

# Bairns' Hoose

## Pathfinder Application Pack



**Bairns' Hoose**

June 2023

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## Introduction

Thank you for your interest in the Bairns' Hoose Pathfinder phase. This is an exciting opportunity for close working between Pathfinder partnerships, the Scottish Government and other key partners to deliver improved outcomes and experiences for children and their families.

This application pack provides information about the Pathfinder phase, what is expected of a Pathfinder and what support the Scottish Government will provide. We have set out the commitments that will be asked of your partnership.

The Pathfinder Application Form follows on from this information. Your responses to the questions in this form will help us understand your current strategic and delivery context, your commitment to delivering transformational change and how you intend to deliver the Bairns' Hoose vision and principles, as part of your local approach in applying the Bairns' Hoose Standards.

The design and delivery of Pathfinders will be agreed between partners at a local level and through local structures, in liaison with the Scottish Government Pathfinder Project Team. It is anticipated that applications will be made by Pathfinder partnerships working collaboratively across organisational boundaries, according to their local context and needs, and proximity to local resources. Chief Officers' Public Protection Groups will play a key role in the delivery of Bairns' Hoose.

During this phase, we anticipate a number (approximately 5) of Pathfinder partnerships, from across the country, and a mix of applications from urban, rural and island environments, to ensure testing of the applicability of the Standards across a range of contexts.

The Standards will be tested and developed in Pathfinder areas, with the involvement of practitioners. Pathfinders also must include participation and engagement with children and young people with lived experience, as a basis for informing pathways of care and recovery within the service.

## Bairns' Hoose Background

The ambition of Bairns' Hoose, which is based on the Icelandic model of Barnahus (child's house), provides Scotland with an opportunity for transformational change through a child-centred, trauma-informed approach for children and young people who are victims or witnesses of significant harm, to improve their right to justice, care and recovery. Services will be co-located, reducing the need for multiple interviews by different agencies in different locations, which we know can be retraumatising.

Ministers previously agreed our ambition for the scope of Bairns' Hoose eligibility. This recognises the evolving policy context and issues associated with that. We aim to include:

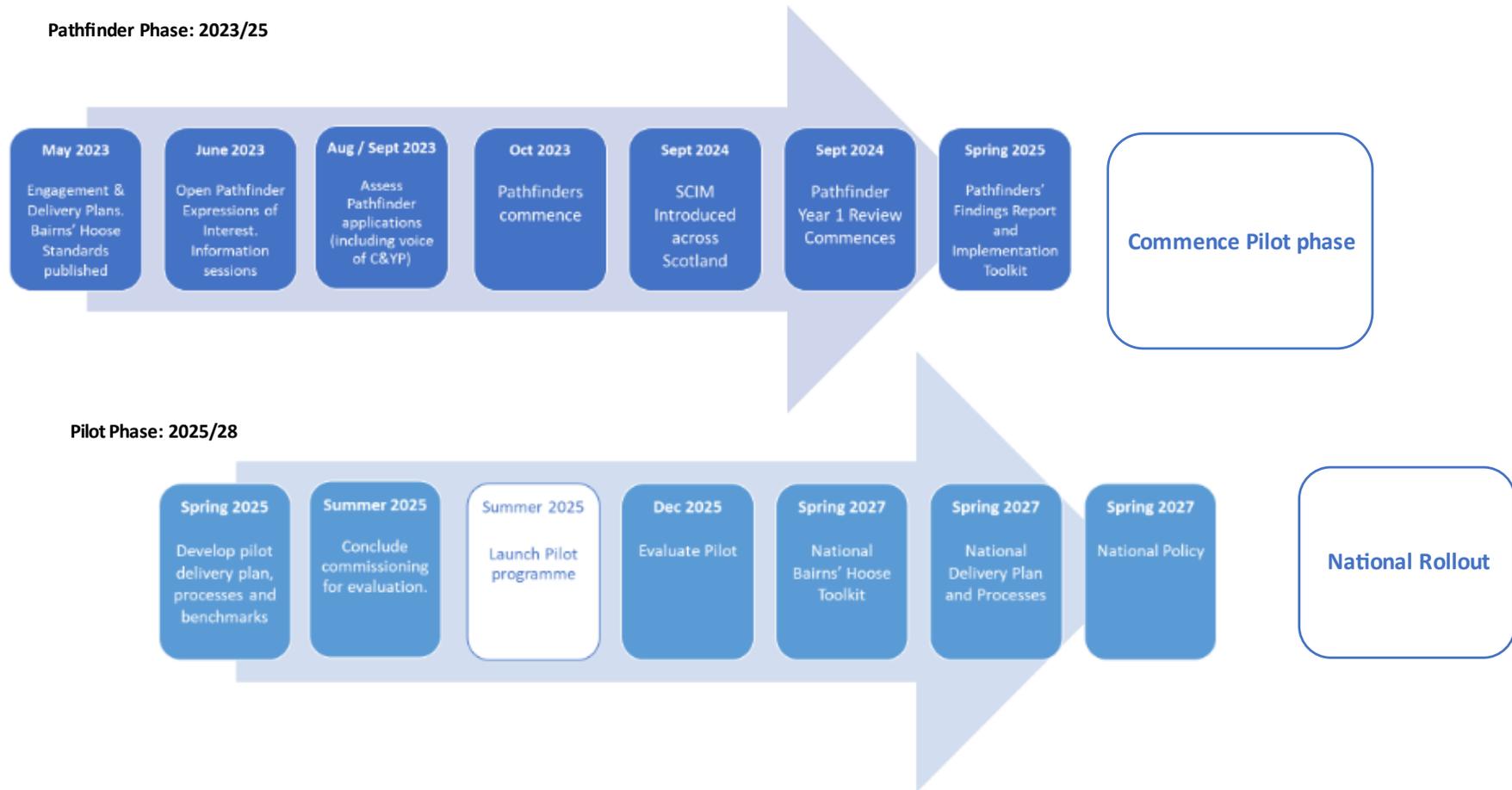
- all children in Scotland, who are believed to have been victims or witnesses to abuse or violence, which has caused or likely to cause significant harm

