

Children and Families Directorate

Lesley Swanson
Head of Bairns' Hoose Unit
Children's Care, Protection and Justice Division
E: lesley.swanson@gov.scot



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

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Dear Colleague,

BAIRNS' HOOSE PATHFINDER LAUNCH AND UPDATE ON FUNDING

The Scottish Government Bairns' Hoose Unit has been in touch with many partner organisations in recent weeks in relation to the Pathfinder phase of the Bairns' Hoose programme. This letter provides an update on arrangements for the Pathfinder phase, which we hope you may find useful.

Pathfinder Launch

The Minister for Children, Young People and Keeping The Promise launched the Pathfinder Phase for Bairns' Hoose on 24 October 2023 with the announcement of six Pathfinder Partnerships, marking a significant milestone for the development of Bairns' Hoose in Scotland.

The selected Pathfinder partnerships are Aberdeen City; Aberdeenshire; Fife; North Strathclyde; Outer Hebrides and Tayside. This is an important step for Bairns' Hoose in Scotland and we look forward to working collaboratively with the Pathfinders to provide coordinated comprehensive support for children and young people in the justice system.

Our analytical, learning and improvement approach for the Bairns' Hoose Pathfinder phase is set in the context of planned work on knowledge exchange, engagement of children and young people, quality improvement and service design. The approach includes a Standards Self-Assessment and Readiness Tool (StART), which has been developed to gather evidence to help understand the position of each Pathfinder, as it starts, and at additional points during the Pathfinder phase, and to capture learning from a range of geographical and operating contexts to help understand and address the complexity of the required systemic change.

Affiliate Status

The applications we received were impressive in strength, quality and number (ten). The selection process focused on targeting support where there was most potential learning for developing a model for a national context. Given the finite resource available, some applications, although in many ways strong, could not be selected as Pathfinder Partnerships.

Affiliate status was therefore offered to partnerships that were not selected as a Pathfinder, to maintain momentum for the delivery of Bairns' Hoose. Affiliate Partnerships are Ayrshire; Dumfries and Galloway; Highland and Sycamore Partnership (Edinburgh, East Lothian and Midlothian).

Affiliate partnerships will be offered lighter touch project support to develop their work towards implementing the Bairns' Hoose model in their area, as well as access to funding support.

We have been asked by some stakeholders about the distinction between a Pathfinder and an Affiliate partnership. The difference lies in the different purpose of each, in funding arrangements, and in other forms of support. Below is a summary of the different levels of support.

	Pathfinder	Affiliate
Purpose	To help show how the Standards work in practice in different contexts, enabling the design of a national Bairns' Hoose model and an understanding of the support required to achieve this	To help maintain momentum for the delivery of Bairns' Hoose in other parts of Scotland by supporting work on more specific early-stage plans and challenges
Knowledge exchange	A knowledge exchange programme has been developed to share learning and good practice, including learning from the analytical strand. Monthly and bespoke webinars are offered within a Community of Practice.	Some knowledge exchange sessions will be offered and there will be access to an Affiliate Forum led by Impact Funding Partners (IFP)
Improvement support and coaching	<p>Pathfinders have access to bespoke support and coaching from quality improvement and service design experts. Pathfinders will attend and participate in 3 all-day learning and collaboration sessions.</p> <p>The Standards Self-Assessment and Readiness Tool (StART) provides Pathfinders with a structured opportunity to reflect on their current service and identify areas for action. This will help Pathfinder partnerships on their improvement journey and will help inform decisions around the</p>	Improvement advice led by IFP (lighter touch than Pathfinders) will be offered, alongside capacity building support and a training needs analysis with a view to develop a bespoke programme, also supported by IFP.

