

Whole Family Wellbeing Funding (WFWF) Year 1 Process Evaluation Interim Report



CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND SKILLS

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Executive Summary

This report presents the interim findings from a process evaluation of Elements 1 and 2 of the Scottish Government Whole Family Wellbeing Funding (WFWF) in its first year of operation. It explores the early journey of change of Children's Services Planning Partnerships (CSPPs) since receiving this funding, and early evidence of implementation in respect to funding administration, and the design and set-up of funded activities. Findings are based on research carried out between September 2022 to February 2023. A full evaluation report of Year 1 will be available in early 2024.

[Annex 4](#) of this report contains a full glossary of terms and acronyms specific to the WFWF.

Background and evaluation objectives

In Scotland, family support is a range of services to help families meet their individual needs, to thrive and to stay together. The vision is for holistic family support to be readily available to all families that need it. The Scottish Government wants to ensure that families are able to access the help they need, where and when they need it. This supports the ambition to create a Scotland where more children will only know care, compassion and love, and not a 'care system.'¹

To support this vision, the WFWF is a Scottish Government investment of at least £500m over the lifetime of this Parliament (2022-2026). A critical part of this investment is helping Children's Services Planning Partnerships implement whole system transformational change. This funding will focus on the system changes required to shift investment towards early intervention and prevention activities, to ensure families can access support before they reach crisis point.

In September 2022, the Scottish Government commissioned IFF Research, an independent research and evaluation agency, to undertake an evaluation of the implementation of Year 1 of Elements 1 and 2 of WFWF.² The overarching aims of this evaluation are to:

- Provide an overview of types of activity the Element 1 and 2 funding is being used for.
- Understand local delivery partners' views on how Element 1 and 2 funding has been used.
- Understand children, young people and families' experiences of family support services that have received Element 1 and 2 funding, and the extent to which this has achieved short-term outcomes (as far as possible).

¹ [Whole Family Wellbeing Funding - Getting it right for every child \(GIRFEC\) - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

² For a description of the different Elements of the WFWF, please see [Annex 4](#).

- Provide evidence for policy and practice to inform future improvement of the WFWF and whole system transformational change.

The interim data which the findings in this report are based on are:

- **14 qualitative interviews with 25 strategic leads and managers of WFWF funded activities in six case study CSPPs (see [Annex 3](#)).** These interviews explored the needs and existing activities of CSPPs, their plans for using the WFWF, any early experiences of implementation, and expectations of implementation going forward. Two of the six case study CSPPs are involved in both Element 1 and 2, the remaining four are only involved in Element 1.
- **Analysis of 30 CSPP³ WFWF initial plans for Element 1 funding.** The analysis was to support the Scottish Government and the IFF team's understanding of how CSPPs intended to use their initial funding allocation, and to help inform the design of other evaluation activities. For example, how to best monitor progress over time, to inform annual report guidance and the case study research materials.

Key findings

CSPP views on Scottish Government's support role

The WFWF was welcomed and appreciated by CSPPs. CSPP strategic leads and managers shared the Scottish Government's vision for the funding and agreed with its aims and objectives⁴, particularly its emphasis on early intervention and prevention. The funding was described as an innovative opportunity for them to develop better ways of working to support the whole family, increase current offerings and upscale holistic family support models.

The Scottish Government's communication with WFWF leads and support provided to CSPPs was perceived by strategic leads and managers as helpful to the delivery of WFWF activities. CSPP strategic leads and managers appreciated having a direct, named link into Scottish Government, and praised the WFWF leads for their timely responses and commitment to finding answers to their questions. Element 2 CSPPs initially had a different contact for each of Element 1 and 2. They felt that having the same contact may bring about efficiencies to their ways of working. As a result, Scottish Government allocated a single point of contact for CSPPs with both Element 1 and 2 funding as of autumn 2022.

There were a few areas where CSPPs requested more opportunities for knowledge sharing between CSPPs and support from the Scottish Government. These included collecting data to evidence the performance of their WFWF activity, and

³ Tayside Regional Improvement Collaborative implements one Children's Services Plan for the areas of Angus, Dundee and Perth and Kinross. For the WFWF Element 1 Initial Plans, separate plans were submitted by each of the three areas. Two initial plans had not been submitted to the Scottish Government at the time of undertaking the analysis.

⁴ [Whole Family Wellbeing Funding - Getting it right for every child \(GIRFEC\) - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

how to plan for the sustainability of their WFWF-funded support beyond the funding period.⁵

Experiences of designing and planning WFWF funded support

The overarching aims of the WFWF align well with how the strategic leads and managers described their CSPPs' overall direction of travel and view of their priorities locally. All CSPP visions for the WFWF mirrored the focus of the funding on improving provision of early intervention and prevention.

To decide on their WFWF priorities and activities, CSPPs consulted with CSPP partners and children, young people and families, and interrogated existing data to understand local need.

WFWF implementation and progress to date

All six case study CSPPs focused on getting the right resource and staffing in place for newly created roles that will be involved in the development and delivery of WFWF activity. Most CSPPs experienced pressures in recruiting the appropriate staff. CSPP strategic leads and managers reported the main difficulties to be a lack of local applicants and the temporary nature of the funding, meaning CSPPs could only recruit staff on less appealing fixed-term contracts. To overcome this, a few CSPPs decided to fill WFWF-related vacancies with existing staff rather than by advertising new roles. At the time interviews were completed by February 2023, four of the six case study CSPPs had recruited all or nearly all their roles, and the vacancies for the remaining two CSPPs remained.

Four of the six case study CSPPs have progressed to starting delivery of new support funded through the WFWF or expanding existing service provision. Essential for implementation progress was the role of a dedicated lead for driving forward the WFWF and leading on coordination across CSPP partners and the third sector. Those CSPPs focusing on expanding existing provision felt that this also gave them an advantage to progress at pace.

WFWF monitoring and outcomes

The intended outcomes of WFWF are summarised in the logic model developed by Scottish Government (see [Annex 1](#)). Of those intended outcomes, the most common outcomes CSPPs intend to deliver with their WFWF activities are to embed holistic whole family support; (re)design whole family support; and improve children, young people, and families' access to support. The less common intended outcomes are to; innovate; develop a holistic workforce approach; and invest locally in planning system change. The final evaluation report will discuss progress towards these outcomes.

CSPPs understand the importance of evidencing their progress and outcomes for WFWF, beyond Year 1. Most CSPPs included plans for monitoring and/or

⁵ The current statutory Children's Services Planning cycle runs from 2020-2023. The next planning cycle runs from April 2023-2026.

evaluation activity in their initial plans beyond the evaluation delivered by IFF. This ranged from CSPPs using existing data to evidence outcomes to collecting baseline data.

Scoping how best to monitor performance, including the exact metrics relevant for their WFWF activities, continues to be a main activity for CSPPs. For some, their plans involve building their analysis capacity, either through hiring or freeing up capacity from analysts or data officers. For others, their plans include implementing new IT software to better track and measure outcomes.

CSPPs identified some risks to their ability to effectively measure their progress towards achieving WFWF outcomes. Risks include practitioners having the time and skills to record information needed and collect qualitative evidence of children, young people, and families' experiences to help explain statistical analysis they plan to undertake; monitoring many different services and supporting and linking these together to assess whether WFWF is bringing about a systems change; measuring less tangible outcomes, such as collaboration between partners, service integration and shared accountability across partners; and attributing any changes observed to WFWF.

Conclusions and considerations

As a process evaluation running in parallel to the development and delivery of WFWF, early insights can help improve and enhance WFWF as it is developing. Based on the evidence in CSPPs' initial CSPP plans, and the discussions with six case study strategic leads and managers, the IFF team offer the following considerations and opportunities for how the Scottish Government and CSPPs can continue to work collaboratively together to deliver the vision of the WFWF. These considerations reflect evidence gathered to date from the evaluation and therefore should be considered within this context of the early stages of the WFWF.

CSPPs and the Scottish Government are encouraged to work together to:

- Support CSPPs to explore the sustainability of their WFWF activity and plan longer-term spending, beyond the funding payment milestones and embedding activity into business as usual.
- Continue to find ways for CSPPs to share knowledge, best practice and learning with each other from their WFWF activity. Examples of topics CSPPs suggested covering include:
 - Ways of engaging and working in collaboration with third sector partners and the channels/forums CSPPs are finding most useful to do so quickly and effectively;
 - Ideas and solutions to support with recruitment, including around hiring staff using time-limited WFWF;
 - Ideas about how to assess the quality of their data and the ways they could use it to inform their monitoring, practically and relative to their capacity for doing so.

- Continue regular communication between the Scottish Government and CSPPs on key information for CSPPs about the WFWF, for example, timescales for future stages of the WFWF, and about how and when this can best be communicated to meet CSPP needs.
- Continue to work together to support CSPPs to articulate their intended outcomes of the WFWF. This would be a useful step before then considering how best to measure these with either existing evidence or through new evidence collection.

Background and approach

Policy background

The Scottish Government wants to ensure that families are able to access the help they need, where and when they need it. The ambition is to create a Scotland where more children will only know care, compassion and love, and not a 'care system.'⁶ Within this, holistic family support should address the needs of children and adults in a family at the time of need rather than at crisis point.

About the Whole Family Wellbeing Funding

The Scottish Government is investing at least £500m through the WFWF over the life of this Parliament (2022-2026) to support whole system transformational change with the aim of reducing the need for crisis intervention in families, and to shift investment towards prevention and early intervention. The WFWF is split into three elements:

- **Element 1:** Funding provided to all CSPPs to support the scale up and delivery of holistic whole family support in local areas. This funding can also be used to build local capacity for achieving transformational change needed in how families are supported, for example, by recruiting a small team to support the CSPP plan for this funding or buying in additional transformational expertise to support leadership discussions.
- **Element 2:** Support to build local capacity for transformational system change in how families are supported. This includes:
 - a) collaborative partnerships between a Scottish Government-led transformation team and three CSPPs (East Ayrshire, Glasgow City and East Lothian) to drive whole system change in family support at the local and national level. The partnerships work through a structured process to accelerate practical learning about the national and local systemic change required to deliver holistic family support.
 - b) a Learning into Action Network to facilitate collaboration, sharing of learning and approaches, discussions on key implementation issues and peer support.
- **Element 3:** Supporting national level policy delivery, which drives and supports those outcomes sought from the WFWF.

⁶ [Whole Family Wellbeing Funding - Getting it right for every child \(GIRFEC\) - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/whole-family-wellbeing-funding-getting-it-right-for-every-child-girfec/pages/10-12.aspx)

Year 1 is also about the exploration and understanding of children services as a "complex system." This recognises that it is made up of diverse, interacting actors and parts that learn from one another, and one which can have outcomes that are challenging to assess. As such, it is vital that holistic family support and this evaluation are alert and responsive to this dynamic nature of the policy and practice context.

Provision of holistic family support is fundamental to the development and delivery of each area's three year Children's Services Plan, as reflected in statutory review criteria within [Part 3 of the statutory guidance \(Appendix A pgs. 79-80\)](#). Holistic family support focusses on joining up provision for families across a range of services provided by different organisations (e.g. agencies, professionals, the third sector, trusted partners). This aims to avoid a multitude of services addressing specific, isolated and individual issues within families. The likelihood of success is not based on the specific individual support, but on a relationship of trust between families and workers.