- children under the age of criminal responsibility whose behaviour has caused significant harm or abuse

In May this year, we published our refreshed [Bairns' Hoose Vision, Values and Approach](#), setting out how Barnahus should be implemented in Scotland, including the values underpinning its development. We also published a Bairns' Hoose [Project Plan Progress Report and Pathfinder Delivery Plan](#), which sets out the intended steps for delivery and is aligned with publication of the Standards.

# Phased Approach

Our revised delivery timeline adopts a three-phased approach over 2023 – 2028. This allows time to build in the learning and evaluation needed to ensure that the Bairns’ Hoose model is achieving the correct outcomes ahead of national rollout; and ensures alignment with other key policy objectives.



## Pathfinder Phase

The first phase of Bairns' Hoose development will be the Pathfinder phase. The purpose of the Pathfinder phase is to learn both about the systems, practices and culture changes required to achieve our Bairns' Hoose vision, and the methods, practices and resources required to facilitate transformational change.

This phase will be used to trial the Bairns' Hoose Standards, which were published in May 2023; in the context of different geographical and service models. The Pathfinder phase will identify what can be applied in different settings and which aspects of the Standards may need to be revised, with a view to identifying and sharing learning for a national model. By spring 2025, we will have an initial blueprint for the Bairns' Hoose model in Scotland and will develop a Delivery Plan for the Pilot programme.

A further output of the phase will be a Pathfinders Findings Report with a set of conclusions, along with a toolkit to support partnerships during the Pilot phase. We will work closely with Pathfinder partnerships in a collaborative way to identify measures of success and gather data and intelligence. The intention is to gather data at the end of the Pathfinder phase that will act as the baseline for the evaluation of the pilot.

## Minimum Criteria for Pathfinder Partnerships

The Bairns' Hoose Standards are based on the European Barnahus Quality Standards. Our national model for implementing Bairns' Hoose across Scotland should be flexible enough to allow local partnerships to provide Bairns' Hoose services to suit local circumstances, whilst still demonstrating commitment to the four rooms approach. Close collaboration across agencies and between local partnerships is a pre-requisite for development, implementation and evaluation of the approach.

All applicants **must** meet the minimum criteria for Pathfinder Partnerships as set out below with the commitment to provide the required resource and partnership leadership to achieve the overall aim of the Pathfinder phase:

- Commitment to be a Pathfinder Partnership from 2023 - 2025
- Commitment to work towards becoming a Bairns' Hoose and to apply the Standards
- Commitment to test the full set of Standards in current context and conduct GAP analysis on application of the Standards and report on findings
- Pathfinder Partnership must comprise of a collaboration across all three statutory partners (Health, Social Work, Police) with demonstrable links with 3<sup>rd</sup> sector and education partners
- Commitment to meaningfully involve children and young people, with lived experience of child protection and justice processes, in the design and delivery of the Pathfinder work

- Commitment to develop trauma responsive approaches across the Bairns' Hoose Pathfinder partner organisations, systems and workforces in line with ["Creating Trauma-Informed Change: What, Why and How A Quality Improvement Framework for Trauma-Informed Organisations, Systems and Workforces in Scotland"](#)<sup>1</sup>.
- Commitment to gather, analyse and share relevant data for learning and monitoring at regular intervals
- Commitment to share information and learning openly and honestly

## Benefits of Becoming a Pathfinder

- Opportunity to design and implement new ways of working to deliver meaningful trauma-informed outcomes, with benefits to both community and workforce
- Opportunity to engage with Scottish Government and influence policy development
- Opportunity to identify and share both enablers and barriers
- Opportunity to shape Bairns' Hoose nationally through the development of the Bairns' Hoose national toolkit
- Participation in the Bairns' Hoose learning network
- Access to Bairns' Hoose Pathfinders Fund

## Bairns' Hoose Funding Model

Delivery of Bairns' Hoose will be the responsibility of Chief Officers' Public Protection Groups. However, the Scottish Government will make a financial investment to support this transformative systems change. This will be a contribution on a partnership basis, alongside statutory agencies, towards the development of the Bairns' Hoose model. Initially, this investment will be towards establishing a small number of Pathfinder areas, followed by further investment for the Pilot programme and then national rollout.

