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| **A.1 Fund Purpose, Beneficiaries and Priorities** |
| A new integrated model for delivering support to children and their families with additional needs is currently being piloted in North Lanarkshire utilising funding from Scottish government via the Empowering Cluster Integrated Model. This approach will deliver tailored support to children and young people (**age range of 5-24 & up to 26 for care experienced young people**) in their local communities. The aim is to enhance local provision and deliver on the ambitions within the Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Framework that target issues of mental wellbeing and emotional distress, and is based around prevention and early intervention.  Each school cluster in North Lanarkshire, led by the CIIL (Cluster Improvement & Integration Lead), has conducted a needs assessment of its pupil population and developed a cluster plan to meet additional support needs encompassing the needs of families and their communities.  The framework is intended to be used to help partnerships to design and build services and supports that are in line with GIRFEC, national priorities and principles, relevant to local developments and are based on local needs assessment and responsive to the needs of local communities. In line with the GIRFEC approach, it is vital that community mental health and wellbeing supports and services are integrated with and contribute to a whole system approach. This should include use of the wellbeing indicators (SHANARRI) and the national practice model to identify, describe and evaluate needs.  Children and families should receive support and services that are appropriate to their needs. For many, such support is likely to be community based, and should be easily and quickly accessible. Support and services should be provided to children and young people who will benefit from additional help to promote, manage and improve their mental health and wellbeing and to help them develop coping strategies and resilience. This support may be required for a variety of reasons and circumstances and should be holistic, recognising that children and young people may have a number of issues and need “whole-person” flexible support. |
| **Services that align with the framework should:** |
| * Be new or enhanced. * Deal with issues of mental and emotional distress and wellbeing. * Focus on the 5-24 (26 for care experienced young people) age range. Can also support families and carers of any child or young person receiving support from CAMHS, school, community supports or elsewhere. * Have clear accessible points of initial contact and access through any appropriate source. * Flexible delivery where possible - not solely 9-5 or weekdays. * Recognise and respond to the factors which contribute to poor mental health, mental illness and distress (i.e. poverty, homelessness, substance use etc.) and have clear links to services that have capacity to support with these. * Consider the physical environments in which services are delivered, particularly by creating safe, non-clinical environments accessible to all. * Be flexible, personalised and adaptive to need and the changing circumstances of the child, young person or family/carer. * Support should be compassionate, empathetic and kind, and take account of the evidence from stakeholders of what works. |
| **Emotional Distress & Positive Mental Health & Wellbeing Services:** |
| With appropriate professional oversight, community mental health and wellbeing supports and services can safely deliver help that targets a variety of issues. The following list is not exclusive but gives an indication of the kind of distress that should be addressed and the positive mental health that should be promoted.  **Emotional distress:**   * Anxiety * Attachment * Bereavement support * Depression (mild to moderate) * Emotional and behavioural difficulties associated with neurodevelopmental disorders * Gender identity * Repetitive/perseverative behaviours   **Positive mental health and wellbeing**   * Body image and self esteem * Building resilience and coping strategies (emotional regulation) * Healthy and positive relationship * Healthy digital interaction * Parenting support for children and young people of all ages   **Please note that counselling cannot be funded through this fund.** |
| **A** **1. 2** **Our Approach** |
| Please read North Lanarkshire’s Children Services Partnership ‘Our Approach’ plan. The plan lays out the principles and values on delivering shared priorities and improving outcomes in relation to children, young people and families. |
| **A**.**1.3.Monitoring & Evaluation** |
| As a condition of funding, you will be required to provide monitoring and evaluation reports to demonstrate the impact your Project has had in supporting children, young people and families.   * **1x interim project report**    + A short report where you provide an update on activities, partnership working and whether there are any difficulties your Project requires support for. * **1x end project report**   + A longer report where you provide a summary of Project Activity, how your Project has made an impact, SHANARRI indicator and beneficiary reporting, and a breakdown of funds used.   + You will be required to provide a case study (guidance will be issued in due course).   The dates you will be required to submit your reports will be confirmed following confirmation of funding but you will be expected to do this halfway through delivery of the Project. |
| **A.1. 4 Applicant Guidance** |
| **1.4.1 Who Can Apply?**  Any community and voluntary organisation serving the people of North Lanarkshire can apply for this fund as long as they can demonstrate in their application how their Project would comply with the fund’s purpose and beneficiaries’ priorities.  Applications from more than one organisation who wish to collaborate to deliver a Project are welcome and encouraged.  Organisations can apply for funding for one or more projects across clusters with a separate application for each project. The final decisions will be made by the assessment panel using a scoring criteria.  **1.4.2 Application**  Organisations must apply using the fund’s application forms available online here.  If you have any queries regarding your application, please contact [claire.stewart@vanl.co.uk](mailto:claire.stewart@vanl.co.uk) at Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire (VANL).  Please submit your application to cypmhwb@vanl.co.uk  Applications may be submitted at any time before 5pm on Wednesday 29th May 2024. No applications can be accepted after this point.  Applicants will receive an auto-response email confirming receipt of their application. If you don’t receive this, please contact [claire.stewart@vanl.co.uk](mailto:claire.stewart@vanl.co.uk) within 48 hours, as there may be a slight delay in the auto-response being sent. |
| **APPENDIX 1** |
| **1.1 Assessment and Decision**  An Assessment Panel involving representatives from each Cluster - Cluster Integration and Improvement Lead (CIIL), NHS Lanarkshire, North Lanarkshire Council (Education and Families), and VANL - will assess all applications and agree the Projects to be awarded funding. Each application will be scored across a number of key areas, for example:  • how well does the application fit with the Fund’s target beneficiaries?  • how well does the proposed Project Activity meet the stated Project outcomes?  • how well does the application evidence the need for the proposed Project Activity?  • how well does the application evidence prior stakeholder engagement?  • how well does the application evidence the need for this Project?  You will be advised of the outcome by 21st June 2024 with funding award letters and payments issued to successful applicants by September 2024.  **1.2 Evaluation and Reporting Requirements for Successful Applicants**    1.2.1 Successful applicants will be provided with guidance and support to evaluate and report on their Project’s progress, successes, challenges and learning at mid- point and at the end of the Project. It is requirement of the fund that Projects will provide this information in a timely manner as required.  1.2.2 It is important that evaluation and learning is undertaken and shared to help our sector evidence our contribution to community mental health and wellbeing and improve our sector’s capacity to contribute more in future and secure further funding more readily. VANL will be actively supporting learning with funded projects and the wider North Lanarkshire CVS. VANL will also participate in a national network to share our learning and share learning from others beyond North Lanarkshire. |