Year 1 evaluation objectives and approach

In September 2022, the Scottish Government commissioned IFF Research to undertake an evaluation of the implementation of Year 1 of Elements 1 and 2 of WFWF (a 'process evaluation'⁷) to ensure that lessons are learned to inform future policy and practice in the CSPPs. Parallel research of Element 2's specific approach is currently being undertaken by Rocket Science and Blake Stevenson⁸, and evidence from Element 3 activity will be integrated into the evaluation from 2024.

The overarching aims of this Year 1 evaluation are to:

- Provide an overview of types of activity the Element 1 and 2 funding is being used for.
- Understand local delivery partners' views on how Element 1 and 2 funding has been used.
- Understand children, young people, and families' experiences of family support services that have received Element 1 and 2 funding, and the extent to which this has achieved short-term outcomes (as far as possible).
- Provide evidence for policy and practice to inform future improvement of the WFWF and whole system transformational change.

Figure 1 outlines the activities that will deliver the evaluation aims set out above.

Figure 1. WFWF Year 1 Evaluation approach overview

⁷ A process evaluation explores how an initiative (in this case the WFWF) was designed and delivered. It typically explores questions such as: was the initiative delivered as intended; what worked well/less well, for whom and why; what could be improved; what we can learn for future initiatives.

⁸ Independent research and evaluation contractors commissioned to conduct research related to Element 2, see [Annex 4](#).

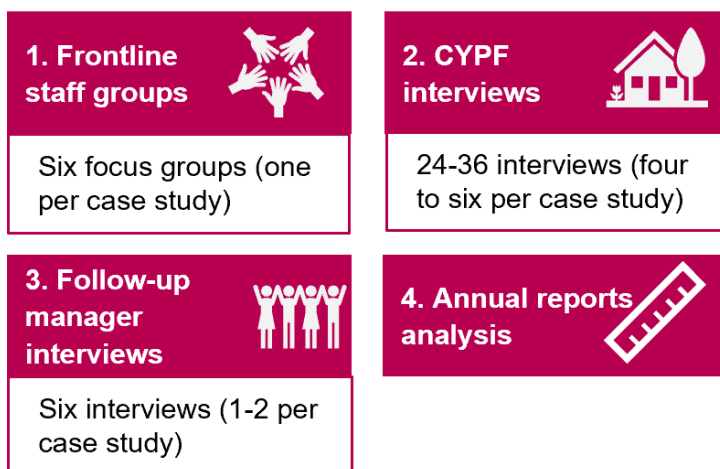
Scoping and set-up: Sept - Nov 2022



Wave 1 (the focus of this report): Nov 2022 – Feb 2023



Wave 2: April – August 2023



Final analysis & outputs: August – December 2023



Reading this report

This report presents the findings of the mid-term independent evaluation of Elements 1 and 2 of the WFWF in Year 1. It covers WFWF set-up activities from

September 2022 to February 2023. The next (and final) evaluation report from Year 1 will cover all evaluation activity to June 2023.

Findings in this report are based on interim data and the final evaluation report may present a different view of the findings, conclusions and recommendations. The full, final evaluation report will be available in early 2024. The findings in this report are based on:

- **Qualitative interviews capturing the views of 25 strategic leads and managers of WFWF funded activities in six case study CSPPs** (see [Annex 3](#) for detail on case study selection). Strategic leads were typically directors/chief officers or senior managers within children, families and justice services. Managers interviewed were typically within the social work team or service managers with some responsibility for WFWF (or an element of funded activity) in their CSPP. The interviews explored the needs and existing activities of CSPPs, their plans for using the WFWF, any early experiences of implementation, and expectations of implementation going forward. Two of the six case study CSPPs are involved in both Element 1 and 2, the remaining four are only involved in Element 1.
- **Analysis of 30 CSPP⁹ WFWF initial plans for Element 1 funding** to support the Scottish Government and the IFF team's understanding of how CSPPs intended to use their initial funding allocation, and to help inform the design of other evaluation activities, including how to best monitor progress over time, to inform annual report guidance and inform the case study research materials. Findings from this analysis were shared with the Scottish Government and CSPPs in January 2023 and are included within this report.

This report has been structured around the evaluation research questions that can be reported on at this interim stage. Table 1, overleaf, shows the section name and the research questions covered within that section. Please see the '[evaluation next steps](#)' section at the end of this report for details on remaining evaluation activity.

⁹ Tayside Regional Improvement Collaborative implements one Children's Services Plan for the areas of Angus, Dundee and Perth and Kinross. For the WFWF Element 1 Initial Plans, separate plans were submitted by each of the three areas. Two initial plans had not been submitted to the Scottish Government at the time of undertaking the analysis.

Table 1. WFWF Year 1 Evaluation research questions

Section	Research questions covered at this interim stage
1. CSPP views on Scottish Government's support role	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To what extent and how did the approach taken by the Scottish Government in terms of allocation of funding, mechanisms of distribution and support, contribute to CSPPs' ability to scale up holistic family support services and drive system change?
2. Experiences of designing and planning WFWF support	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What activities, audiences and topics were CSPPs targeting (or not targeting) their funding towards?• How did funding used compare with pre-existing provision?• How were funding decisions within CSPPs taken?• What audiences were consulted and in what ways, including delivery staff, wider partners, families, young people?
3. WFWF implementation and progress to date	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What were CSPP experiences of: design, set-up, structure, practice, workforce, partnership, managing change?
4. WFWF monitoring and outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How was performance monitored, by whom, when, targets, mitigations to demonstrate impact?
5. Conclusions and considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What are the considerations for 2023-2026 funding and practice?

1. CSPP views on the Scottish Government's support role

Introduction

This section explores the Scottish Government's support role in the administration of the WFWF, alongside CSPPs' initial CSPP views of the funding and their experience of developing their WFWF initial plans. The Scottish Government's role as funder was initially focussed on setting the aims and objectives of the funding, outlining the criteria, and putting in place processes and guidance to support CSPPs to begin designing their WFWF activities.

The Scottish Government provided CSPPs with a template for detailing their initial WFWF plans (see [Annex 5](#)). The initial plan template asked for information on their existing approach to holistic whole family support, planned activity for WFWF, anticipated outcomes for the first year, and intended monitoring activities. These plans were the first documentation of how CSPPs intended to spend their WFWF allocation for 2022-23. The initial plan template also contained detail on the allocation methodology for the WFWF, the aims of the funding (see [policy background](#) above), and the criteria for spending the funding.

CSPPs were awarded funding based on a formula which weighted allocations based on population of 0–17 -year-olds, rurality, children in low-income families, and Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD).¹⁰ CSPP funding levels can be grouped into three categories:

- 8 CSPPs each received £0.5m or less
- 13 CSPPs each received between £0.5m - £1m
- 9 CSPPs each received more than £1m

The lowest level of funding received by a CSPP was £0.132m and the highest was £4.7m. Across the six evaluation case studies, the lowest level of funding was £0.832m and the highest was £4.7m, with a mean of £1.933m.¹¹

The Scottish Government also identified WFWF leads to provide support to CSPPs throughout the funding period. Each CSPP was allocated a lead to be their direct point of contact.

As the WFWF moves through Year 1, strategic leads and managers felt that the Scottish Government has been responsive to the needs of CSPPs, looking to refine

¹⁰ Element 1 funding allocations can be found here: [Family Support Advisory Group: Whole Family Wellbeing Funding data - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

¹¹ Glasgow City (£4.7m); East Ayrshire (£0.832m); North Ayrshire (£0.959m); Aberdeen City (£1.025m); Fife (£2.289m); South Lanarkshire (£1.827m).

support and communications to better meet their needs. For example, adapting annual reporting requirements and guidance in accordance with feedback from CSPPs about their needs and preferences. As CSPPs are at different stages in their development of holistic whole family support, iterative responses to change across the lifetime of the funding period are a likely and necessary aspect of this programme within the children's services system.

Initial views on the WFWF

Element 1

The WFWF was welcomed and appreciated by CSPPs. CSPP strategic leads and managers shared the Scottish Government's vision for the funding and agreed with its aims and objectives (see [policy background](#) in previous section). The funding was described as an innovative opportunity for them to develop new ways of working to support the whole family and they valued the emphasis on early intervention and prevention. Leads and managers also praised the broad scope of the funding, in that CSPPs could focus on scaling up existing provision and build local capacity or choose to develop entirely new services:

"It's a really exciting opportunity for us to be actually given this type of money specifically for this and to focus on prevention and the whole family...[to] invest and support families that we have not really been able to do in this kind of way, at a very early stage..."

Strategic Lead

Strategic leads and managers would have welcomed more information about the practicalities of the funding's operation at the beginning of their involvement with the WFWF including the timeline of Year 1 funding and future funding availability to allow for more strategic planning. Requests were made for additional detail on criteria for spending the funding, and how the allocation of funding across CSPPs was decided (particularly for Element 2 collaborative support). It was felt this would have supported strategic leads and managers to develop their initial plans more quickly and confidently (see [Developing the initial plan](#) section below):

"Going back to almost the earliest points when we were talking about the WFWF, the question was why the Scottish Government took these very distinct approaches to different elements of the budget allocation [i.e. Element 1 and 2], and I don't know if they've articulated that particularly well...Our sense was 'just give us some money and we'll do the right thing' as opposed to [the Scottish Government's chosen approach of] being very prescriptive about [having different elements of funding]."

Strategic Lead

Element 2

Strategic leads and managers in our two case study areas involved with Element 1 and 2 welcomed being involved with both elements. Although they now understand

Element 2 as playing a complementary role to Element 1, strategic leads were initially unsure how the two elements would work together. At the time of fieldwork, strategic leads and managers felt that Element 2 offered an opportunity to consolidate the work started in Element 1, and to develop their data and evidencing systems to build a strong evidence base of what worked and what could be improved in their holistic whole family support offering:

"[To] get some support around data analysis and to understand our systems. That has been an opportunity through Element 2 that will actually support some of that Element 1 work."

Strategic Lead

Element 2 CSPPs would have welcomed more clarity on the difference between the two elements of the funding from the outset. They were unclear on the distinctive criteria and aims of the two elements when they began completing their Element 2 expressions of interest forms:

"The different elements and what they meant probably wasn't clear at first."

Strategic Lead

However, these CSPPs found that the expressions of interest process and ongoing conversations with their Scottish Government WFWF lead provided clarity on the distinctions between the elements. Ultimately, strategic leads and managers felt the two elements would work well together going forward.

CSPPs who applied for Element 2, but were unsuccessful, requested more detailed feedback on the rationale for the decision.¹² Strategic leads felt this would be helpful in supporting their design and delivery of Element 1 funding activities.

Developing the initial plan

Most CSPP strategic leads led on, or were heavily involved in, developing the initial plan. Commonly, plans were developed in collaboration with CSPP partners, either through existing working groups or ad hoc meetings to discuss the content of the plans and edits before reaching a final agreement. See the next section for how decisions on WFWF activity to fund were agreed.