## Pathfinder Fund

A Bairns' Hoose Fund of up to £6m will support the Pathfinder phase in 2023-24, with a similar amount anticipated for 2024/25.

*Further details will be made available to successful Pathfinder partnerships.*

## Timeline for Pathfinder Phase

Timescale	Milestone
12 June 2023	Open Invitations for Pathfinder Applications

<sup>1</sup> A final version of the Quality Improvement Framework is due for publication in summer 2023.

June and July 2023	Pathfinder engagement events
21 August 2023	Closing date for Pathfinder Applications
August – September 2023	Assessment of Pathfinders
September 2023	Final selection of Pathfinders Bairns' Hoose Fund Manager appointed
October 2023	Announcement of successful Pathfinders
November 2023	Bairns' Hoose Fund opens

## **Assessment of Pathfinder Applications**

The submitted application will be assessed by a Level 1 panel of Scottish Government assessors and approved by a Level 2 panel, comprising Bairns' Hoose Pathfinder Programme Board members and the independent Chair of the National Bairns' Hoose Governance Group. The Level 1 panel will assess the applications against the criteria, provide a summary of the applications and make recommendations to the Level 2 panel.

The applications will also be assessed by children and young people. The Scottish Government has funded Healthcare Improvement Scotland to engage with children and young people through their link worker model, to assess and give their views on the applications. This input will be considered in detail alongside the individual scores in the Level 1 panel discussions and assessors may revise their scores based on the feedback from the children and young people.

The Level 2 panel will agree the successful Bairns' Hoose Pathfinders selection, based on the summary recommendations of the Level 1 assessment panel, and subject to Ministerial approval.

Successful Pathfinders will then be asked to submit formal proposals to the Scottish Government for Ministerial decision, to formally contract their participation.

## How applications will be assessed

Submitted forms will be assessed at Level 1 by an assessment panel comprising Scottish Government assessors.

Each member of the panel will evaluate each submission in isolation of the other assessors, and will award a mark for each section between 0 and 4, in accordance with the following scoring guidance:

0 = unacceptable (inadequate, fails to demonstrate ability to meet requirements, major weaknesses)

1 = poor (partially relevant but with insufficient detail and/or weaknesses)

2 = acceptable (relevant but lacking some detail or with some weaknesses)

3 = good (relevant and sufficiently detailed, minor weaknesses)

4 = excellent (no weaknesses).

Assessors will be required to provide a rationale for their scores in the assessment form. Additionally, assessors will be asked to identify the overall key strengths of each submission.

Once each assessor has independently evaluated each submission, an assessment meeting will be held with all panel members to discuss scores and ensure consistency of approach.

The assessment by children and young people will also be taken into account at this stage.

In recognition of the different challenges faced by islands and rural communities, part of the selection process will be to ensure that there is coverage of these communities to ensure rich learning and to test the applicability of the Standards in these contexts. We are looking to include at least one area from the 'island and remote' category and one from the 'mainly rural' category, using the RESAS<sup>2</sup> fourfold classification.

Additionally, assessors will consider the applications across a range of other characteristics, with a view to selecting Pathfinders across as wide a range of contexts as possible. This will include a mix of different development stages; and to maximise on the possible learning, assessors will look for partnerships with the potential to test out the full set of Standards across a range of operating models and facilities, such as flexible opening hours, live court links, forensic medical examination suites and cross boundary agreements.

The assessment panel will then summarise the applications and make recommendations to the Level 2 panel, with their scoring and rationale.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gov.scot/publications/understanding-scottish-rural-economy/pages/13/>

## Pathfinder Application Form

As stated previously, the purpose of the Pathfinder phase is to learn both about the systems, practices and culture changes required to achieve our Bairns' Hoose vision, and the methods, practices and resources required to facilitate transformational change. The purpose and the focus of the selection process is to identify Pathfinder areas where there is the greatest opportunity to learn.

The purpose of this Application is for the Scottish Government to collect information regarding existing and planned multi-agency settings across Scotland, their potential and their commitment to become a Pathfinder Partnership.

SECTION 1	Partnership Lead Contact details for application
<p><b>Please give details of the Partnership Lead Contact person for this application. Please note that the Partnership Lead Contact should have the authority to share/express the decisions and capacity to support engagement with this programme.</b></p> <p>We will liaise with the lead contact person for this application for any further information requirements or for clarifying questions.</p> <p>Section 1 will not be scored.</p>	
<b>Partnership Name:</b>	Aberdeen City +
<b>Partnership Lead Contact Organisation</b>	Aberdeen City Council
<b>Partnership Lead Contact Name</b>	Graeme Simpson
<b>Job Title</b>	CSWO
<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:gsimpson@aberdeencity.gov.uk">gsimpson@aberdeencity.gov.uk</a>
<b>Partnership's geographical area of coverage</b>	<p><b>Aberdeen City +</b></p> <p>Aberdeen City's Bairns Hoose will operate on a 'soft boundary' basis. This will build on the North East partnership developed to deliver SCIM.</p> <p>We are actively exploring with Orkney and Shetland options to support their delivery of SCIM. Aligned to this, given existing Child Protection links both authorities have with NHS Grampian and recognising Aberdeen City is the primary transport hub to both islands, we have had initial discussions as to how an Aberdeen City Bairns Hoose could support children and young people from Orkney and Shetland.</p>

<b>List of partners signing up for this application</b>	Aberdeen City Council NHS Grampian/Aberdeen City HSCP Police Scotland Children 1 <sup>st</sup> SCRA Aberdeen Health Determinants Research Collaboration Evaluation Partner - University of Edinburgh
	We have positively connected with COPFS/SCTS and the Sheriff Principle and local members of the judiciary to share our planning to deliver our Bairns Hoose.

