

Early Action System Change Initiative in Renfrewshire Opportunities for voluntary sector involvement

Last updated: 11 December 2018

Introduction

Renfrewshire Council, the Dartington Service Design Lab, Engage Renfrewshire, the Ariel Trust and other partners from across the voluntary sector will undertake a three-year System Change Initiative to promote young people's **emotional wellbeing**, and address **emotional coercive control in adolescent relationships**. It forms part of the [Big Lottery Fund's Early Action System Change Fund](#) tackling the root causes of inequality. The *Early Action System Change initiative in Renfrewshire* was one of eight partnerships selected from over 80 partnership applications across Scotland.

There are **two** key phases for voluntary sector involvement as part of *Early Action System Change in Renfrewshire*:

1. **December 2018-March 2019:** Wider engagement with voluntary sector via the distribution of smaller grants to host and co-facilitate workshops, events and activities focused on generating understanding and insights around the priority challenges with children and young people.
2. **April 2019-March 2021:** More intensive involvement with a fewer number of voluntary sector organisations to co-design services, deliver*, test and refine activities targeting the priority challenges.

Early Action System Change Background

More widely, the Early Action System Change initiative will seek to achieve the following:

- Map and understand the structure of systems that seek to improve child outcomes (health systems, education systems, social work systems and the voluntary sector);
- Map the causes and consequences of the priority challenges to highlight opportunities to disrupt and intervene;
- Map existing expenditure within children's services to identify opportunities for re-investment towards early action;
- Co-design early action system and service responses with children, families and communities that are needed, wanted and will likely make a difference;
- The Council will use resources identified by the fund map to commission early action initiatives;
- Implement and rigorously test these initiatives involving those who deliver services and those who receive services to inform adaptations and ongoing improvements.

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Opportunities for the voluntary sector across Renfrewshire

Phase 1. December 2018 – March 2019

- £30,000 (in total) will be distributed to around 10 organisations via a series of small grants of c.£3,000 in a first phase of engagement, taking place over 2018 and early 2019. This voluntary sector engagement will help the partnership better understand the needs of young people, the existing service provision and gaps, and help identify opportunities for system reform.

Phase 2. April 2019 – March 2021

- £158,000 (in total) will then be distributed in a second phase, across 2019 to 2021, to one to three organisations subsequently commissioned by the Council to provide services as part of the Early Action System Change initiative. This resource will be used to help commissioned organisations engage in a process of service improvement and rapid cycle testing (over and above the service delivery work they are commissioned to provide).

Who will be managing the distribution of funds?

The fund distribution amongst voluntary sector organisations in Renfrewshire will be managed by Engage Renfrewshire - the local Third Sector Interface.

Eligibility criteria to apply for funds

We are inviting voluntary organisations to apply for the first phase of small funds and their involvement. To be eligible to apply voluntary organisations must:

- Work directly or indirectly supporting children and young people, ideally focusing on mental health, relationships and well-being and;
- Work within Renfrewshire (either as a local provider or a national provider with a local presence).

Further details about Phase 1 small grants: reconnaissance and insight gathering

Function of Phase 1: to engage with services, young people and families to gain a better understanding of the priority challenges and drivers (i.e. children and young people's mental health and coercive control within adolescent relationships) as well gain a better understanding of existing service provision.

Available resources and activities: Small grants of **£3,000** will be made available to up to ten organisations. This resource can be used to host workshops, enable staff to participate in practitioner workshops, support young people to attend community workshops, help build capacity of young people and families to participate, co-design suitable workshop activities/agendas, provide advice and guidance about suitable engagement methods for young people and families, purchase of materials for workshop activities and room/venue hire costs (if

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hosting) and purchase high street vouchers as a thank you for young people and families participation.

Application process:

Voluntary organisations are asked to prepare a short Expression of Interest answering the following questions:

- (i) why you'd like to participate (150 words max)
- (ii) how you'd like to use the funds to participate (250 words max)
- (iii) if able to support young people and/or families to participate in the workshops, how many in total do you anticipate, typical profile of need and how will you support them to attend (200 words max)
- (iv) if you are releasing staff to attend, how many and what will their expertise/knowledge base provide in helping understand the priority challenges (200 words max)
- (v) Total funds requested

A decision-making panel led by Engage Renfrewshire will assess EOIs along the following dimensions:

- **Relevance:** the extent to which specified activities will allow Early Action System Change to meet its aims. In stage 1, this is meaningfully involving young people to share experiences and ideas for change in the priority areas.
- **Reach:** the extent to which the organisation (or partnered organisations) will be able to reach young people – particularly those not well supported by existing public systems.
- **Past experience/track record:** the extent to which the organisation has past experience of engaging young people in similar activities.
- **Creativity:** applications that demonstrate knowledge or desire to employ more innovative and creative methods for involving young people will be at an advantage.

Timescales:

- Circulation of Expression of Interest: **11 December 2018**
- Deadline for Expression of Interest submissions: **5pm on 23 January 2019**
- Panel to review applications and notify applicants: **w/c 28 January 2019**
- Voluntary sector workshops and engagement events, workshops etc. with children and young people **March 2019 (onwards)**

Please send your Expression of Interest and/or direct any queries to Karen McIntyre, Engage Renfrewshire, on **0141 887 7707** or info@engagerenfrewshire.com

Engage Renfrewshire closes on **Friday December 21** and reopens on **Monday January 7**. Any enquiries during this time can be directed to Dartington Service Design Lab on **01803 762400** or kate.tobin@dartington.org.uk

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Further details about Phase 2 – NOT YET LAUNCHED

Further details about Phase 2 (April 2019 – March 2021) will be circulated in due course. In the meantime, see brief summary of aims below.

Function of Phase 2: To design or refine services to plug gaps in existing provision, and to embark on a process of rapid cycle testing and ongoing refinement.

Available resources and activities: Up to £158,000, in total, will be made available to two or three organisations support service design, refinement and the process of rapid cycle testing a smaller number of services (so between £50,000 and £75,000 per organisation). This will span approximately two years, from 2019 onwards.

The *Early Action System Change* grant above does **not** cover service delivery. Funds for service delivery will be identified from within public service expenditure as part of the system and financial modelling phase and re-directed towards the early action activities co-design with young people and families. Total funds are to be decided but are specified between 1-5% of expenditure within children's services in Renfrewshire acute services.

Activities will involve intensive service design/refinement work, which will be quickly refined and adapted in light of feedback from young people, families and/or practitioners. Rapid cycle testing will be undertaken by the Dartington Service Design Lab in partnership with Renfrewshire's appointed System Changers (x2). The function of this testing will be to gather data, qualitative and quantitative to (i) inform service adaptations and; (ii) generate insight and learning that will be relevant to the wider public and voluntary sector.

Application process: A decision-making panel will be convened by Engage Renfrewshire, and will include representatives from Renfrewshire Council, the Dartington Service Design Lab and a representative from the Big Lottery Fund (to be confirmed). Voluntary organisations will be asked to prepare a short application.

The process for selecting a smaller number of services will involve the following:

1. Development of a brief for services and activities that Renfrewshire Council will commission based on what was learned in Year 1;
2. The Council and their procurement team will invite applications from organisations (involved in Year 1, but potentially wider) to: (a) provide a service; and (b) work with the Lab to embark on rapid cycle testing and adaptation.
3. The Council, the Lab and ENGAGE will shortlist and interview to make the final selection.

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