

Children and Families

Kilmory, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8RT

Telephone: (01546) 604256

Fax: (01546) 604434

Our Ref: DD/MJ

Your Ref:

If phoning or calling please ask for: Douglas Dunlop

e-mail: @argyll-bute.gov.uk

Council Website: www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

16th January 2006

Ms K Chisholm
Scottish Executive
Education Dept.
Young People and Social Care Group
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh
EH6 6QQ

Dear Ms Chisholm

CHANGING CHILDREN'S SERVICE FUND 2006-08

Further to your correspondence of November 2005 please find attached the submission from Argyll and Bute Council in respect of the CCSF for 2006-08.

As you will see we are continuing with our FUSIONS initiative as the main driving force behind the creation of better integrated children's services within Argyll and Bute. This approach was outlined in detail on our initial submission to The Change Fund in 2002. As before our approach for 2006-08 emphasises an area based strategy in developing better integration building on and enhancing existing good practice between the agencies, voluntary sector and service users. I have enclosed three documents outlining the progress we have made regards this over the past four years:

- The FUSIONS strategic plan 2005/06 which confirms our overall approach to Integrated Children's Services with Argyll and Bute.
- "Informing the Future" a review of progress of the FUSIONS initiative in developing integrated children's services in Argyll and Bute. The appendix to this document details examples of our monitoring and evaluation processes with examples of the impact the FUSIONS approach has had on the lives of children in Argyll and Bute.
- The Argyll and Bute Integrated Children's Service Plan which provides the overarching strategic framework.

For the period 2006-08 we wish to build on the progress we have made so far maintaining our general approach to the development of better integrated working, with some adjustments to key area of activity reflecting emerging priorities and our experience so far.

The overarching philosophy of FUSIONS however remains the same. We wish to see integrated working becoming part of mainstream agency activity and not seen as a specialist activity undertaken by a few project staff. Our area based approach underpins this philosophy whereby we invest in local agencies, voluntary groups and service user involvement at a local level, improving these services by devolving resources to be utilised within our framework for the development of integrated working.

As in previous years we intend to continue using the Changing Children's Service's Fund, and the National Priorities Action Fund aligned to Integrated Community Schools to underwrite the FUSIONS initiative.

The bringing together of the two initiatives allows us to address the seven national visions for children:

- Safe
- Nurtured
- Health
- Achieving
- Active
- Respected & Responsible
- Included

within a coherent integrated strategy. This is contained within the Integrated Children's Service Plan and the FUSIONS strategic plan. This latter document combines the seven vision statements with the original aims of For Scotland's Children/Integrated Community Schools.

These were that:

- An ICS will promote healthy lifestyle.
- An ICS will encourage parental involvement in supporting children's learning and well being.
- That planning for children's services will be locally based utilising staff directly involved in providing services.
- That a joint assessment and information framework will be established.
- That a joint action planning framework for individual families will be developed.

These targets are addressed in more detail within our ICSP, our FUSIONS strategic plan and monitoring reports.

Community Planning Partnership Management Committee – 8 February 2006 –
Agenda Item No. 11 (a)

Among some of the adjustments we are making for 2006-08 to the FUSIONS initiative is the re-designation of Area Integration Managers to become Area Children's Service Managers. We believe that this properly reflects the core nature of integrated working, placing it at the heart of agency activity and giving the posts responsibility for the full range of family support services alongside the responsibility to further develop integrated working practices.

We have also specifically earmarked funding for services to children affected by disability and the work of the Child Protection Committee as key priority areas for us in Argyll and Bute. In addition we are also looking to establish a specific policy development post which will have responsibilities for the development of an Integrated Assessment Framework, a data exchange protocol and system, and a joint action planning framework reflecting national priorities and building on the work already undertaken within Argyll and Bute.

Given our decision to unify funding streams to create a coherent approach to the development of better integration we have not separated out the direct grant and GAE elements of the change fund. This can be done if required but as with previous submissions this would be nominal and counter to our intention to create a more closely joined up integrated children's service system.

Yours sincerely

Douglas Dunlop
Head of Service – Children and Families