SECTION 2	Minimum Criteria
<p><b>Please confirm that your Partnership commits to the following Minimum Criteria.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Commitment to be a Pathfinder site from 2023 – 2025</li> <li>2. Commitment to work towards becoming a Bairns’ Hoose and to apply the Standards</li> <li>3. Commitment to test Standards in current context and conduct GAP analysis on application of the Standards and report on findings</li> <li>4. Pathfinder partnership must comprise of a collaboration across all three statutory partners (Health, Social Work, Police) with demonstrable links with 3<sup>rd</sup> sector and education partners</li> <li>5. Commitment to meaningfully involve children and young people with lived experience of child protection and justice processes in the design and delivery of the pathfinder work</li> <li>6. Commitment to develop trauma responsive approaches across the Bairns’ Hoose Pathfinder partner organisations, systems and workforces in line with <a href="#">“Creating Trauma-Informed Change: What, Why and How A Quality Improvement Framework for Trauma-Informed Organisations, Systems and Workforces in Scotland”<sup>3</sup></a>.</li> <li>7. Commitment to gather, analyse and share relevant data and evidence (quantitative and qualitative) for learning and monitoring at regular intervals</li> <li>8. Commitment to share information and learning openly and honestly.</li> </ol> <p>All applicants <b>must</b> meet the minimum criteria for Pathfinder Partnerships in order to be included in the assessment process, with the commitment to provide the required resource and partnership leadership to achieve the overall aim of the Pathfinder phase.</p> <p>These criteria will be set out in a contract with the Scottish Government for successful Pathfinders.</p>	

<sup>3</sup> A final version of the Quality Improvement Framework is due for publication in summer 2023.

<b>Yes, the Partnership commits to the Criteria</b>	Please sign to confirm:  Graeme Simpson
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Responses relating to each question can be up to 500 words but may be less where appropriate.

<b>SECTION 3</b>	<b>Bairns' Hoose Delivery</b>
<b>Section weighting</b>	<b>15%</b>
<p><b>3.1. What stage of development towards becoming a Bairns' Hoose is your proposed Pathfinder Partnership currently at? [wordcount maximum 500]</b>  <i>We welcome applications from Partnerships at different stages of development. Scoring will be based on how self-reflective applications are of their current position, as well as on their stage of development.</i></p> <p>The partnership has evaluated current practice against the Bairns' Hoose Standards and given consideration to the learning from Stages 1 and 2 of the CELCIS Children's Services Reform research to support the completion of this Pathfinder application.</p> <p><b>Standard 2 – Everyone who is professionally responsible for protecting children works together to ensure Bairns Hoose helps me and other children.</b></p> <p><b>Committed Leadership and shared Governance</b></p> <p>Our Local Chief Officer Group (COG), Child Protection Committee (CPC) and Children's Services Board (CSB) identify a Bairns Hoose as a central element of our Public Protection arrangements and emerging Family Support Model. As a result, the impact of the Bairns Hoose on children and families will be overseen by COG, scrutinising established multi-agency data reports. Given the transformational nature of the policy, a research partner has been identified to work alongside our own Health Determinants Research Collaboration.</p> <p>Established regional approaches, such as our SCIM arrangements will ensure we maximise the alignment of our Bairns Hoose. As with SCIM our Bairns Hoose will operate on a 'soft boundary' basis recognising that around 20% of JII's for neighbouring Local Authorities are for children on the periphery of City boundary. We are continuing to develop strong connections to Orkney and Shetland who already access NHS Grampian for child protection health services.</p> <p><b>Shared Goals, aligned policies and Facilitative relationships</b></p> <p>The Partnership works well together to deliver the improvements outlined in our Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) which directly influences shared and single system Strategic Plans. The CSB identified the need to prioritise those who have experienced multiple trauma and recognise a Bairns Hoose will help reform ways of working with and for this group.</p>	

Our ambition is that our Bairns Hoose maximises the potential to fully incorporate the justice element. This will include having distinct space for Age of Criminal Responsibility interviews, but also a remote court suite that enables children/young people to give evidence to Court. This builds on our strong response to the change in legislation around the age of criminal responsibility and delivery on the [Standards for those working with children in conflict with the law](#). Discussion with SCRA have also identified opportunities for our Bairns Hoose to support delivery on many recommendations of the - [Children's Hearing Redesign Report](#). This could include aligning a Reporter to the Bairns Hoose to enabling their enhanced role prior to a referral being made.