The initial plan template was well received by CSPPs. Those who had been involved in drafting initial plans felt it was effective in supporting them to document their plans without placing a significant or unreasonable burden on them. This was primarily because CSPPs often already had a clear vision for how they wanted to deliver holistic whole family support in the area. For those CSPPs, it was just a question of fitting their existing plans into the WFWF template.

¹² All 16 CSPPs who submitted expressions of interest were offered an opportunity to receive feedback. To date, two CSPPs have been provided with feedback on request.

The relatively short timescales for developing the initial plans – CSPPs were given between July and October 2022 – was perceived by some CSPPs to limit their initial plans. A CSPP felt that there was limited time to discuss their plans with third sector partners before submitting the initial plan, and that they had to rush their decision-making processes (e.g., analysis of data) to meet the timescales.

Other CSPPs, however, valued the need for urgency and felt it gave them the opportunity to speed up their decision-making process around where to focus their holistic whole family support.

CSPPs felt they would have benefited from greater clarity on the milestones for the funding terms, including the specific deadlines for funding receipt and spend. This information would have given them a better sense for how to plan and design their approach to WFWF activities, especially across financial years.

Ongoing support from the Scottish Government

The Scottish Government’s communication with WFWF leads and support provided to CSPPs was perceived as helpful to the delivery of WFWF activities. CSPP strategic leads and managers appreciated having a direct, named link within the Scottish Government, and praised the WFWF leads for their timely responses and commitment to finding answers to their questions.

Element 2 CSPPs initially had a different contact for each of Element 1 and 2. They felt that having the same contact may bring about efficiencies to their ways of working. As a result, Scottish Government allocated a single point of contact for CSPPs with both Element 1 and 2 funding as of autumn 2022.

CSPPs also valued the monthly newsletter and learning events (via the national Learning into Action network), which gave them an opportunity to learn about how other CSPPs were approaching holistic whole family support:

“They do a newsletter which just came out last week and they talked at an event in Glasgow ... they are raising awareness at all key national groups. You also have your link person so any issues or questions or concerns you can phone or email your link person.”

Strategic Lead

To further support CSPPs, strategic leads and managers suggested it would be helpful to work with the Scottish Government to have more opportunities to understand other CSPP activity in relation to delivery of holistic whole family support. This included best practice and learning from overcoming common challenges and pitfalls in delivering holistic whole family support and achieving transformational change.

Collecting data to evidence the performance of their WFWF activity was also mentioned by several CSPPs as an area where they would welcome more support from the Scottish Government. For some CSPPs, this was around how to make sense of existing data collection, where they had large amounts of data collected

but were not able to utilise it to inform the design and delivery of support in their area. Others would have liked guidance on how to attribute outcomes to specific WFWF activities and how best to evidence the outcomes that are less tangible, such as greater collaboration between family support services:

"Some kind of partnership governance around this because it is such a partnership approach and agreeing to how we measure, really, how this is working. So, I suppose it's difficult to say in Year 1."

Manager

CSPPs were already considering the sustainability of their WFWF-funded support beyond the funding period which is currently set to end in 2026. The current statutory Children's Services Planning cycle runs from 2020-2023 and the next planning cycle runs from April 2023-2026. CSPPs would welcome the Scottish Government working with them to ensure the funding has a legacy. There was appetite among CSPPs for their WFWF activity to become business as usual but would welcome support from the Scottish Government to embed their activity beyond the lifetime of the funding.

2. Experiences of designing and planning WFWF support

Introduction

This section explores CSPPs' overarching WFWF priorities and their approaches to deciding on these priorities and the activities that would help them deliver on their vision.

The initial plan template provided guidance on the criteria for spending the funding and outlined an overarching emphasis on shifting investment towards early intervention and prevention activities, to ensure families can access the support they need before they reach a crisis point. More specifically, the template outlined that funding could be spent on:

- Scaling up existing transformational activity, with the funding only to be used to fund the scaled element (rather than to support business as usual activity).
- Providing additional resource and capacity to support transformation in the system, in line with key national policy initiatives. For example, The Promise.¹³
- Testing new approaches to delivering holistic whole family support.

The intended groups for WFWF activity to support include families determined to be most in need of support. For example children, young people, and families where there is a risk of a child or young person being taken into care and the six priority groups identified in the Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan¹⁴: lone-parent families, housing where someone is disabled, families with three or more children, minority ethnic families, families with a child under one year old, families where the mother is under 25 years old.

The Scottish Government advised CSPPs that their WFWF activity should ensure that:

- Planning and decision-making are collaborative across all CSPP partners;
- Decisions are based on an assessment of local need (including data in the CSPPs Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA));
- Decisions are taking with appropriate consultation with children, young people and families;

¹³ [About the promise - The Promise](#)

¹⁴ [Introduction - Best Start, Bright Futures: tackling child poverty delivery plan 2022 to 2026 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

- Whole Family Wellbeing funding is not used to replace or substitute funding for existing services, but supports investment in transformational activity; and
- Commissioning and procurement of services supports the outcomes sought from the funding, by building in plans for sustainability and ensuring that the appropriate range of third sector and community partners are involved.

CSPPs' Whole Family Wellbeing Funding priorities

These WFWF priority aims and criteria for spending align well with how the strategic leads and managers described their CSPPs' overall direction of travel and view of their priorities locally. All CSPPs' visions for the WFWF mirrored the focus of the funding on improving provision of early intervention and prevention support.

CSPP initial plans for Element 1 also highlighted a focus on increasing integration and ease of access, with the need to make the system easier for families to access in the community. Making support more joined-up, holistic and integrated and avoiding the duplication of support from organisations working in silos was a particular priority.

Most CSPP initial plans either do not specify their target beneficiaries (13 plans) or do not express plans to support any groups in particular (8 plans). Three CSPPs state in their plans that they will focus WFWF activity on the six priority groups identified in the Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan¹⁵ and another three plan to support children at the edge of care, in kinship care, who are adopted or requiring safe accommodation. Table 2, overleaf, summarises the anticipated groups that will be supported.

¹⁵ [Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan 2022-26 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/tackling-child-poverty-delivery-plan-2022-26/pages/112.aspx)

Table 2. Groups of service users CSPPs intend to support as part of WFWF activities.

Supported groups	Number of CSPPs
Six priority groups identified in the Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan: lone-parent families, housing where someone is disabled, families with three or more children, minority ethnic families, families with a child under one year old, families where the mother is under 25 years old.	3
Children at the edge of care, in kinship care, who are adopted or requiring safe accommodation	3
Families with LGBTQI+ children and young people	2
Parents with substance misuse	2
Families with children with neurodiversity needs	1
Children at risk of being exposed to trauma or in conflict with the law	1

Approaches to deciding on WFWF priorities and activity

The overall prioritisation and planning of WFWF activity was typically led by senior leaders working in children’s services. For example, chief social work officers or heads of children’s and justice services. Managers worked with these senior leaders from across CSPP partners and provided operational support and capacity for the planning and design of the WFWF activity.

In most CSPPs, working groups with representation across CSPP partners were established to help them develop their initial plan. The draft initial plan was then signed off by representatives from across the CSPP partners, before being submitted to the Scottish Government. Strategic leads and managers felt this approach had generally worked well. It was especially important to ensure CSPP partners felt able to input into the design process, and staff from across partner organisations took ownership and responsibility for designing and developing different activities.

The following sections detail the specific approaches CSPPs took to decide on WFWF priorities and activities and highlights any best practice and challenges.

Pre-WFWF reflection and development work

Prior to the announcement of the WFWF, some CSPPs were already having internal discussions about improving CSPP structure and governance, with aims to improve alignment across CSPP partners. CSPPs used the learning from these discussions to support them to determine their WFWF priorities. For example, before the WFWF began, a CSPP had agreed to hold more frequent board

meetings and set-up more structured working groups around specific priorities to help build greater accountability and ownership across CSPP partners. This meant that they could quickly establish a working group focussed on WFWF with representation from across the CSPP partners, which helped them to make decisions regarding WFWF at pace.

Many CSPPs had recently undertaken work to establish their priorities for children and family services in the aftermath of the pandemic including participation and engagement with children, young people, families and carers together with focused discussions with third sector organisations and undertaking a self-assessment of Whole Family Support using the Scottish Government's *Supporting Families: A National Self-Assessment Toolkit for Change*.

An example of this is East Ayrshire, whose experience is summarised in the Spotlight box overleaf. This had involved engaging children, young people, and families, collecting and analysing data on local need, and working with the third sector to map existing services. This meant that in initial conversations about WFWF, CSPP leads already had a good understanding of the priorities and needs of local people, as well as gaps and areas for improvement in existing provision. This meant they could move quickly to developing their initial plan and had a strong evidence base for using WFWF resources.

Spotlight on...

East Ayrshire was encouraged to rethink its approach to holistic family support after reading *The Promise* and the Independent Review of Adult Social Care¹⁶ (the Feeley report). The CSPP needed an approach that works for its geographically dispersed communities and allows earlier intervention. East Ayrshire developed the HEART model, an approach to community involvement in planning and commissioning services. It is a place-based community hub model, based around six hubs, to respond to local need. There are six community-based hubs, each with a lead and staff in place to develop capacity for more self-directed support to families. The model existed and plans were underway before WFWF, but the funding allowed the CSPP to 'be bolder' and 'work more quickly.'

Some CSPPs had discussed the WFWF with the Scottish Government before the formal creation of the funding. For example, one CSPP had an informal conversation with existing contacts at SG prior to the announcement of the funding. This helped them to understand about WFWF priorities, parameters of the funding and potential timescales, which supported their development of the initial plan. It was also felt that these pre-WFWF national-level discussions showed that the Scottish Government was interested in the work CSPPs were doing, and in continuing to support CSPPs.

¹⁶ [Adult Social Care: independent review - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/resources/documents/2022/04/Adult_Social_Care_independent_review.pdf)

Consulting children, young people and families

Engaging diverse children, young people, and families in the design of support is an activity required of CSPPs. All case study CSPPs consulted with children, young people, and families on their initial plans to some extent; the scale and extent of this varied.

CSPPs engaged children, young people, and families in a range of ways, reflecting the diversity of their service users and their knowledge of how best to consult them. For example:

- issuing an open request to families who had experience of social work intervention to explore what was missing before and during their support from social workers;
- inviting existing groups of service users to share their views on the proposed plans, such as children in care and family councils or working groups; and
- through a working group of partners auditing case files approaching those families to ask about what could have been more helpful at different times.

To engage disabled children, CSPPs involved parents and colleagues from education who have a different role in those children's lives.

Often CSPPs used existing channels of communication with children, young people, and families, including service feedback forms, and regular experience surveys. An example is Glasgow City, whose experience is summarised in the Spotlight box below. This was a relatively easy and quick way to gather insight from families, particularly around areas for improvement with existing support. Some CSPPs took this further and undertook specific activities to gather the views of children, young people, and families around their planned WFWF activity. For example, in-person engagement events and workshops with families. This more tailored activity typically had a broader focus than when using existing channels and meant CSPPs could gather more detailed insight into specific aspects of their WFWF design and planning (e.g., plans for new services).

