Larger families 3. Families with a child under 1 4. Families affected by disability 5. Minority ethnic families 6. Families where the mother is under 25 |
| **Negative**  There are no negative impacts identified. |  |

| **Environment and Sustainability including climate change emissions and impacts** | **Affected populations** |
| --- | --- |
| **Positive**  The local provision of services and supports.  Our 20-Minute Neighbourhood Strategy has been designed to help tackle the challenges of poverty, health and wellbeing inequalities, climate change and economic recovery by enabling everyone to live well in their local communities. | As Above |
| **Negative**  None identified. | N/A |

| **Economic** | **Affected populations** |
| --- | --- |
| **Positive** |  |
| **Negative** |  |

## 9. Is any part of this policy/ service to be carried out wholly or partly by contractors and if so how will equality, human rights including children’s rights, environmental and sustainability issues be addressed?

The collaboration is funded on a temporary basis by Whole Family Wellbeing money – this is a non-recurring grant from Scottish Government which will come to an end in the summer of 2026. All of the partners within the collaboration are aligned with the underlying principles of children’s rights, sustainability and protecting the environment.

## 10. Consider how you will communicate information about this policy/ service change to children and young people and those affected by sensory impairment, speech impairment, low level literacy or numeracy, learning difficulties or English as a second language? Please provide a summary of the communications plan.

We are very aware of the need to communicate this service change sensitively and with care. Children and young people have been involved in the design of our logo and as such, we are confident that our promotional material is of a child-friendly nature. We have also developed an online leaflet (padlet) and whilst the target audience for the padlet will be parents, carers and professionals, we are developing a child-friendly version of this.

## 11. Is the plan, programme, strategy or policy likely to result in significant environmental effects, either positive or negative? If yes, it is likely that a [Strategic Environmental Assessment](https://www.gov.scot/policies/environmental-assessment/strategic-environmental-assessment-sea/) (SEA) will be required and the impacts identified in the IIA should be included in this. See section 2.10 in the Guidance for further information.

## It is not anticipated that the activities of the collaboration will have any significant environmental impacts.

## 12. Additional Information and Evidence Required

If further evidence is required, please note how it will be gathered. If appropriate, mark this report as interim and submit updated final report once further evidence has been gathered.

No further evidence is required at this stage.

## 13. Specific to this IIA only, what recommended actions have been, or will be, undertaken and by when? (these should be drawn from 7 – 11 above) Please complete:

| **Specific actions (as a result of the IIA which may include financial implications, mitigating actions and risks of cumulative impacts)** | **Who will take them forward (name and job title** | **Deadline for progressing** | **Review date** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Identifying local spaces (community centres, libraries, etc) that the collaboration can work from. | Scott McCallum, Team Manager | 31 December 2024 | 27 November 2024 |
| Developing a process that supports the flow of work referred to Social Work to be re-directed to the collaboration. | Scott McCallum Team Manager  Brian Henderson  Team Manager | 31 December 2024 | 27 November 2024 |
| Raising awareness of the collaboration with Social Work staff in the Council. | Scott McCallum | 31 December 2024 | 27 November 2024 |
| Developing Community Hubs in phase 2 to enable people in communities to “reach in” for support with minimal criteria to receive whole family support | Edinburgh Family Support Partnership | 31 March 2025 | 28 February 2025 |

## 14. Are there any negative impacts in section 8 for which there are no identified mitigating actions?

No

## 15. How will you monitor how this proposal affects different groups, including people with protected characteristics?

The work of the collaboration is governed by a strategic board and the strategic board will be supported by an operational management group. Significant risks and issues affecting people with protected characteristics will be identified and escalated to the appropriate group.

Further, feedback from families and other stakeholders will play a vital and valued part of the continued development of this collaboration.

## 16. Sign off by Service Director

**Name Kathy Henwood**

**Date 28/02/2025**

## 17. Publication

Completed and signed IIAs should be sent to:

[integratedimpactassessments@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:integratedimpactassessments@edinburgh.gov.uk) to be published on the Council website [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/impactassessments](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/impactassessments)

**Edinburgh Integration Joint Board/Health and Social Care** [sarah.bryson@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.bryson@edinburgh.gov.uk) to be published at [www.edinburghhsc.scot/the-ijb/integrated-impact-assessments/](http://www.edinburghhsc.scot/the-ijb/integrated-impact-assessments/)