### **Co-location, Shared culture and common commissioning**

Community Planning Partners (CPPs) led the implementation of the Scottish Child Interview Model (SCIM) on behalf of the region in November 2022. Regional co-delivery of SCIM builds on over 20 years of co-located practice with colleagues from the Police and children's social work. Our implementation has been recognised as best practice nationally. As a result of this maturing relationship, feedback from children/young people is directly shaping SCIM practice as well as informing our thinking around our Bairns Hoose.

Recognising that children's needs will move up and down, we continue to actively engage with Children 1<sup>st</sup> to develop a trauma recovery service. Families tell us current processes can compound their distress. The independence of Children 1<sup>st</sup> will enable honest reflections from children and families and live connections with wider community based services within our Family Support Model to provide effective scaffolding for families. Children 1<sup>st</sup> already support delivery of Tier 2 services in the city and Moray Council enabling seamless transition between services and access to more holistic support through established services.

**Appendix 1 - Aberdeen Group – Bairns Hoose Creative Workshop.**

### **3.2 With reference to any available evidence, please describe your areas of strength in terms of your journey towards full Bairns' Hoose delivery (wordcount maximum 500)**

**Standard 1 - My rights are upheld, and these Standards are for me. My best interests are always acted on, I am listened to and my views are taken seriously.**

### **Co-location, Shared Goals, and Committed Leadership**

Our 2019 Joint Inspection of Children's Services highlighted a commitment to multi-agency working noting that 'Joint working was effectively promoted by leaders who collaborated and shared a clear vision, values and aims'. The strength of our strategic public protection leadership was again very positively evaluated in the 2022 Care Inspectorate inspection of Adult Protection.

Since publication of the 2019 Joint Inspection report, and in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Community Planning Partners have had considerable success in delivering integrated rights based services. Our multi-agency

workforce, who have experienced such integration, speak openly about the transformational nature of integration for them and those they support.

Since November 2020, our Fit Like Hubs have supported 1043 families with an increasing percentage of self-referrals (currently over 10%). There is clear evidence that engagement with the service realises:

- Parents feeling supported to manage their anxieties and worries
- Parents/carers and children feeling listened to and heard
- Strengthened family relationships
- Improved child mental health and wellbeing.

Those accessing the service tell us that it feels like a bespoke service and that it is the first time support has 'felt right'. As a result we have confidence in our ability to deliver high quality, rights based integrated services that adapt based on what children and families tell us.

### **Shared policies, goals and information/data sharing**

IRD's, which we aim to convene within 2 hours of referral and are child focussed. Wherever possible children are given a choice on where the interview takes place. Data suggests that the right children go onto Child Protection Planning Meetings.

### **Shared rights based culture**

Aberdeen's Young People's Rights service provides independent, relational, trauma-informed advocacy, guidance and support to children, young people/adults, aged 0-26 years, where they cannot access this service themselves, due to age or disability, the service can affirmatively promote their voice through 'non-instructed' advocacy. All children involved in child protection processes are considered for referral as part of established IRD practice, although take up is lower than we might have anticipated. A focus in delivering a trauma recovery service will allow for a re-examination how to enable effective advocacy for children/young people.

The Standards for those working with children in conflict with the law recognises that this group of children "have some of the most hidden voices." It is everyone's responsibility to ensure their voices are heard and their rights are upheld. A rights respecting approach to justice will support improving life changes for these children and we are keen that our Bairns Hoose offers them the same protections and support as a child who has been harmed.

Establishing a Bairns Hoose Reference Group, comprising children, young people and families impacted by the child protection, care and justice systems, will ensure their views and voices operationalise Article 12 UNCRC. Our partnership with Children 1<sup>st</sup> will enable Aberdeen City to draw on learning from other Bairns Hoose services.

### **Information/Data Sharing and Committed Leadership**

Key learning we have taken from the delivery of SCIM and Fit Like is to empower and support operational leaders to have the autonomy to develop new services. The use of live multi-agency data has been critical to supporting this approach. The partnership has existing data sharing agreements that enable the routine

sharing of appropriate data to produce multi-agency data sets. CELCIS have engaged with the data reporting of our Child Protection Committee to inform national approaches to data reporting.

**3.3 With reference to any available evidence, please describe areas for development in terms of your journey towards full Bairns' Hoose delivery. [wordcount maximum 500]**

We have identified 2 standards that require our immediate attention.

**Standard 4 – The Bairns Hoose feels cosy, comfortable, relaxed and well-kept for other children.**

**Co-location, Facilitative relationships, shared finance and policies**

Our proposed Bairns Hoose is part of an existing ELC provision, co-delivered by health and education. The location is well served by public transport, accessible from the Airport and Harbour. It provides for privacy, anonymity with multiple entry/exit points to ensure we manage the needs and safety of all who will utilise our Bairns Hoose. The building is enhanced by accessible outdoor space.

**(Appendix 2 – Aberdeen City's Bairns Hoose pp)**

The project is committed within the Council Capital Programme, requiring refurbishment/adaption to offer all 4 rooms. We are committed to realising the Bairns Hoose vision in exactly the way children need and deserve. Feedback from children has directly informed the business case.

It is our intention to develop our Bairns Hoose in 3 Phases recognising time needs to be taken to fully consider the changes required to effectively deliver a remote court and forensic medical facilities.