Spotlight on...

Glasgow City consulted children, young people, and families through in-person engagement sessions throughout the city about their proposed development of Support Hubs. These locality hubs intended to provide a wide range of holistic whole-family support through a consortium of providers, including support with parenting skills, home skills (e.g., energy advice and managing bills), attending appointments and understanding children's development and neurodiversity needs.

Through the engagement sessions, facilitators learned that they had begun developing the Hubs with a pre-conceived idea of what children, young people, and families would benefit most from. As a result of the engagement, they learned families wanted more relational support and that the name of the proposed service did not convey this. This led to a change in the service name from Support Hubs to Support Networks, along with more of a focus on relational support.

Although the consultation activity was undertaken outside of WFWF, this helped them to act on the evidence gathered. Strategic leads felt that WFWF support enabled them to better use this evidence and focus more on relations with children, young people and families, as Support Networks are now a key WFWF priority.

While some CSPPs did carry out ad hoc engagement and consultation with children, young people, and families as part of the WFWF, this was not always the case. One CSPP noted that in hindsight, they would have undertaken more engagement with children, young people, and families, but were constrained by the timescales for drafting the initial plan.

“The one thing I wish we had done in hindsight is more co-production with children, young people, and families to get their thoughts on the proposed interventions.”

Strategic lead

Using data to understand local needs

CSPPs collected and analysed quantitative data to understand the needs of local families, impact of current interventions, and gaps in their current provision. Examples of data used included data from the JSNA, school attendance rates and post-school destinations, and local children's health data. Strategic leads and managers described using this data to confirm the focus of their activity (either geographically or for certain target groups) and to design which interventions would be funded by WFWF. This was felt to give strategic leads and managers confidence that they were using the funding in a way that would have the most impact. An example from Fife is summarised in the Spotlight box below.

Spotlight on...

A gap analysis of children's services performance in the previous two years informed Fife's decisions about what activities to use WFWF on to improve support to children, young people, and families.

To inform the development of a new service with the aim of preventing children and young people being taken into emergency care, managers interrogated data around emergency admissions into care, outcomes for children in care, such as school performance and employment, and use of other out-of-hours services such as services delivered in collaboration with the police. The analysis helped the managers to identify a weakness in current service provision: the absence of qualified staff working out-of-hours. This was contributing to children and young people being taken into emergency care.

After identifying this need, managers worked with stakeholders from the police, children's social care, education and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)¹⁷ to design a new residential service for families with children over 12. This involves outreach workers being on call 24/7 to deal with emergencies as they arise. WFWF monies are being used to establish this new service.

Involvement of third sector partners

Involvement of all partners is a requirement of WFWF, including third sector partners. All six case study CSPPs reported involving third sector partners in discussions around planned WFWF activity. It is important to note at this interim stage that the views of staff working in the third sector have not been gathered. Within the remaining evaluation activity, the views of third sector partners involved with ongoing WFWF activity will be gathered.

¹⁷ [Child And Adolescent Mental Health Services: national service specification - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)

“Partners recognise their important role in supporting the delivery of this [WFWF] work...We had support from the third sector...We had discussions about interpretations of what we heard. We then shared drafts [of the initial funding plan]; we then put the drafts out for waves of circulation beyond the core team.”

Strategic lead

Like in the case of engagement with children, young people, and families, CSPPs took a range of approaches to engage third sector partners in their initial plans. For example, hosting development days with multi-agency representation to discuss WFWF activity ideas; establishing working groups to develop plans for agreed priority areas; and tapping into existing networks of partners to canvass a wider range of community views (for example, a schools-based WFWF activity utilised the schools’ networks to consult other partners schools often work with). An example from Aberdeen City is summarised in the Spotlight box below.

Spotlight on...

Aberdeen City identified that children's needs in the area broadly fell into four categories: children who were at risk of experiencing trauma, children with a disability, children in contact with the law, and children on the edge of care. Aberdeen City then set up four multi-agency groups, including third sector parties, to carry out a series of in-depth reviews of the current support being offered within those four areas, and to begin to identify gaps in holistic provision and what could be development to make the existing support offer more effective. The findings from the reviews have continued to drive WFWF activity in Aberdeen City and supported the improvement of multi-agency working.

CSPP leads reported that some third sector partner organisations were initially confused about the funding and how it would be administered, thinking that third sector organisations would receive a significant part of the funds, separate from the CSPP. In response, strategic leads delivered workshops with third sector partners to explain what the WFWF is, the criteria, its aims, what the CSPP are doing and could be doing better for families, to invite their input.

It is important to note that in WFWF allocation letters, CSPPs were invited by the Scottish Government to request for a portion of their funding to be directly awarded through grant funding to third sector partners, for example through Third Sector Interfaces¹⁸. This arrangement was not requested by any CSPPs.

¹⁸ [Third sector interfaces - Third sector - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)

One CSPP found it difficult to gain consensus about WFWF plans amongst third sector partners during the design stage. The reason for this was where potential WFWF plans were felt to be similar, or in some cases duplicating, work felt by partners to already be delivered by third sector partners.

“Some of the feedback is they [Third Sector partners] feel as though they're doing some of this work already...”

Strategic Lead

This was addressed with ongoing discussion between all parties, facilitated by the strategic lead.

Some CSPPs also found it time-consuming to align partner activities and priorities with the overall CSPP strategy and aims. For example, across policy areas, such as alcohol and drugs, mental health alignment, children with care experience or at the ‘edges’ of the care system. This was seen to be an ongoing area of focus, to ensure that alignment continues throughout WFWF activity delivery:

“...we had to get a list of all of those agencies...so that we knew what each of us was offering and supporting at each of the tiered levels because there's not one place where you can see all of it together...And some of us use the same partner providers but in different ways, so it's making sure that we know who's using what for what purpose and how that all links together.”

Manager

3. WFWF implementation and progress to date

Introduction

This section explores CSPPs' early CSPP implementation of the WFWF, and the enablers and barriers to successful delivery experienced to date. It should be noted that CSPPs are at different stages in their delivery of WFWF, with some still being in the planning stages and others having already started delivering new support funded by WFWF, with some upscaling current transformation activity and expansion of current service to meet demand.

A maturity model was developed early in the evaluation to help illustrate findings from the analysis. It included the stage of each CSPP's journey to delivering transformative support based on CSPPs' initial plans for Element 1 of the WFWF (see [Annex 2](#)). The maturity model will be updated for the final report.

Key progress of implementation to date

All six case study CSPPs cited getting the right resource and staffing in place for the support being delivered as part of the WFWF, as a key priority to date. This has focussed on recruitment of staff into newly created roles that will in turn deliver support as part of the funding. Examples included recruiting additional practitioners and social workers, WFWF project leads and managers, and data analysts to support performance monitoring.

From the qualitative interviews, four of the six case study CSPPs have also progressed to delivery of support to children, young people, and families funded through the Element 1 WFWF or expanding existing service provision.

CSPPs are implementing new services to support children, young people, and families and provide holistic whole family support (see spotlight box below).

Spotlight on...

In North Ayrshire, half of the funding has been allocated to The Family Centred Wellbeing Service (FCWS) which reformed an existing and successful service, called SNAP. The service now reaches younger age groups in more localities. The FCWS helps families and children through early intervention to keep young people out of statutory services.

WFWF has also allowed North Ayrshire to employ more staff on the FCWS, although they are finding recruitment harder for senior practitioner posts as there are not enough candidates locally. Despite this, the project is well under way, and the CSPP reported early successes around improved partnership working across services, and practitioners are already seeing fewer referrals into statutory services for children and families being supported by the FCWS.

CSPPs are also working to strengthen the way families engage with services provided by the third sector by creating a single point of access to these services in their local area and help support effective collaboration (see spotlight box below).

Spotlight on...

Aberdeen City aims to minimise duplication and inefficiencies in support provision by developing a single referral system for use across all public services, commissioned services, and third sector partners.

To achieve this, they have contracted an external company to create an online portal that will allow staff across all services to have an overview of all available interventions. This will include how to access support, and to monitor the use of support. The portal is due to launch in summer 2023.

The two remaining CSPPs have focussed on scoping and set-up work. For example, having discussions locally about how to build capacity and where resources should best be directed.

Experiences of implementing WFWF activity to date

Factors enabling implementation to date

The fact that many CSPPs have focussed on expanding existing successful activities was felt to be an important factor in them being able to implement at pace. Building on existing services meant that CSPPs relied on an existing body of evidence and experience around what works for whom in their localities. In one CSPP, around half of the funding has gone into expanding an existing service, which they already saw as being successful, enabling them to set up a larger team working in new localities and with younger children.

“We felt it [the existing service] could be better. We had existing staff, and a small budget so how can we bolster what we already had.”

Manager

Many of the CSPP strategic leads highlighted the importance of the role of a dedicated lead for driving forward the WFWF and leading on coordination across CSPP partners and the third sector. This was both in terms of having the capacity to dedicate to the design and implementation of WFWF activity and to keep CSPP and third sector partners engaged:

“I have worked on lots of previous funding programmes, and we didn’t have someone whose role it was to just focus on delivering what we said we would for the funding. Having [the WFWF lead] has made it much easier because they are across everything and keeping it all on track.”

Strategic lead

Factors limiting the pace of implementation to date

Recruitment of staff to deliver WFWF activities has limited the pace of WFWF activity implementation for nearly all CSPPs. At the time of reporting four of the six case study CSPPs had recruited all or nearly all their roles, and the vacancies for the remaining two CSPPs remained.

CSPP strategic leads and managers reported the main difficulties to be a lack of local applicants and the temporary nature of the funding, meaning CSPPs could only recruit staff on less appealing fixed-term contracts. One CSPP observed that the short nature of the posts advertised may also have negatively affected the quality of applicants. To overcome this, a few CSPPs decided to fill WFWF-related vacancies with existing staff rather than by advertising new roles. See the spotlight box below.

Spotlight on...

To overcome difficulties recruiting employees for short-term contracts, Fife decided to recruit staff on a permanent basis, guaranteeing new recruits a job after the end of the WFWF. They also found it useful to recruit from existing staff and then backfilling those positions. This approach enabled Fife to recruit to fill roles in the two new services described in the section above (residential outreach and foster care support programmes).

However, this approach did come with risks around finding roles for these practitioners if the new WFWF activities do not continue beyond the end of the funding period. Although strategic leads and managers did not have a definitive plan for this, they described aiming to embed all new WFWF activity within support delivery and make it business as usual if there was evidence of positive outcomes.

The context of social and economic change in which the funding is being administered is influencing the pace at which CSPPs can implement their WFWF activities. Strategic leads and managers also cited factors such as the ongoing post-pandemic recovery, pressures posed by the cost-of-living crisis, increasing demand for CAMHS and demographic changes, and issues around recruitment and retention in the children's services sector.

4. WFWF monitoring and outcomes

Introduction

This section presents an overview of CSPPs' plans for monitoring outcomes and describes what short-term outcomes they intend to achieve by the end of Year 1 of the WFWF.