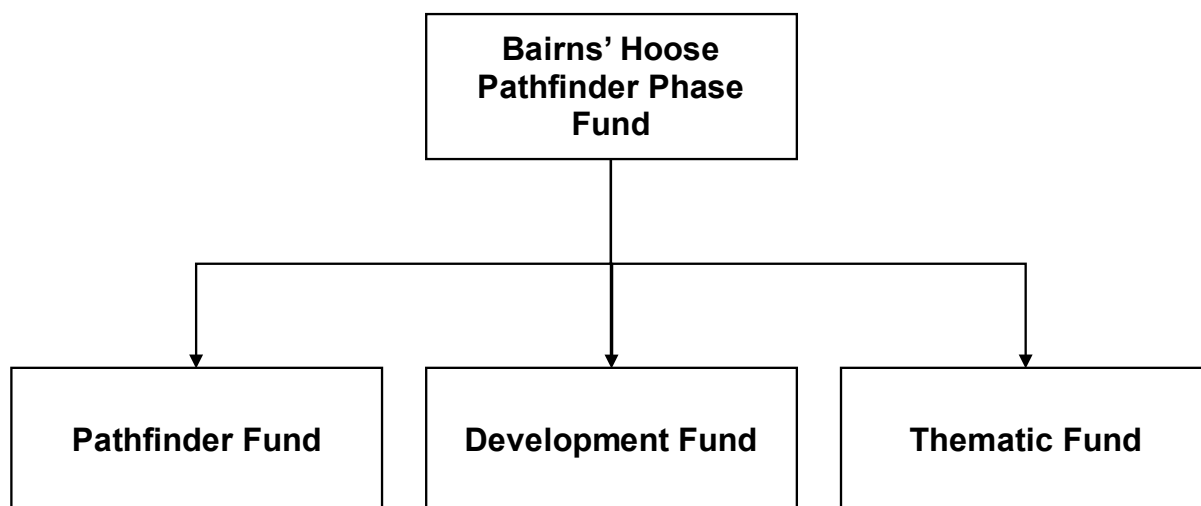
	Scottish Government's offer for improvement support.	
Evidence gathering	<p>The StART complements the National Bairns' Hoose Standards and the Trauma Informed Road-map, to enable Pathfinders to measure their own implementation.</p> <p>The StART has been developed to gather evidence to help understand the position of each Pathfinder, as it starts and at additional points during the Pathfinder phase. Pathfinders are offered one to one support for completing the StART, as well as group webinars. Pathfinders are required to submit completed StARTs at points in the Pathfinder phase.</p>	<p>Affiliates will be offered a workshop to introduce the Bairns' Hoose Standards StART</p> <p>There is no requirement for Affiliates to submit completed StARTs.</p>
Additional support	Pathfinders have been allocated a Scottish Government Bairns' Hoose Single Point of Contact, a named Improvement Advisor and a Fund Manager Development Officer to provide ongoing advice and support.	Affiliate Partnerships have been allocated a Scottish Government Bairns' Hoose Single Point of Contact and a named Fund Manager Development Officer providing ongoing advice and support.
Funding	Access to Pathfinder Fund	Access to Development Fund (Phase 1)

Bairns' Hoose Fund Update

As outlined in the FAQ sheet published on the [Bairns' Hoose website](#) in August 2023 as part of the application process, the Bairns' Hoose Fund is £6m for 2023-24. While budgets for 2024-25 have not yet been fixed pending parliamentary approval, we expect the fund in 2024-25 to be similar in size to 2023-24.

The allocation of the fund across the funding streams sees approximately half of the fund allocated to the Pathfinder partnerships in an equitable process. This can include capital funding. There is no change to that arrangement and in particular, no funding allocated to Pathfinders is now allocated to Affiliates. Pathfinders will be able to draw from their share

through applications to the Pathfinder Fund and Affiliates will be able to draw from the Development Fund (Phase 1), which was always intended to be for those not selected to be full Pathfinders.



Pathfinder Fund

The Pathfinder Fund will support six Pathfinder partnerships and covers the period 3 January 2024 to 31 March 2025 – although see also the paragraph below relating to the possibility of an extension to this period.

Development Fund (Phase 1)

Funding is available for Affiliate partnerships through the Development Fund (Phase 1) covering the period 1 February 2024 to 31 March 2025.

Development Fund (Phase 2)

The Development Fund (Phase 2) will open on 12 February 2024 and close 15 March 2024¹ and will cover the period from early April 2024 to 31 March 2025. This will be open to any other partnership in Scotland and the criteria for this fund will be shared with key stakeholders in advance. This Fund will support partnerships that are at an earlier stage of their Bairns' Hoose journey and who did not apply to become a Pathfinder.

IFP will also provide support and capacity building to these areas as grant recipients and will gather information about their developments through the grant monitoring and reporting process.

Thematic Fund

The Thematic Fund will open in April 2024 and close in May 2024 for the period up to 31 March 2025. This Fund will be open to all areas and will support thematic tests of change, for example this could be for therapeutic support and recovery services or workforce support. Criteria for this fund will also be shared with key stakeholders in advance.

¹This may change subject to stakeholder feedback

£1.8m will be available across the Development Fund (Phase 2) and Thematic Fund. This will not include capital funding.

Scoping exercise for extension of the Pathfinder phase

Through the course of a series of group and individual engagement events and discussions with partnerships following the launch of the Pathfinder phase, partnerships have highlighted concerns that the timescales are too tight to deliver.

Ministers have subsequently agreed that we should explore a possible extension to the agreed phased timetable for Bairns' Hoose with key stakeholders. We will be in touch with targeted stakeholders shortly to discuss this further.

We hope this provides a helpful update, and do please contact us with any questions relating to the Bairns' Hoose Pathfinder phase, or specific questions relating to funding to bairnshoose@gov.scot

Yours Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Lesley Swanson", is enclosed within a thin, light-colored rectangular border that is tilted slightly clockwise.

Lesley Swanson

Head of Bairns' Hoose Unit