**Phase 1** – Deployment of SCIM. Completed November 2022. Aberdeen City currently delivers circa 90% of joint interviews utilising the SCIM approach. Police and social work staff are collocated and for over 20 years we have had an integrated joint child protection team.

**Phase 2** - Develop the Bairns Hoose to the same standard as the existing ELC provision to provide purpose built SCIM facilities including:

- interview facilities;
- co-location of SCIM staff;
- location for 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector Trauma Recovery Service;
- space for 'safe and well' medicals;
- space to support staff wellbeing/learning and development.

As a partnership we are keen to consider the viability of Police Scotland's 'IRD desk' being located within the Bairns Hoose.

**Phase 3** - Develop the Bairns Hoose to fully deliver all '4 rooms':

- interview space for ACR interviews which would have the potential to be used to interview vulnerable adults
- Remote court facility

- Medical suite with the capacity to undertake forensic medicals
- Shower facilities.
- Multi-purpose space allowing for direct work with families
- Flexible space for staff learning/wellbeing / Children’s Hearings – SCRA court led processes.

**Shared goals and Holistic support**

We have a well-established relationship with Children 1<sup>st</sup>. They have agreed to partner our Bairns Hoose development, supporting the co-design and delivery of our Trauma Recovery Service. They will ensure children and families have meaningful involvement in the planning and design of our Bairns Hoose and its appropriately equipped and maintained. This will help ensure we realise our commitment to improve the experience for children and families.

**Standard 5 - If I need to give evidence in a court or legal process, someone explains what is happening and I am supported through this. There is an option to live link to court from the Bairns’ Hoose.**

**Co-location, facilitative relationships, information sharing and shared policies and goals**

The Standards for those Working with Children in Conflict with the Law states "all children must have access to support when going through judicial processes."

Our Partnership recognises more needs to be done to prepare and support children giving evidence to Court. We are mindful of the broad implications of the Children’s Care and Justice Bill and are keen to consider the extent to which our Bairns Hoose could serve to meet some of the changes set out in the bill including the interviewing of children and the proposal that under 18s appearing in court do so in a closed court.

A recent practice review highlighted that current arrangements can lead to our children/young people feeling they are not believed, distressed and hurt. We appreciate the importance of building the confidence of children/young people as well as if the Court has confidence in the space and supports.

The remote court facility has the potential to meet the needs of vulnerable adults who need to give evidence to Court. Where appropriate, and through careful timetabling, provision would be made through our Bairns Hoose. We have constructive engagement from COPF’s and SCTS to fully understand the requirements of a live link/remote link to court. We have positively engaged with local Sheriffs to seek their engagement and input. Their support is very welcome.

<b>SECTION 4</b>	<b>Multi-agency working</b>
<b>Section weighting</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>4.1. Please describe the mechanisms you will put in place to ensure multi-agency working across all sectors. [wordcount maximum 500]</b>	
<b>Committed Leadership, Shared Governance, aligned policy and goals.</b>	

The NE Leadership Public Protection Group is driving work regionally. The Aberdeen City Community Planning partnership has a range of highly effective governance arrangements in place including our COG, CPC and Children's Services Board (CSB). These arrangements, where candour, curiosity and accountability between partners is actively encouraged, has significantly aided more common practice and a shared and ongoing culture of improvement around public protection. Local Government benchmarking outcome data for children suggests we are the most improved Partnership.

**Standard 9 - If me or my family need help we can speak with someone who understands what we are going through. I get the help and support I need to recover.**

### **Co-location, holistic support, shared goals and shared culture**

Over the past 3 years we have developed a strong partnership with Children 1st who support delivery of Fit Like, a whole family wellbeing service which has been evaluated positively by Scottish Government Mental Health Collaborative. This multi-agency service was developed by taking a poverty & rights based approach, aligning to the 10 Principles of Intensive Family Support.

The service provides holistic early intervention support to children, young people and their families mitigating the need for them to access statutory children's social work services or CAMHS and is staffed by a range of agencies and disciplines including:

- ACC - Education; CSW; Community Learning & Development; Youth services
- NHS - CAMHS; Health Visiting; School Nursing
- 3rd Sector – Children 1st; Alcohol Drugs Action
- ACC Group - Sport Aberdeen

Operating on a 'Family First' principle, families set their own priorities and explore with staff how these are to be met. Our Trauma Recovery Service will take a similar approach. We recognise the impact of abuse and harm on all family members and the criticality of supporting parents to make sense of the harm their child has experienced. The Bairns Hoose will provide an accessible and comfortable space to undertake therapeutic work if the family deem the setting the most suitable. Therapeutic work will also be undertaken in the communities in which children/young people live.

By connecting our Trauma Recovery Service to our wider Family Support Model we will support families to access community based supports but also allow for them to easily re-access more intensive supports if required.

**Standard 10 - The people who help me at the Bairns' Hoose work as a team. They get the help they need to do their jobs well.**

### **Shared policies, shared goals and a shared culture**

As a Partnership we have well established and consistently applied policies. Partners make effective use of IRD processes in keeping with national Child Protection Guidance and benefit from over 20 years of our Joint Child Protection Unit being co-located and co-delivered by Police Scotland and children's social

work. Our Bairns Hoose will build upon this well-established practice and respond to the appetite of our workforce for further integration.