Within the initial plan guidance, CSPPs were advised that arrangements must be put in place to ensure that monitoring and reporting contributes to evaluation of the funding and demonstrates progress against the outcomes sought. This included:

- Providing baseline information through Children's Services Plans and annual reports, supplemented by the inclusion of information on the CSPP's evolving strategic approaches to delivering holistic family support through use and spend of this funding.
- Developing local measures of success criteria, key milestones and quality indicators, aligned with the evaluation framework developed for the funding.
- Contributing supplementary information required by the evaluation framework developed for the funding, where possible as part of reporting on Children's Services Plans.

Monitoring performance

CSPPs understand the importance of evidencing their progress and outcomes for WFWF, beyond Year 1. Most CSPPs included plans for monitoring and/or evaluation activity in their initial plans beyond the evaluation delivered by IFF. This ranged from CSPPs using existing data to evidence outcomes to collecting baseline data. All CSPPs intend to use quantitative management information and statistics, and some are committed to capturing stories from children, young people, and families and practitioners, through qualitative evidence.

Due to the diverse range of activities CSPPs have planned or undertaken, specific indicators to collect evidence on WFWF support vary between CSPPs. Examples of indicators CSPPs plan to use for monitoring progress are health, social and wellbeing outcomes for children, young people, and families, and delivery performance of support and services.

Some CSPPs have undertaken activity, or plan to, to understand the complexity of their family support system (for example, the linkages between support and any gaps). There was also evidence of some CSPPs starting to define the system they are attempting to change and setting questions to help them understand how change is happening, or will happen, within that system. This activity is in recognition that monitoring performance goes beyond simply funded activities, and there is a need to evidence any system change.

Scoping how best to monitor performance and system change, including the exact metrics relevant for their WFWF activities and how to develop a monitoring system that looks across WFWF activities to include system change progress, continues to be a main activity for CSPPs. For some, their plans involve building their analysis capacity, either through hiring or freeing up capacity from analysts or data officers.

A few CSPPs have progressed with identifying their priority metrics to monitor their performance. Fife, for example, is leveraging its existing children's services data group to develop a dataset and scorecard based on the WFWF outcomes in the logic model, which a data officer will then update, analyse and report on quarterly.

Some CSPPs also planned on implementing new IT software using WFWF funding to better track and measure children and families' journeys across the system, for example, North Ayrshire, described in the Spotlight box below.

Spotlight on...

North Ayrshire were setting up a new and enhanced IT system called 'Eclipse', which would replace their existing recording system. This will allow them to track children and families' journeys across agencies, identifying if anyone re-appears in the system.

When Eclipse becomes embedded, it will provide them with richer data in the form of automatically-generated genograms on the system, which will contain details of extended family members. A genogram is a visual tool that shows a family tree and is used to give a pictorial representation of a family system. If, for example, service providers felt it was necessary to link in with a grandparent because they were identified as a protective factor and a strength, they will be able to do that more easily.

Overall, it is anticipated that Eclipse will provide agencies with more data on the work they are delivering and associated outcomes.

A CSPP is also revising their commissioning requirements for new support. New services will need to report their impact against the five pillars of WFWF, which they are in the process of operationalising. This ensures that the CSPP's ability to evidence WFWF outcomes is built into new services.

CSPPs identified some risks to their ability to effectively measure their progress towards achieving WFWF outcomes. A risk is that practitioners may not have the time and skills to record information needed, and to collect high-quality, qualitative evidence of children, young people, and families' experiences.

Another risk relates to the nature of WFWF as a systems-wide change initiative; it requires CSPPs to monitor many, different services and support and to be able to link them together to assess their combined impact.

CSPPs are data rich and in a good position to monitor outcomes like child-level social and health outcomes because this is required for annual reporting, and delivery of WFWF activity (e.g., what is delivered, to who and when) because this is

required for service and financial monitoring. Some intended outcomes for WFWF activities are less tangible. CSPPs are less familiar with, and thus less confident, with how best to measure collaboration between partners, service integration and shared accountability across partners:

“Some of the successes are obviously going to be that much harder to actually tangibly demonstrate because it is about relationships. It is about how agencies work together. It's about how we support families in a more connected basis and some of that is harder to actually demonstrate, you know, if it's attendance levels, if it's academic achievements, then that's a much clearer process.”

Strategic lead

Fife has ideas for how to capture evidence on outcomes related to partner relationships. The CSPP has plans for a workforce survey to regularly capture views on consultation, collaboration and partnership working.

CSPPs would benefit from more clarity on what monitoring performance is required of them from the Scottish Government, to ensure they are meeting expectations:

"There is no clear ask about what you're reporting on ... no clear success criteria or dataset."

Manager

Since interviews were conducted with CSPPs, the Scottish Government has produced guidance and a template for reporting WFWF activity as part of the annual Children's Services Plan reporting cycle.

A common challenge for any system-change initiative is how to attribute observed changes to the initiative. WFWF is no different, and CSPPs wonder whether they are expected to attribute their performance to WFWF and if so, what the Scottish Government's expectations are on that and how best to set-up their systems to do that:

“The difficulty is how can you prove it is this money that made the difference because there are a whole load of other things going on at the same time ... we can pull the stats, but can you say as a direct result of this funding stream this happened?”

Strategic lead

Intended outcomes by end of Year 1

Within the initial plans, CSPPs were asked to set out what early outcomes they anticipated achieving from WFWF Element 1 activities within the first year, and by June 2023, and specifically in relation to those outlined in the WFWF logic model. These outcomes were developed by the Scottish Government in collaboration with stakeholders, including the Family Support Advisory Group, and can be found in the WFWF logic model ([Annex 1](#)).

Table 3, overleaf, summarises WFWF short-term outcomes and the number of CSPPs who indicated in their initial plans they intended to deliver on each outcome. In summary, the most common intended outcomes were to embed holistic whole family support; (re)design whole family support; and improve children, young people, and families' access to support. The less common intended outcomes were to build transformational change; innovate; develop a holistic workforce approach; and invest locally in planning system change. The final evaluation report will discuss progress towards these outcomes.

Table 3. Number of CSPPs intending to deliver on each early outcome in the WFWF logic model.

WFWF intended early outcomes	Number of CSPPs intending to deliver outcomes (n=16)
CSPPs begin embedding the key principles for holistic whole family support within their own systems and structures	11
CSPPs start to redesign/design delivery of new holistic whole family support services, including removing barriers for children, young people, and families to accessing support	10
Early evidence of improved points of access to services in communities	10
Meaningful and ongoing participation by children, young people, and families in service design which ensures choice and control	8
Early evidence of more collaborative work across CSPP partners and with adult services (share resources, data, feedback, and information)	7
Delivery partners (including third sector) are integral to service design & delivery of whole family support	7
Early evidence that feedback on Children’s Services informing Adult and Related Services planning/delivery	5
Early evidence of non-siloed, aligned and proportionate Family Support funding that matches scale of need	5
Increased whole family support service capacity – scaled and new services are integrated	4
Local investment in planning system change (recognise budgets already set for 2022-23)	3
Development of holistic workforce approach	3
Empowerment for innovation	1

CSPP strategic leads and managers also described intending to achieve several outcomes not included in the logic model by the end of Year 1. Half of the CSPPs planned to measure performance for the first year of WFWF delivery against the aim of getting people into post to deliver WFWF activities. This was not explicitly one of the original outcomes in the logic model, but strategic leads and managers noted that it was a required activity for delivering several of the related outcomes outlined in the logic model. For example, increased holistic whole family support service capacity – scaled and new services are integrated.

Spotlight on...

South Lanarkshire are seeking to hire 40 staff to deliver four Early Help Hubs, including family and parent support workers, service and team managers, Hub coordinators and a trauma practitioner. Recruitment is underway, with some posts filled by staff from the previous mental health care services.

At end of Year 1, they were confident the service would be populated and embedded in their Children's Services and across their CSPP governance structure and partnership approach.

When discussing children, young people, and families' outcomes, most WFWF managers focused on children, young people, and families' outcomes as individual-level outcomes for children and families, such as social and health outcomes. For example, one manager gave examples of early CSPP successes which included *"One young person has not had an exclusion in the three months the pilot has been involved"*.

It was evident that the framing of short-term outcomes for children, young people, and families in the logic model may not be familiar to all CSPPs. They would benefit from being reminded that in Year 1, more realistic outcomes of engagement are expected, not individual-level social or health outcomes.

5. Conclusions and considerations

Introduction

The Scottish Government's vision is for holistic family support with early intervention and prevention at its core to be readily available to families that need it. WFWF was established to help support the whole system, transformational change is required to reduce the need for crisis intervention, and to shift investment towards prevention and early intervention. WFWF in the financial year 2022-2023 focused on supporting capacity building at local and national level; supporting the scaling up of existing transformational practice and demonstrating positive impacts for families.

This report has discussed the early journey of change of CSPPs since receiving funding, and early evidence of implementation in respect to fund administration, and the design and set-up of funded activities.

Progress to date

The implementation of the WFWF has had some early successes and provides a solid platform on which to progress during the remainder of the funding period. CSPPs value having access to the WFWF and praised its flexibility to be adapted to their local needs. CSPPs have successfully managed to develop their initial plans at pace and have started the set-up and development work needed to make their visions a reality. The evaluation also found evidence of high levels of satisfaction with the support offered to CSPPs by the Scottish Government, particularly the WFWF leads' timely and informative responses, and the value of the newsletter and national learning network events.

Strategic leads and managers reported a collaborative and multidisciplinary approach to developing initial plans, with consultations with CSPP partners and the third sector forming an important part of the decision-making process. To a slightly lesser extent, CSPPs involved children, young people, and families, and undertook analysis of existing data to inform how the WFWF is spent locally. Those CSPPs who did not already have active channels for children, young people, and families' engagement, or who lacked access to data, or the resource needed for analysis, reported the quick timeframes for developing the initial plan as a barrier to doing this more comprehensively. Some CSPPs also found it difficult to gain consensus and align priorities about WFWF amongst third sector partners during the design stage.

The review of initial plans for spending WFWF showed the great variation across CSPPs, in both detail and types of activities within the plans. This often reflected the stage of their implementation journey. Unsurprisingly, those who had not begun their transformational journey were most likely to have limited detail on the nature and scope of their activity.

Most CSPPs identified recruitment as a priority for Year 1, including filling new posts to develop and deliver WFWF activities. Recruitment has, though, been an almost universal challenge. Strategic leads and managers largely attribute this to factors outside of the funding: the economic climate the CSPPs are operating in and the high demand for staff within and beyond the sector being key. The temporary nature of the funding has also contributed to delays in recruitment, as hiring teams work with legal teams to determine what contract types are best suited for positions funded by a fund that is time limited.

Four of the six case study areas for this evaluation have progressed to delivering services to children, young people, and families, and provided early anecdotal evidence of positive outcomes for children, young people, and families (e.g., improved family relationships, improved family access to a range of community services, and reduced need for escalation to statutory services).

