

Education, Children and Families Committee

10.00, Tuesday 15 August 2017

Early Years Disability Services Grant Programme 2017-2019 - Update

Item number	8.4
Report number	
Executive/routine	
Wards	All

Executive Summary

In December 2016, the committee approved an award of £140,057 to The Yard Adventure Centre to deliver support services to families with a disabled child under five years of age. This report provides an update on progress by The Yard in working with parents and families to set up the new service.

Links

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Early Years Disability Services Grant Programme 2017-2019 - Update

Recommendations

The Education, Children and Families Committee are asked to note:

- 1.1 the work undertaken by The Yard Adventure Centre with parents to ensure a smooth transfer of service;
- 1.2 the comments by parents, which are generally positive about their experience to date;
- 1.3 that the work undertaken by The Yard with the grant award will continue to be monitored by Communities and Families.

Background

- 2.1 Capability Scotland was awarded in February 2016, through the Children and Families Main Grants Programme, a grant of £62,248 per year for three years to run the Westerlea service. The service provided support to families with a disabled child less than five years of age. This service was closed by Capability Scotland in December 2016 and, after consultation with parents, a small grant programme was set up to identify another organisation to deliver a similar service. As a result of this programme an award of £140,057 until March 2019 was made to The Yard Adventure Centre.

Main report

- 3.1 The first three months of the grant award period has been used by The Yard to organise a series of “getting to know you” events with the parents. Two information sessions were held in February and attended by ten families. Between 28 February and 30 March, nine activity sessions were held and thirteen families attended at least one session per week.
- 3.2 The full service started in April 2017. The timetable includes two music and movement sessions of 45 minutes duration and four activity-based play sessions of 90 minutes duration. The sessions are delivered on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.

- 3.3 There are 30 families registered with the service, 17 of whom had previously attended the Westerlea service. A further five Westerlea families have shown an interest but have yet to confirm their slots. Thirty families who had previously attended the Westerlea service are no longer accessing this service. Reasons for this include that the child can no longer access as they are too old for the provision, however the changes in the service may also have played a part.
- 3.4 A council officer attended an activity based play session for families with a child aged three to five years, meeting eight parents. The positive comments from parents included the physical environment (both indoors and outdoors) and the attitude of the staff at The Yard. Parents did also comment on the small numbers attending the service but recognised that this is hard to avoid with a change in provider and location.
- 3.5 A link to a survey questionnaire was sent to all parents using the mailing list held by the organisation. Seven parents responded and their comments are contained in Appendix 1. General comments were positive and supportive of the approach taken by The Yard. The positives identified by the respondents included the building, outdoor space and the attitude of the staff. Some indicated that a greater focus on helping children with communication would be helpful. The open nature of the building or lack of a quiet space was also highlighted as an issue. The provider will take this feedback into account as they continue to develop the service.

Measures of success

- 4.1 The Yard as a grant award holder is required to complete a funding agreement that details SMART targets to be achieved within the funding period. The achievement of these targets contributes to the outcomes in the Integrated Plan for Children and Young People.

Financial impact

- 5.1 There are no financial impacts as a result of this report.

Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

- 6.1 A funding agreement with The Yard is in place and an officer from Communities and Families has been identified to monitor the progress against the targets agreed. This is in line with the grant monitoring practice for the Communities and Families 2016-19 Main Grants Programme.

Equalities impact

- 7.1 The service sets out to benefit families with a disabled child (under five) and the views of the parents have been sought to ensure that the new grants award holder delivers a service that most closely meets these needs.

Sustainability impact

- 8.1 There is no sustainability impact.

Consultation and engagement

- 9.1 The consultation with parents has been documented above in the main section.

Background reading/external references

- 10.1 [Early Years Disability Services Grant Programme 2017-19](#)

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Links

Coalition pledges

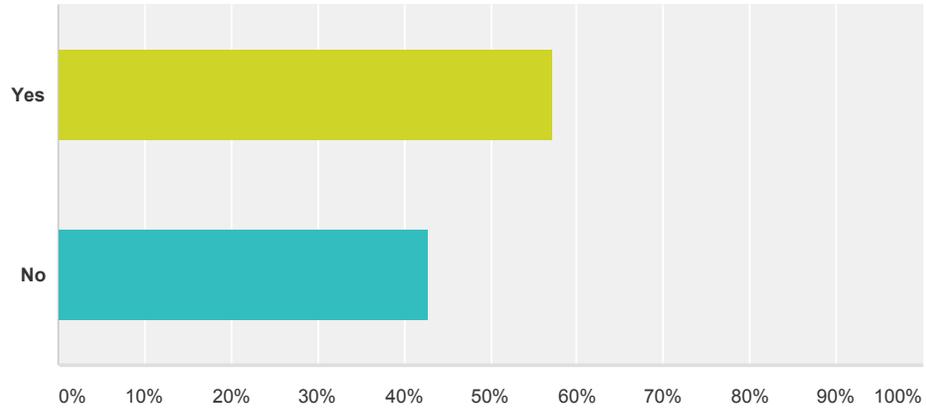
Council priorities

Single Outcome Agreement

Appendices 1 Survey questionnaire responses

Q1 Did you use the Westerlea service previously delivered by Capability Scotland?