We have a long established delivery model of shared learning and development which will be maintained. Effective professional supervision will also be maintained with Organisational Development on hand to support team development as required.

We are keen to ensure that we can respect the wishes of the young people wherever possible, particularly in identifying their central point of contact. We have a commitment from the partnership that staff, irrespective of the job role, will be released to support a child or young person wherever possible.

**4.2. Please describe the mechanisms you will put in place to promote co-location of members of the multi-agency and multi-disciplinary team. [wordcount maximum 500]**

**Leadership, Co-location, shared goals and policies**

The Partnership has a focus on prevention. Leaders have encouraged the deliberate utilisation of a number of policy levers, such as the expansion of Early Learning and Childcare, to progress opportunities for co-location and integration and more rights based approaches. There is strong local evidence of the impact of integration on staff and those accessing services. Partners, including Police and Health, are based in the Council Headquarters and this is further strengthening relationships and shared decision making. The partnership is keen to explore wider alignment across the region to better reflect the geographical reach of Police Scotland and NHSG.

**Shared culture and aligned policy**

We recognise that genuine integration has to be planned for, both strategically and operationally and propose to use the learning from the Children’s Services Reform Research to support the development of our Bairns Hoose.



Figure 1: Components model of integration

Figure 1: Components model for integration taken from The Centre for Excellence for children’s Care and Protection (CELCIS) published report on the first strand of, [Children’s Services Reform Research: Rapid evidence Review](#) will be used to guide the development of our plans and Operational Guidance.

Our SCIM team already benefit from well established relationships and working practices, and it is proposed to quickly identify other key individuals who will be attached to the Bairns Hoose, and routinely bring them together physically at the Links Hub to develop a long term programme in collaboration with appropriate support from Organisational Development. It is thought that taking this approach will help cement a shared culture and shared purpose.

We recognise and value the positive impact of the voices of children, young people and families who have lived experience of the child protection and justice

processes on our policies and culture. There are clear examples where this has already informed our Bairns Hoose planning and staff development. For example recognising the importance of food within a Bairns Hoose/child protection processes and reinforcing the critical importance of relational practice. Processes, buildings and staff were at times described negatively as 'not focused on their needs/best interests' of being 'cold' and 'unkind'

**Information sharing/data sharing and holistic support**

Once formally established, the Bairns Hoose team will transition to lead the Reference Group and work with wider partners through Service Design principles and make use of Human Learning systems resources. Taking this approach will enable the team to develop their theories of change and determine how to measure their impact.

Community Planning Partners benefit from an established data sharing agreement which will support this work. On-going monitoring will be supported through the development of a clear internal evaluation framework and external research capacity.

SECTION 5	Operating Model
Section weighting	10%
<p><b>5.1 Please describe your operation model of service delivery within your Pathfinder. [wordcount maximum 500]</b></p> <p><b>This should include an outline of how the model will be co-ordinated and operationally managed; what consideration to the four rooms approach of Barnahus has been given; details of any service core to delivery of the Standards not included in the Pathfinder; and how those services will engage with the operational model. You may also wish to consider some practical challenges such as building maintenance; information sharing etc.</b></p> <p><b>Standard 3 - Bairns' Hoose includes me and my family.</b></p> <p><b>Shared culture and shared goals</b>            We recognise the importance of the welcome and initial point of contact within our Child Protection processes. The design of the Bairns Hoose will provide a warm welcome and we are committed to ensuring that families will, as far as possible, have the same point of contact. The role and remit of all partners within the Bairns Hoose will need to be clearly understood to deliver on the Standards. We anticipate that this detail will be included in our Operational Guidance.</p> <p>We are committed to giving children, young people and families as much choice as possible in terms of location, access to known and trusted staff and information. We appreciate that privacy will be important and recognise that the multiple entrances to our proposed location will help and improve the flow of the service. We are exploring the potential for the Trauma Recovery Service to incorporate the role of a Bairns Hoose coordinator.</p>	

This role will be critical in helping to maximise the safe use of the physical space as well as having a key welcoming and advocating role. We anticipate this post be filled well in advance of the Bairns Hoose being operational to enable systems and processes to be established and tested and relationships built.

**Standard 8 - My physical, emotional and mental health is looked after. Someone helps to plan appointments and I'm supported.**

### **Holistic support**

The development of our Trauma Recovery Service will build on our existing Family Wellbeing Service. We are actively planning for this to fully aligned to our SCIM model and serve the needs of all 3 North East Local Authorities. We are in active discussion with Orkney and Shetland to explore how our SCIM delivery and Bairns Hoose can support their children and families. Working with Children 1<sup>st</sup> will allow a seamless integration of our Bairns Hoose with established elements of our Family Support Model which already support physical, emotional and mental health.

The Partnership is confident in its 'family first' and rights based approach but recognises, through a recent audit of joint interviews for those with complex communication needs, the need for a continued focus on this group.

While only a few children require a forensic medical, partners have committed to a forensic medical suite being part of our design. The medical suite will be a flexible space to offer a range of medical appointments based on need. Discussions are ongoing with CAHMS to redesign pathways for those who require clinical mental health support.