Considerations

As a process evaluation running in parallel to the development and delivery of WFWF, early insights can help improve and enhance WFWF during its delivery. Based on the evidence in CSPPs' initial plans, and the discussions with case study strategic leads and managers, the IFF team offer the following considerations and opportunities for how the Scottish Government and CSPPs can continue to work collaboratively together to deliver the vision of the WFWF. These considerations reflect evidence gathered to date from the evaluation and therefore should be considered along within this context of the early stages of the WFWF. The final report will include recommendations for the future development of the funding.

CSPPs and the Scottish Government are encouraged to work together to:

- Support CSPPs to explore the sustainability of their WFWF activity and plan longer-term spending, beyond the funding payment milestones.
- Continue to find ways for CSPPs to share knowledge, good practice and learning with each other from their WFWF activity. Examples of topics this could cover that would be welcomed by CSPPs include:
 - Ways of engaging with third sector partners and the channels/forums CSPPs and third sector partners find mutually useful;
 - Ideas and solutions to support with recruitment challenges, including around hiring staff using time-limited WFWF;

- Ideas about how to assess the quality of their data and the ways they could use it to inform their monitoring, practically and relative to their capacity for doing so.
- Continue discussions between the Scottish Government and CSPPs about the information CSPPs would value most about the WFWF (e.g., timescales for future funding), and about how and when this can best be communicated to meet CSPP needs. Communication needs to continue to be flexible and timely.
- Continue to work together to support CSPPs to articulate their intended outcomes of the WFWF. This would be a useful step before then considering how best to measure these with either existing evidence or through new evidence collection.

Evidencing the logic model and research questions

The interim evaluation has found evidence that CSPPs are largely delivering the intended activity as outlined in the logic model. This includes engaging children, young people, and families in designing WFWF activity, designing and starting to implement transformative approaches to delivering holistic whole family support, and using local assessments of need to inform approaches. Recruitment of staff into posts to deliver WFWF activities remains a risk to achieving the Year 1 outcomes if roles remain vacant.

Interim analysis of evidence from CSPPs identified topics to focus on in the remainder of the evaluation of Year 1:

- The funding was due to be distributed to CSPPs at the end of the 2022-2023 financial year. This means that gathering strategic leads' views on the mechanisms for receiving the funding has not been captured within this interim report and will be covered during the rest of the evaluation.
- The initial views of strategic leads and managers on Element 2 have been captured in this report, yet interviewing took place before Element 2 plans were fully developed. The rest of the evaluation will focus on how CSPPs involved in Element 2 plan to align activity with Element 1.
- Engaging third sector partners and children, young people, and families are key requirements of WFWF. This report covered how both groups were consulted and engaged in decision-making around initial funding decisions. The evaluation will look to capture evidence of the role and involvement of these groups in ongoing delivery of WFWF activity going forward.
- CSPPs are expected to show progress towards short-term outcomes outlined in the WFWF logic model within Year 1 of the funding. Where possible, the evaluation will identify outcomes observed (including unintended outcomes/consequences), and factors influencing the progress towards these short-term outcomes.

Evaluation next steps

From April 2023, additional evaluation activity will involve:

- A focus group with frontline staff (including those working in the third sector where relevant) working in each of the six case studies. These groups will gather examples of short-term outcomes, the mechanisms of change and practical lessons learned for bringing about outcomes and sustaining benefits.
- Four to six interviews with children, young people and/or families in each of the six case studies, depending on the nature of WWF-funded support. These interviews will aim to understand the experiences of children, young people and families with WWF-funded activity to date, including consultation on initial plans.
- Twelve interviews with strategic leads or managers leading on WWF activities in each of the six case studies, following-up on interviews conducted at the start of the evaluation. These interviews will have a similar focus to focus groups with frontline staff and build on the interviews undertaken to date.
- Analysis of CSPP WWF annual reports submitted by all CSPPs (not just case study CSPPs) to the Scottish Government by the deadline.

The final report will build on the interim report, drawing on all of above data to provide a complete picture of implementation of Year 1 of the WWF. The final report will be delivered to the Scottish Government in winter 2023, with publication likely to be in early 2024.

Annex 1: WFWF Logic Model (developed by Scottish Government)

Figure 2. WFWF Logic Model, early outcomes to end of year 1. This is a high-resolution graphic, details can be viewed more clearly by zooming in.

Whole Family Wellbeing Funding logic model
Version - July 2022

Overall Aim: Every family that needs support gets the right family support at the right time, for as long as it is needed, to fulfil children's rights to be raised safely in their own families. (Whole Family Wellbeing Funding - Draft outcomes - May 2022 details)

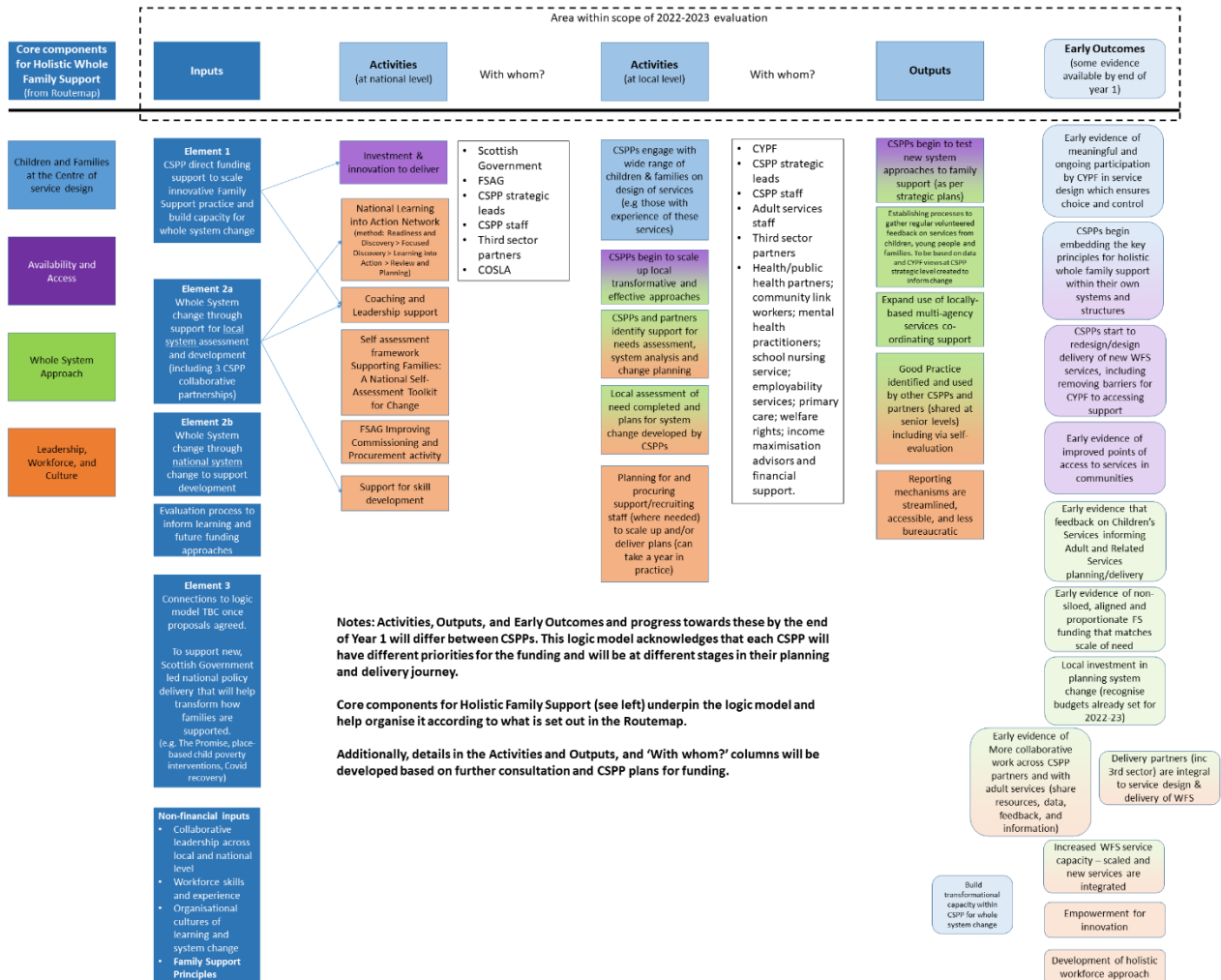
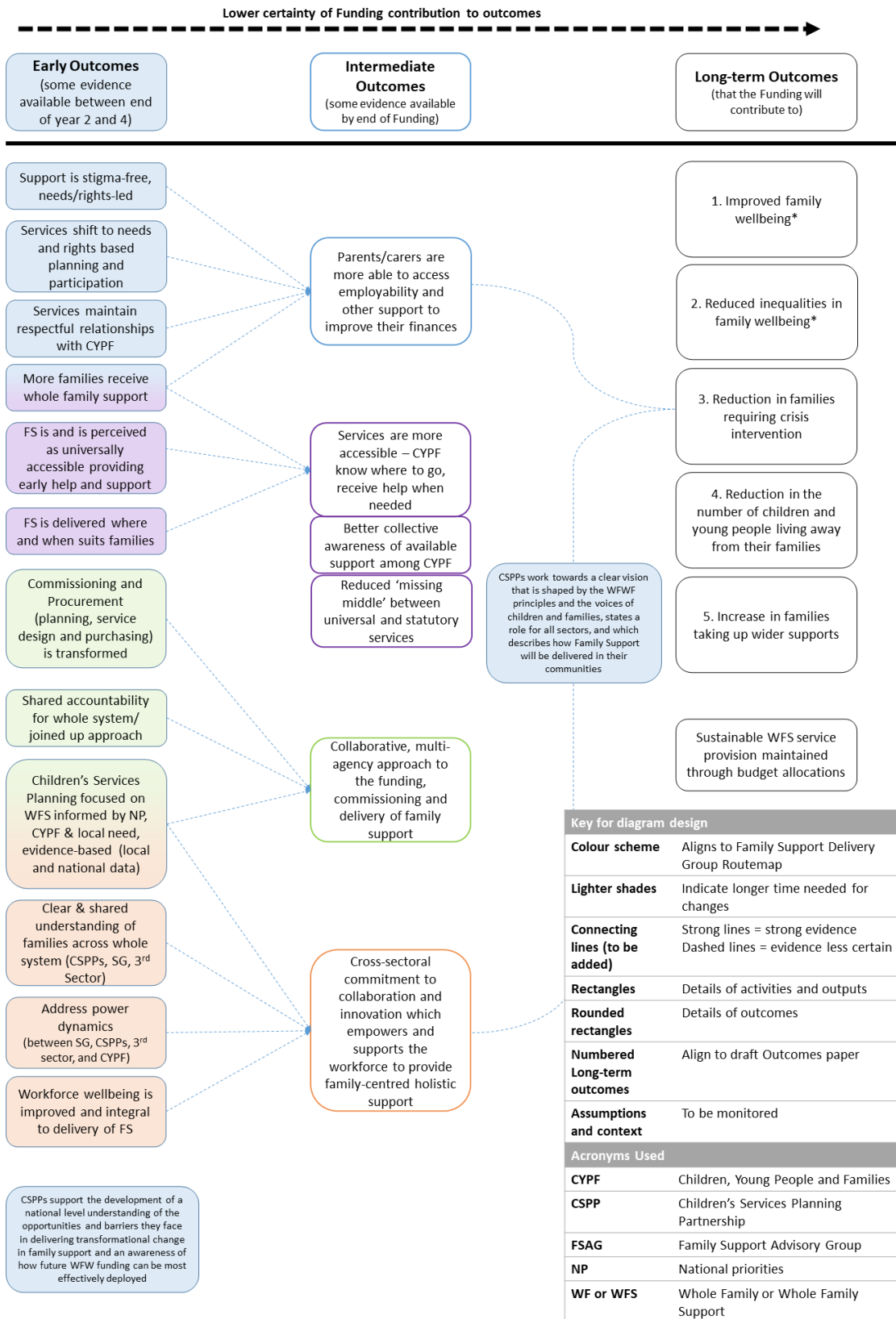


Figure 3. WFWF Logic Model, early outcomes of years 2 to 4, intermediate outcomes, and long-term outcomes. This is a high-resolution graphic, details can be viewed more clearly by zooming in.



