

## **Update on the Midlothian Early Action Partnership (MEAP) and the 100 Day Challenge**

**Report by Joan Tranent, Head of Children's Services and Interim Head of Education**

### **1. Purpose of Report**

This report provides Council with an update on the Midlothian Early Action Partnership's (MEAP) '100 Day Challenge'.

### **2. Background**

**2.1** In 2018, Midlothian Community Planning Partners were awarded funding over five years from the National Lottery Early Action System Change Fund; the *Midlothian Early Action Partnership* (MEAP) project was established to effect system change so that children, young people and young adults get timely and appropriate mental health support. The proposal responded to perceived weaknesses in community-based support and prevention, and pressures on those services providing high-support interventions.

**2.2** Partners include Midlothian Council, NHS Lothian Central Services, Midlothian Health and Social Care Partnership, Midlothian Sure Start, Midlothian Third Sector Interface (Midlothian Voluntary Action), Midlothian Young People's Advice Service (MYPAS), and Midlothian Youth Platform (MYP). The target group of MEAP extends from children aged five years to young adults of 25 years, and so it firmly includes groups such as young parents, as well as encompassing both children's and adult services.

**2.3** Nesta and Healthcare Improvement Scotland's Improvement Hub (ihub) has supported MEAP to catalyse their efforts, testing ideas using Nesta's '100 Day Challenge' approach. 100 Day Challenges are intensive periods of action and collaboration. System and organisational leaders are supported to break down longer term strategies into challenges with measurable objectives. Frontline practitioners and citizens set ambitious goals, and develop and test creative solutions in real conditions. Appendix 1 provides an overview of Midlothian's 100 Day Challenge.

### **3. Report Implications**

#### **3.1 Resources**

No additional resources are required as a result of this report.

#### **3.2 Risk**

Operational risks are dealt with through the project's risk register.

Resources have been built into the project plans to ensure measures are established to prove the quality, impact and effectiveness of all 'tests of change'.

### **3.3 Single Midlothian Plan and Business Transformation**

Themes addressed in this report:

- ☐ Community safety
- ☒ Adult health, care and housing
- ☒ Getting it right for every Midlothian child
- ☐ Improving opportunities in Midlothian
- ☐ Sustainable growth
- ☒ Business transformation and Best Value
- ☐ None of the above

### **3.4 Key Priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan**

The aims of the Midlothian Early Action Partnership (MEAP) strongly align with the key priorities noted in the Single Midlothian Plan; in particular, the three-year (2017-2020) outcomes identified for GIRFEMC:

1. Children in their early years and their families are being supported to be safe, healthy, to learn and to be resilient.
2. All Midlothian children and young people are being offered access to timely and appropriate support.
3. Children and young people are supported to be healthy, happy and reach their potential.
4. Inequalities in learning outcomes have reduced.

### **3.5 Impact on Performance and Outcomes**

Working in a truly collaborative way has enabled us to solve challenges together and to provide greater insight into further collaborative working opportunities, to improve the mental health of children, young people and young adults.

### **3.6 Adopting a Preventative Approach**

All of the work of the Midlothian Early Action Partnership is focused on how we can move from a reactive to a proactive mental health system, focusing on skills-based programmes, preventive work, the identification of difficulties and targeted interventions.

### **3.7 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders**

During the 100 Day Challenge, 175 children, young people, families and carers were involved; 42 team members and over 19 organisations participated.

The five-year project has a strong co-production orientation and will continue to reflect children's, young people and young adults' voices and stories, using these as a basis for action.

### **3.8 Ensuring Equalities**

There is no policy change as a result of this report however, the premise of the Early Action System Change fund is to tackle the root causes of inequality, by helping local organisations collaborate to make the shift to early action and system change, so that people have better lives.

### **3.9 Supporting Sustainable Development**

There are no sustainability issues with regard to this report.

### **3.10 IT Issues**

There are no IT issues arising from this report.

## **4 Summary**

Through the *Midlothian Early Action Partnership* (MEAP) project, three cross-system teams, each with a specific cohort focus area, were brought together to spend 100 days experimenting and testing their ideas. The challenge learning agenda was developed by the leadership group as part of the design work, and was based on their knowledge and experience, as well as responses to the Midlothian Youth Platform survey on mental health and wellbeing.

## **5 Recommendations**

- a) To note the commitment and willingness of people across services to work together, to make the shift to early action and system change, so that people have better lives.
- b) Further reports will be presented, to keep Midlothian Council updated on the progress of the Midlothian Early Action Partnership (MEAP) project.

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#### **Background Paper:**

**Appendix 1: Midlothian 100 Day Challenge Final Summary Report**