

## 60392 Scottish Government Community Mental Health Fund

I am writing to request information relating to the Scottish Government Community Mental Health Fund, Phase 2, and its implementation within the City of Edinburgh, which is overseen primarily by the Education Department.

### **Use of the Community Mental Health Fund – Phase 2**

Please provide information on how Phase 2 funding of the Community Mental Health Fund is being used to ensure the mental health and wellbeing needs of non-school aged children and young people, including those aged 16–25, are being met.

It is important to recognise Community Mental Health Funds (CMHF) are one aspect of a wider Community Mental Health approach including services that are funded through other channels, e.g. Wider Achievement, CAMHS, GPs, adult community mental health funds and Edinburgh Thrive. It is the collective strategy that seeks to ensure and support mental health and wellbeing of children and young people. There will be some scope for funded locality providers to work with 16- to 25-year-olds, however, the priority group for children and young people specific services are our school-aged population.

Specifically, please provide:

- a) Details of all services, programmes, or interventions funded through Phase 2 that are intended to support non-school aged children and young people (16-25 years old).
- b) The eligibility criteria and referral routes for each service for this age group.
- c) Any needs assessments, equality impact assessments, or other analysis used to inform decisions about provision for non-school aged children and young people.

Information is not available as services have not yet been procured.

### **Pathways and Access to Support**

Please provide information on the pathways being created or used under Phase 2 for non-school aged children and young people, including:

- a) How children and young people who are not accessing school-based services can access mental health and wellbeing support funded through Phase 2.

Funded providers will be able to use community venues.

- b) Any formal referral pathways between third sector organisations, Education Wellbeing Services, NHS services, or other statutory services.

Funded services will support the GIRFEC process through those who are acting in the Named Person role by establishing close relationships with learning communities and support will then be accessed through this or using an agreed referral process. As providers are not yet in place, it is not possible to give more detail at this time. Single Point of Access will continue to develop locality links and collaboration across services and through services interfacing in a whole systems approach.

- c) Arrangements in place to ensure continuity of support for children and young people transitioning from Phase 1 provision or between services.

As per the council process, at the end of all contracts, there is a process for exit planning. This is clearly stated at the start of all contracts. These contracts will have reached their full-term and there has been on-going communication regarding this requirement.

### **Risk Management and Transition from Phase 1**

Please provide:

- a) Any risk assessments, transition plans, or mitigation strategies relating to the closure or cessation of services funded under Phase 1.

This is covered in the Integrated Impact Assessment (see link below) and, as noted above, exit planning is a requirement of all contracts.

<https://democracy.edinburgh.gov.uk/documents/g7758/Public%20reports%20pack%2020th-Jan-2026%2010.00%20Education%20Children%20and%20Families%20Committee.pdf?T=10>

- b) Information on how risks to children and young people with complex mental health needs, including those experiencing suicidal ideation or self-harm, are being managed during the transition to Phase 2.

Those that are at high risk of harm due to serious mental health issues are a priority for CAMHS specialist support and are not the target group for CMH funds.

### **Equality and Inclusion**

Please provide information on how Phase 2 funding and service design address the needs of equality groups, including but not limited to Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) children and young people, young women, care leavers and other marginalised groups, including:

- a) Any equality impact assessments undertaken in relation to Phase 2.

IIA has been undertaken. (see link below)

<https://democracy.edinburgh.gov.uk/documents/g7758/Public%20reports%20pack%2020th-Jan-2026%2010.00%20Education%20Children%20and%20Families%20Committee.pdf?T=10>

- b) How the knowledge and expertise of local community-based and equality-focused organisations are being incorporated into service design and delivery.

It is recognised that there is a high level of intersectionality in relation to mental health with poverty as a primary cause and the strongest determinant for the emergence of mental health difficulties. This is reflected in the Integrated Impact Assessment. As such all providers should evidence that they have an on-going commitment to equality-focussed approaches.

### **Implementation Group – Membership and Governance**

Please provide full details of the implementation group overseeing Phase 2 of the Community Mental Health Fund within the Education Department, NHS, Wider Council team, Social Work and Third Sector including:

a) The name of the group.

Community Mental Health Implementation Group - The Community Mental Health and Single Point of Access is a sub-group of the Children's Partnership.

b) The role, job title, and organisation of each member of the group.

Please refer to the table below.

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Job Title</b>	<b>Purpose in Group</b>
City of Edinburgh Council	Head of Education (Inclusion)	Project Sponsor
City of Edinburgh Council	Service Manager Mental health and Wellbeing (Lead Officer)	Project Lead
City of Edinburgh Council	Whole Family Wellbeing Trauma Coordinator	To provide specialist advice
City of Edinburgh Council	Principal Psychologist	To provide specialist advice
City of Edinburgh Council	Depute Principal Psychologist	To provide specialist advice
City of Edinburgh Council	Wider Achievement Manager (Parent & Carer Support, Wellbeing & Coordinator	To provide specialist advice
City of Edinburgh Council	Head Teacher (Secondary)	To provide specialist advice
City of Edinburgh Council	Head Teacher (Primary)	To provide specialist advice
City of Edinburgh Council	Lifelong Learning Development Officer – Sport & Physical Activity	To provide specialist advice
City of Edinburgh Council	Children's Practice Team Manager	To provide specialist advice
NHS	4 x NHS colleagues representing City of Edinburgh Council's Edinburgh Health & Social Care Partnership	To provide specialist advice
EVOC	1 x Representative from Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations Council	To provide specialist advice
LAYC	1 x Representative from Lothian Association of Youth Clubs	To provide specialist advice
Police Scotland	3 x Representatives from Police Scotland	To provide specialist advice

c) The remit, terms of reference, and decision-making authority of the group.

The remit of the group is to make recommendations to the Children's Partnership who has strategic oversight of City of Edinburgh work in relation to improving outcomes for Children and Young People. This sits within the wider Edinburgh Partnership.

The CMH Implementation Group seek agreement on recommendations from the Children's Partnership; this as a sub-group does not have its own terms of reference but has a clear mandate from the Children's Partnership as set out in the Children's Partnership.

Whilst the Children's Partnership holds decision making responsibility following recommendations from the group, the group also reports to the Joint Commissioning Board in relation to proposed spending and to the relevant council committee.

d) The frequency of meetings and how decisions are recorded and communicated.

The Implementation Group meets regularly to review CMH data and reports, to take recommendations to the Children's Partnership, and reports to the Joint Commissioning Board in relation to proposed spending and to the relevant council committee. Reporting and recording align to the requirements of the Children's Partnership, relevant board, or committee.