Text only description of WFWF Logic Model, version from July 2022

Overall Aim: Every family that needs support gets the right family support at the right time, for as long as it is needed, to fulfil children's rights to be raised safely in their own families.

Core components for Holistic Whole Family Support, these components underpin the logic model and help organise it according to what is set out in the [Routemap: Children and Families at the Centre of service design](#); Availability and Access; Whole System Approach; Leadership, Workforce, and Culture.

Inputs (area within scope of 2022-2023 evaluation):

- Element 1: CSPP direct funding support to scale innovative Family Support practice and build capacity for whole system change.
- Element 2a: Whole System change through support for local system assessment and development (including 3 CSPP collaborative partnerships).
- Element 2b: Whole System change through national system change to support development.
- Evaluation process to inform learning and future funding approaches.
- Element 3: Connections to logic model to be confirmed once proposals agreed. To support new, Scottish Government led national policy delivery that will help transform how families are supported. (e.g. The Promise, place-based child poverty interventions, Covid recovery).
- Non-financial inputs: Collaborative leadership across local and national level, Workforce skills and experience, Organisational cultures of learning and system change, Family Support Principles.

Activities (at national level) (area within scope of 2022-2023 evaluation):

- Investment & innovation to deliver.
- National Learning into Action Network (method: Readiness and Discovery, Focused Discovery, Learning into Action, and Review and Planning).
- Coaching and Leadership support.
- Self-assessment framework, Supporting Families: A National Self-Assessment Toolkit for Change.
- Family Support Advisory Group (FSAG) Improving Commissioning and Procurement activity.
- Support for skill development.
- Activities are carried out with: Scottish Government, FSAG, CSPP strategic leads, CSPP staff, Third sector partners, COSLA.

Activities (at local level) (area within scope of 2022-2023 evaluation):

- CSPPs engage with wide range of children & families on design of services (e.g those with experience of these services).
- CSPPs begin to scale up local transformative and effective approaches.
- CSPPs and partners identify support for needs assessment, system analysis and change planning.
- Local assessment of need completed and plans for system change developed by CSPPs.
- Planning for and procuring support/recruiting staff (where needed) to scale up and/or deliver plans (can take a year in practice).
- Activities are carried out with: Children, Young People and Families (CYPF), CSPP strategic leads, CSPP staff, Adult services staff, Third sector partners, Health/public health partners; community link workers; mental health practitioners; school nursing service; employability services; primary care; welfare rights; income maximisation advisors and financial support.

Activities (at local level) (area within scope of 2022-2023 evaluation):

- CSPPs begin to test new system approaches to family support (as per strategic plans).
- Establishing processes to gather regular volunteered feedback on services from children, young people and families. To be based on data and CYPF views at CSPP strategic level created to inform change.
- Expand use of locally-based multi-agency services co-ordinating support.
- Good Practice identified and used by other CSPPs and partners (shared at senior levels) including via self-evaluation.
- Reporting mechanisms are streamlined, accessible, and less bureaucratic.

Early Outcomes (some evidence available by end of year 1) (area within scope of 2022-2023 evaluation):

- Early evidence of meaningful and ongoing participation by CYPF in service design which ensures choice and control
- CSPPs begin embedding the key principles for holistic whole family support within their own systems and structures
- CSPPs start to redesign/design delivery of new Whole Family Support services, including removing barriers for CYPF to accessing support
- Early evidence of improved points of access to services in communities
- Early evidence that feedback on Children's Services informing Adult and Related Services planning/delivery

- Early evidence of non-siloed, aligned and proportionate Family Support funding that matches scale of need
- Local investment in planning system change (recognise budgets already set for 2022-23)
- Early evidence of More collaborative work across CSPP partners and with adult services (share resources, data, feedback, and information)
- Delivery partners (including 3rd sector) are integral to service design & delivery of Whole Family Support
- Increased Whole Family Support service capacity – scaled and new services are integrated
- Build transformational capacity within CSPP for whole system change
- Empowerment for innovation
- Development of holistic workforce approach

Early Outcomes (some evidence available between end of year 2 and 4), lower certainty of Funding contribution to outcomes:

- Support is stigma-free, needs/rights-led
- Services shift to needs and rights based planning and participation
- Services maintain respectful relationships with CYPF
- More families receive whole family support
- Family Support is and is perceived as universally accessible providing early help and support
- Family Support is delivered where and when suits families
- Commissioning and Procurement (planning, service design and purchasing) is transformed
- Shared accountability for whole system/ joined up approach
- Children's Services Planning focused on Whole Family Support informed by national priorities, CYPF & local need, evidence-based (local and national data)
- Clear & shared understanding of families across whole system (CSPPs, SG, 3rd Sector)
- Address power dynamics (between SG, CSPPs, 3rd sector, and CYPF)
- Workforce wellbeing is improved and integral to delivery of Family Support
- CSPPs support the development of a national level understanding of the opportunities and barriers they face in delivering transformational change in family support and an awareness of how future WFW funding can be most effectively deployed

Intermediate Outcomes (some evidence available by end of Funding), lower certainty of Funding contribution to outcomes:

- Parents/carers are more able to access employability and other support to improve their finances
- Services are more accessible – CYPF know where to go, receive help when needed
- Better collective awareness of available support among CYPF
- Reduced ‘missing middle’ between universal and statutory services
- Collaborative, multi-agency approach to the funding, commissioning and delivery of family support
- Cross-sectoral commitment to collaboration and innovation which empowers and supports the workforce to provide family-centred holistic support
- CSPPs work towards a clear vision that is shaped by the WFWF principles and the voices of children and families, states a role for all sectors, and which describes how Family Support will be delivered in their communities

Long-term Outcomes (that the Funding will contribute to), lower certainty of Funding contribution to outcomes:

- Improved family wellbeing
- Reduced inequalities in family wellbeing
- Reduction in families requiring crisis intervention
- Reduction in the number of children and young people living away from their families
- Increase in families taking up wider supports
- Sustainable Whole Family Support service provision maintained through budget allocations

Notes: Activities, Outputs, and Early Outcomes and progress towards these by the end of Year 1 will differ between CSPPs. This logic model acknowledges that each CSPP will have different priorities for the funding and will be at different stages in their planning and delivery journey.

Additionally, details in the Activities and Outputs, and ‘With whom?’ columns will be developed based on further consultation and CSPP plans for funding.

Annex 2: WFWF maturity model

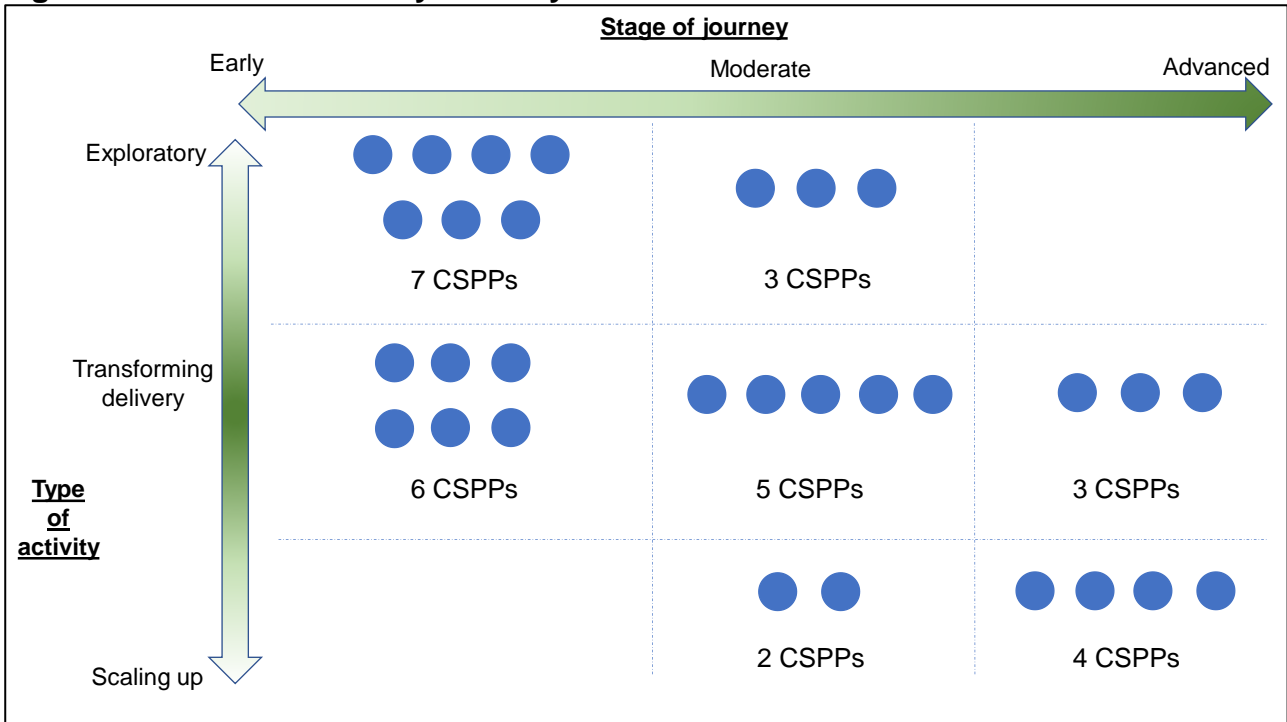
The maturity model in Figure 2 overleaf was developed using the data provided in the initial WFWF plans provided by CSPPs. This model was designed to illustrate broadly how far into their journey CSPPs were and what sorts of activities they planned to use WFWF for.

The X axis outlines that stage of journey that CSPPs were at before completing their initial WFWF plans. These were split into three categories:

- **Early:** CSPPs that have either not begun their transformational journey, with no delivery or scoping work conducted to date, or have engaged only in preliminary scoping or research.
- **Moderate:** CSPPs that have a good understanding of existing need or delivery from scoping work already completed, or have begun some early delivery, in a few instances in the form of small pilot programme.
- **Advanced:** CSPPs that are well into their journey, already delivering a substantial amount of holistic whole family support. This may be because they have good local evidence on which their WFWF plans are based on; the evaluation will explore this in the qualitative research.

