

## Equality Impact Assessment

### Section 1: About the proposal

<b>Title of Proposal</b>
Removal of grants provided to Mental Health Link Clubs


<b>Intended outcome of proposal</b>
Removal of grants provided to Mental Health Link Clubs with annual budget savings of £6.5k

<b>Description of proposal</b>
<p>Grant funding for Link clubs is currently provided by both Argyll and Bute Council and NHS Highland.</p> <p>NHS Highland - £4.5k (£1k of this is provided to Kintyre Link Club as contribution towards activities and the remaining £3.5k is currently unallocated due to 2 link clubs no longer providing services)</p> <p>A&amp;B Council - £2k (Contribution towards rental costs for Kintyre Link Club)</p> <p>At present Kintyre is the only locality within Argyll and Bute who receives any grant funding for Mental Health Link Clubs.</p> <p>Removal of the unallocated grant funding will have no impact as these services are no longer in place, however the removal of grant funding to KLC may have an impact on the sustainability of the service.</p> <p>Two options are currently being considered with regards to the removal of grant funding:</p> <p>Option 1: Removal of all grants for link clubs provided by both NHS and Council - £6.5k</p> <p>Option 2: Removal of all NHS grants for Link Clubs and maintain £2k grant funding from Council to KLC for contribution to rental costs.</p>

<b>HSCP Strategic Priorities to which the proposal contributes</b>
Makes the best use of the available facilities, people and other resources
Efficiently and effectively manage all resources to deliver Best Value.

<b>Lead officer details</b>	
Name of lead officer	<b>Julie Lusk</b>
Job title	<b>Head of Service – Mental Health, Addictions, Learning Disability/Transitions</b>
Department	<b>HSCP</b>

<b>Appropriate officer details</b>	
Name of appropriate officer	Nicola Gillespie
Job title	Service Manager – Mental Health & Addictions
Department	HSCP

Sign-off of EIA	
Date of sign-off	30 <sup>th</sup> March 2021

<b>Who will deliver the proposal?</b>
Service Manager, Procurement & Contract Management Team, Team Leader & Service Improvement Officer

## Section 2: Evidence used in the course of carrying out EIA

<b>Consultation / engagement</b>
Savings option has been included as part of A&B HSCP's budget consultation
Letter has been sent advising of the removal of the grant for 2021/22.
Service Manager for Mental Health has also discussed the proposal with the manager.

<b>Data</b>
Financial Data provided by NHS and Council finance teams

<b>Other information</b>
Feedback from Budget consultation will also be taken into consideration.

<b>Gaps in evidence</b>
Kintyre link club formally request funds yearly via Service Manager and provides a requested link club update and summary of what the full £3.5k funding assisted.
The funding is used to fund premises and also to fund activities to service users in Kintyre. The Link Club is well established and is used locally.

## Section 3: Impact of proposal

### Impact on service users:

	Negative	No impact	Positive	Don't know
<b>Protected characteristics:</b>				
Age	x			
Disability	x			
Ethnicity		x		
Sex		x		
Gender reassignment		x		
Marriage and Civil Partnership		x		
Pregnancy and Maternity		x		
Religion		x		
Sexual Orientation		x		
<b>Fairer Scotland Duty:</b>				
Mainland rural population	x			

	Negative	No impact	Positive	Don't know
Island populations		x		
Low income	x			
Low wealth	x			
Material deprivation	x			
Area deprivation	x			
Socio-economic background	x			
Communities of place		x		
Communities of interest	x			

**If you have identified any negative impacts on service users, give more detail here:**

The Kintyre link club is well established and is well used locally. The grant funding contributes to rental of premises and to activities. To remove the grant funding would mean that the service would not be able to continue in its current form and would be reliant on peers and volunteers to sustain the club.

**If any 'don't knows' have been identified, when will impacts on these groups be clear?**

N/A

**How has 'due regard' been given to any negative impacts that have been identified?**

Both options will have a negative impact on the way that the service is delivered in its current format.

The potential for service users to become more socially isolated should be considered as is the consideration for the mental health needs of service users to become more exacerbated by the lack of social inclusion. The impact of Coronavirus and the priority of the Scottish Government to support mental health services particularly across remote and rural communities should be considered fully.

**Impact on service deliverers (including employees, volunteers etc.):**

	Negative	No impact	Positive	Don't know
<b>Protected characteristics:</b>				
Age		x		
Disability		x		
Ethnicity		x		
Sex		x		
Gender reassignment		x		
Marriage and Civil Partnership		x		
Pregnancy and Maternity		x		
Religion		x		
Sexual Orientation		x		
<b>Fairer Scotland Duty:</b>				
Mainland rural population		x		
Island populations		x		
Low income	x			
Low wealth	x			
Material deprivation	x			
Area deprivation	x			
Socio-economic background		x		
Communities of place		x		
Communities of interest		x		

<b>If you have identified any negative impacts on service deliverers, give more detail here:</b>
The service deliverers would potentially be impacted on as they may have no role if the funding removal was to impact on their ability sustain the project. Employability Issues may be an issue in the locality.

<b>If any 'don't knows' have been identified, when will impacts on these groups be clear?</b>
N/A

<b>How has 'due regard' been given to any negative impacts that have been identified?</b>
There is the potential to consider different service delivery using peer mentors and volunteers. However this model would take time to build in terms of social support and potential for capacity building self-sustaining services reflecting other models currently developed for mental health users across Scotland.

#### Section 4: Interdependencies

<b>Is this proposal likely to have any knock-on effects for any other activities carried out by or on behalf of the HSCP?</b>	Yes
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<b>Details of knock-on effects identified</b>
Grant funding is provided annually and is on the basis that grant funding is available. Given the grant process there are no measurable objectives to show best value in the delivery of the grant funding and how this is spent.  Should the sustainability of KLC be affected by the removal of grant funding, then there may be an increase in the level of formal care and support required within the locality. As noted previously other existing informal social opportunities will be scoped within communities.  The Coronavirus (COVID -19) Mental Health Transition and Recovery Plan promotes the needs of all services users who have mental health needs at varying levels. The report also promoted the rights (as does the Feely report) to have the voices listened to of service users across Scotland as we begin to remobilise and transform mental health services. This should be considered.

#### Section 5: Monitoring and review

<b>Monitoring and review</b>
The project plan will be monitored through the Mental Health Steering Group, with a direct report to the Learning Disability & Mental Health Programme Board.