Answered: 7 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	57.14%	4
No	42.86%	3
Total		7

Q2 What are the two good things about the service at the Yard?

Answered: 7 Skipped: 0

Answer Choices	Responses
1	100.00% 7
2	100.00% 7

#	1	Date
1	Staff are friendly	5/15/2017 2:06 AM
2	Lay out. Big open space and great outdoors	5/7/2017 2:35 PM
3	No judgement	5/5/2017 4:21 PM
4	space	5/2/2017 10:54 PM
5	The location	5/1/2017 1:06 PM
6	The facilities are excellent	5/1/2017 8:18 AM
7	Secure and safe	5/1/2017 7:52 AM
#	2	Date
1	Great space	5/15/2017 2:06 AM
2	Staff is willing to learn and listen to parents	5/7/2017 2:35 PM
3	Great staff	5/5/2017 4:21 PM
4	garden	5/2/2017 10:54 PM
5	The staff	5/1/2017 1:06 PM
6	The staff are open and willing to listen to the users requirements	5/1/2017 8:18 AM
7	The staff are amazing with the kids	5/1/2017 7:52 AM

Q3 Can you think of two things you would change to make it better?

Answered: 5 Skipped: 2

Answer Choices	Responses
1	100.00% 5
2	100.00% 5

#	1	Date
1	Allowing the children more time to respond with signing and communication	5/15/2017 2:06 AM
2	Have a communication session, perhaps with help of Speech and Language therapist to promote exercises and help children with this area that usually is difficult for them and brings bad behaviour, frustration etc when they are unable to communicate their needs	5/7/2017 2:35 PM
3	more professional groups	5/2/2017 10:54 PM
4	More focus on communication and interaction	5/1/2017 1:06 PM
5	Providing respite service	5/1/2017 8:18 AM
#	2	Date
1	There's too many distraction either with other staff or resources lying out. The children need to be focused on the session and the leader.	5/15/2017 2:06 AM
2	Staff continues training in signing, and other training helpful to work with children with disabilities	5/7/2017 2:35 PM
3	small, quiet room so kids can focus there	5/2/2017 10:54 PM
4	More circle time	5/1/2017 1:06 PM
5	More classes - dancing, sports	5/1/2017 8:18 AM

Q4 Please use this space to tell us more about any of your answers or to say anything else about your experience of your time at The Yard.

Answered: 7 Skipped: 0

#	Responses	Date
1	I would like if parents were allowed more time to enjoy snacks together and catch up after sessions. Volunteers should come with their child and not work those sessions its unfair if they are distracted with their child. Maybe a 2-3 group for more mobile children would work so parents feel more secure allowing more movement for little ones still rolling around. Workers need to be mindful of the focus with the children and try not to chat through sessions or interrupt leader as well as parents checking phones and chatting to each other which can cause distractions. I'd like to say though the staff are willing to listen and change which has been great and all feedback has been taken really well. It's very early days so its all still new to everyone.	5/15/2017 2:06 AM
2	I'm very pleased with the effort the yard has put in this new service for 0-5. I think Danielle is making sure they are able to offer appropriate sessions for each age group,0-2, 3-5 in different days and time. It's still very early days but I'm very happy at the yard and my children too.	5/7/2017 2:35 PM
3	I am a parent of a two year old who's currently being diagnosed. I felt a prisoner in my own home as my daughter is not physically disabled so would often struggle when she was challenging in public as I felt so judged. The yard is now a home from home, a safe place where I feel for the first time in a while I can breathe. Danielle the leader of early years is wonderfully understanding and is exceptional in her role! There's no place quite like it!	5/5/2017 4:21 PM
4	I'm very happy with the Yard. Hopefully we will get soon the therapies our kids so desperately need.	5/2/2017 10:54 PM
5	Trudy is getting to the age when she is responding to signing and wanting to communicate but can't. This is a good opportunity to encourage her communication.	5/1/2017 1:06 PM
6	Our experience has been excellent. We are delighted to be able to attend such a greet place and it's clear that the early years service is something they are all committed to.	5/1/2017 8:18 AM
7	The yard is a fab place where I can take my son who has autism and developmental delay to play and have fun the new 0-5 service that has just started is amazing the staff are willing to listen to the parents and change anything to make your visit more enjoyable I can't think of anything that needs to change it's a great non judgemental environment that I can take my other kids along too which really helps	5/1/2017 7:52 AM