The Y axis refers to the type of activities they planned for WFWF. It is worth noting that many CSPPs outline some combination of the three different kinds of activity, and this categorisation looks at their primary focus for the WFWF, i.e., the largest or most significant element activities outlined.

Figure 4. CSPP whole family maturity model



It is worth noting that this model relies entirely on information provided by CSPPs in their initial WFWF plans. As such, this model may rely on partial information, with some activities not included in initial plans that could affect where CSPPs fall within this model.

This model will be included and updated for the final WFWF Year 1 Evaluation report. At the time of drafting this report, two CSPPs had not submitted their initial plans, these CSPPs will be included in the updated maturity model in the final report.

Annex 3: Case Study selection

Six CSPPs were selected to be case study areas in the Year 1 Process Evaluation. These were Glasgow City, East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire, Aberdeen City, Fife and South Lanarkshire. Of these, Glasgow City and East Ayrshire were also selected to participate in Element 2 collaborative support.

CSPP case studies were chosen to provide coverage across: funding amount, whether they participate in Element 2 collaborative support (East Ayrshire and Glasgow City both received Element 2 funding), area type (predominantly urban or rural), population, deprivation rank, needs of the family population (defined by the rate of children on the child protection register, per 1,000 children), type of activities outlined in their initial plans, and holistic whole family support journey stage (whether CSPPS were at an early, moderate or advanced stage in transforming their support).

Annex 4: Glossary of terms

Children, Young People and Families (CYPFs): Children, Young People and Families who are accessing WFWF support from CSPPs.

Children's Service Plan (CSP): CSPPs are required to set out how the partnership will work together collaboratively to improve outcomes for children and young people in their area. This plan also outlines the local authority and health board's vision for how public services used by children and families will develop in the local area.

Children's Services Planning cycle: Scottish legislation requires CSPPs to develop and publish their Children's Services Plan every three years. The current cycle runs from 2020-2023 and the next planning cycle runs from April 2023-2026.

Children's Services Planning Partnership (CSPP): Children's Services Planning Partnerships were established through the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act in 2014 and are a collection of local authorities, health boards, services and partners that deliver Scotland's ambitions for children, young people and families.

Coronavirus (COVID-19): The global outbreak of a respiratory illness caused by the new coronavirus SARS-CoV-2.

COSLA: A councillor-led, cross-party organisation which champions the work of local councils across Scotland.

Crisis intervention: A key aim of the Whole Family Wellbeing Funding is to move from intervening when a crisis happens within families towards prevention, building resilience and providing the right level of support before problems materialise.

Element 1: The first element of the Scottish Government's Whole Family Wellbeing Funding provides direct support to all Children's Service Planning Partnerships (CSPPs) to support the scale up and delivery of holistic whole family support in local areas. This funding can also be used to build local capacity for achieving transformational change needed in how families are supported, for example, by recruiting a small team to support the CSPP plan for this funding or buying in additional transformational expertise to support leadership discussions.

Element 2: The second element of the Scottish Government's Whole Family Wellbeing Funding is focussed on a package of national support. This includes collaborative partnerships between a Scottish Government-led transformation team and three CSPPs (East Ayrshire, Glasgow City and East Lothian) to build local transformation capability and capacity and drive whole system change in family support at the local and national level. Element 2 is being evaluated separately by Rocket Science and Blake Stevenson. This IFF evaluation covers Element 2 to the extent that it relates to Element 1.

Element 3: The third element of the Scottish Government's Whole Family Wellbeing Funding aims to enable a cross-portfolio approach to system change, supporting national level policy delivery. It drives and supports the outcomes sought from the WFWF.

Family Support Advisory Group (FSAG): The Family Support Advisory Group (FSAG), formerly the Family Support Delivery Group (FSDG), is made up of a range of partners from national and local government, the third sector and statutory services. The FSDG was established as a sub-group of the Coronavirus (COVID-19): Children and Families Collective Leadership Group to deliver the Holistic Family Support Vision and Blueprint for Change. The Scottish Government developed outcomes and the approach of the Whole Family Wellbeing Funding in collaboration with stakeholders including the FSAG.

Genogram: A genogram is a visual tool that shows a family tree and is used to give a pictorial representation of a family system.

Holistic family support: Holistic family support focusses on joining up provision for families across a range of services provided by different organisations (e.g., agencies, professionals, the third sector, trusted partners). This aims to avoid a multitude of services addressing specific, isolated and individual issues within families. The likelihood of success is not based on the specific individual support, but on a relationship of trust between families and workers.

Initial plans: Initial plans were the first documentation CSPPs provided setting out how they intended to spend their WFWF allocation for 2022-23. The initial plan template created by the Scottish Government asked for information on CSPPs' existing approach to holistic whole family support, planned activity for WFWF, anticipated outcomes for the first year, and intended monitoring activities. The initial plan template also contained detail on the allocation methodology for the WFWF, the aims of the funding (see [policy background](#) section in the main report), and the criteria for spending the funding.

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA): Joint Strategic Needs Assessment is a process that is used to identify the current and future health and social care needs of a population. It aims to highlight needs around topics of joint strategic importance, providing recommendations for action to improve health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities. It is a statutory duty for local authorities, CSPPs and commissioning groups under the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

Key Performance Indicator (KPI): A key performance indicator (KPI) is a measurable value that indicates how effectively a CSPP is achieving its objectives. KPIs are used to evaluate and monitor the performance of a CSPP against specific goals and targets.

Learning into Action network: The WFWF Learning into Action network is co-designed and co-delivered with stakeholders to enable collaboration, facilitate peer support, share learning and approaches from across the country, and support

solution-focused discussions around the barriers to whole system change. CSPPs have utilised this network to develop their initial funding plans and delivery of WFWF activities.

Maturity model: An illustrative model that was developed by IFF Research early in the WFWF Year 1 process evaluation to help illustrate findings from the analysis of the initial plans. This model was designed to illustrate broadly how far into their journey CSPPs were (categorised by 'early', 'moderate' and 'advanced') and what sorts of activities they planned to use WFWF for.

Process evaluation: An evaluation that explores how an initiative (in this case the WFWF) was designed and delivered. It typically explores questions such as: was the initiative delivered as intended; what worked well/less well, for whom and why; what could be improved; what we can learn for future initiatives.

Scottish Government Whole Family Wellbeing Funding (WFWF) leads: The Scottish Government put in place WFWF leads to provide CSPPs with a connection into the programme throughout the funding period. Each CSPP is allocated a lead who is their direct point of contact for queries and key information about the programme.

Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD): SIMD measures current income, employment, health, education, skills and training, housing, geographic access and crime. This is a statistical tool used by local authorities, the Scottish Government, the NHS and other government bodies to support policy and decision making particularly by targeting government action in the measures and areas that are in need.

Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan: This plan sets out policies and proposals to progress towards targets related to the reduction of child poverty in the longer term. It outlines the six priority groups that the Whole Family Wellbeing Funding intends to support which are judged by the CSPP to be most in need. These are: lone-parent families, housing where someone is disabled, families with three or more children, minority ethnic families, families with a child under one year old, families where the mother is under 25 years old.

The Promise: The Promise outlines key outcomes that aim to ensure that Scotland's children and young people grow up loved, safe and respected so that they can realise their full potential. This was developed following the Independent Care Review where, over three years, the Care Review listened to care experienced children, young people, and families to put together evidence around how Scotland could improve.

Whole Family Wellbeing Funding (WFWF): The Whole Family Wellbeing Funding (WFWF) is a Scottish Government investment of at least £500m over the life of this Parliament (2022-2026) to support whole system transformational change with the aim of reducing the need for crisis intervention in families, and to shift investment towards prevention and early intervention.

Annex 5: WFWF Initial Plan Template

Whole Family Wellbeing Funding (WFWF) – Initial Plans Template

As part of the WFWF for 2022-23, the Scottish Government is asking Children's Services Planning Partnerships (CSPPs) to share their high-level plans for this funding, as well as any initial activity that has been carried out by the point the template is submitted, if relevant. It is anticipated that these plans will refer to work that is taking place up to July 2023, a full year after funding has been allocated. However, any additional information on how the work in 2022-23 will inform future planning is welcomed.

A template has been provided below to allow the sharing of relevant information. As part of the independently commissioned evaluation of WFWF for 2022-2023, further research will be carried out in 6 case study areas. Case studies will be selected to cover areas with a range of characteristics, including tranche 2 areas, and will be agreed in discussion with the CSPP. If your CSPP is selected as a case study area, the evaluator(s) will contact you to arrange interviews with key staff and may seek further clarification on the information below.

Please send returns via your CSP Strategic Lead to wholefamilywellbeing@gov.scot by **Monday 3 October 2022**. Should you wish to access support or have any questions in completing this template, please also contact wholefamilywellbeing@gov.scot

For completion

1. Children's Services Planning Partnership Area:

Who is the lead contact for this return? i.e. the CSPP Strategic Lead contact.

Please provide the contact information

2. Current approach to Whole Family Support.

Different areas of Scotland are at different stages in developing their response to the Promise priority of delivering holistic whole family support (Promise Plan 2021-24). Please summarise how you have responded to this priority so far, including who has been involved, how the need for change has been assessed and what changes are in progress to delivery this priority.

3. Planning - please provide a high level outline of what you are seeking to achieve with this funding.

Please provide an outline of:

- what activities are planned*
- the approximate amount to be spent on each activity, including whether CSPPs wish to award a portion of the WFWF to other parties such as Third Sector Interfaces.
- an indicative timeline with key milestones for each activity, where possible

Examples of activities may include:

- local assessments of need and engagement with children and families
- identification of good practice and scale-up of transformative and effective whole family support services
- engagement with service delivery partners
- building capacity within the CSPP, for example staffing, training, leadership support
- analysis of local systems and planning for system change

Each CSPP will have different priorities for this funding and will be at different stages in their planning and delivery process. Planned activities are likely to reflect the current position around whole family support and there is no expectation that a CSPP will carry out all of the activities listed above. CSPPs may choose to prioritise a small number of activities accounting for resources made available. The 'Supporting Families: A National Self-Assessment Toolkit for Change' should assist CSPPs in undertaking these activities and will be circulated separately.

*Please identify any activities which are directly related to the Promise Plan 21-24 or the Bright Futures: tackling child poverty delivery plan 2022 to 2026.

4. Please set out what early outcomes you anticipate from these activities within the first year of the WFWF (by June 2023) and what the baseline position is in relation to these outcomes.

What are the early outcomes for each activity planned using the WFWF support? Please refer to any relevant early outcomes for the WFWF identified in the draft logic model (circulated separately), where possible. What is the current baseline for each early outcome? Where available, please include any baseline data you have.

5. Please outline how you will monitor progress at the local level.

We'd like to understand how you intend to monitor progress at the local level and what specific sources of evidence will you need to assess progress against these activities and early outcomes (e.g. existing routine data collections, management information, new research)?

Please note we do not require separate reporting of these measures, other than through the usual CSP annual report.



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