**Standard 6 - I will be supported during any interview. My interview will be recorded and used so I don't have to repeat myself as much.**

### **Shared culture, shared goals and facilitative relationships**

Children/young people currently speak positively of their experience of being interviewed by SCIM trained staff and interviews are quality assured to ensure learning is captured and continuous improvement.

### **Aligned policies and information/data sharing**

The purpose built spaces being proposed in Phase 2 will ensure a more conducive environment for interviewing children/young people in keeping with the Bairns Hoose standards. The informal spaces, will help afford opportunities to meet staff in advance and become familiar with the environment and what to expect in a way that makes sense to the child/young person.

An effective data sharing agreement is already in place which enables COG, CPC and CSB to routinely scrutinise multi-agency data.

Families continue to tell us that not having to tell their stories more than once makes recovery easier. There is clear evidence that local integrated models help address disadvantage and risk more timeously, increases quality and helps develop a shared culture between partners.

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<b>SECTION 6</b>	<b>Planning and service design</b>
<b>Section weighting</b>	<b>25%</b>

**6.1 Please describe your key areas or planned activity which are to be included in the development and delivery plans if you become a Pathfinder area. You may wish to cross reference information provided elsewhere in the application. [wordcount maximum 500]**

The Delivery Group and Reference Group continue to clarify expectations and secure agreement to help preparations for implementation of a Bairns Hoose.

Areas being developed have been referenced throughout this application and are summarised below:

- Commission a North East Trauma Recovery Service and revisit alignment to existing processes and practices. (3.1; 3.2; 3.3; 4.1; 5.1; 6.2; 8.3)
- Continue to engage with North East Local Authorities and Orkney and Shetland to finalise arrangements. (3.1; 5.1)
- Continue to progress plans for Phases 2 and 3 of the proposed building, with a particular focus given to on-going engagement with various elements of the justice system to deliver an effective remote court facility. (3.1; 3.3)
- Explore with COPFS/SCTS operational delivery of remote court facility that minimises any child under the age of 18 having to attend Court. (3.1; 3.3)
- Continue to explore with SCRA the recommendations of the Children’s Hearing System Review that have a connection to delivering a Bairns Hoose. (3.1; 3.3)
- Continue to explore with Police Scotland the viability of the ‘IRD Desk’ being located within the Bairns Hoose. (3.3; 4.1)
- Finalise the ‘trauma flow’ of the space for children/young people who need to access the range of elements within the Bairns Hoose. (3.3; 5.1)
- Utilise service design principles with the wider children’s service workforce. (6.3; 8.2)
- In collaboration with Children 1<sup>st</sup> develop opportunities to supports the workforce develop their confidence and use of the Lundy model to maximise the participation of children and young people to inform the design and development of our Bairns Hoose. (6.2)
- Explore the capacity of the Bairns Hoose to support other vulnerable groups to be interviewed within a trauma informed setting. (3.2; 3.3; 8.1)
- Continue to build the capacity of the Reference Group and consider how the voices and experiences of children, young people and families will directly influence on-going development through a ‘you said, we did’ approach. (3.2; 3.3; 6.2; 6.3; 6.4; 8.1)
- Developing our theory of change and associated evaluation framework that links to our model of Family Support (6.2; 6.3; 8.2)
- Developing Operational Guidance with clear roles and remits (4.2; 5.1)
- Establishing a programme of Organisational Development for the Bairns Hoose team. (4.1; 6.3; 7.1)

- Finalising external evaluation/research arrangements and responding to learning from other Partnerships (7.1)
- Explore the resource/financial contribution to be made from partners. (8.3)
- Consideration of how other partners (e.g. Education, Youth Services, Rape Crisis and ALEOs) can directly support the needs of families accessing the Bairns Hoose. (4.1; 8.1)
- Explore more fully how a Human Learning Systems approach could support our work (4.2; 6.6)
- Consider the implications of our evaluation against The Promise & Plan 21-24 (6.4; 7.1; 8.2)

**6.2 Please describe steps you will take to ensure meaningful participation of children and young people in the service design and improvement for your site and its services. The Scottish Government’s approach to Bairns’ Hoose incorporates The Lundy Model of Child Participation and you may wish to describe how you plan to incorporate the four central components (space, voice, audience and influence) within your chosen approach. [wordcount maximum 500]**

**Standard 11 - People at the Bairns’ Hoose listen to what I have to say about my experience. What I tell them helps to make the Bairns’ Hoose better.**

#### **Leadership and shared culture and goals**

Feedback sought from all JII’s is being collated to inform planning and young people and families are helping shape our Bairns Hoose business case through the Reference Group. The participation of children and families will continue to be central to the development of our evaluation framework to support continuous improvement. The Partnership has committed to take a ‘you say, we did’ approach to ensure that our children/young people can clearly identify how they have shaped the project. We value the offer of Children 1<sup>st</sup> to work with a group of children to select and resource internal fittings and fixtures.

#### **Information and data sharing**

Our children/young people who have experienced the care and justice system have already told us what is important to them. Utilisation of the Lundy Model of Participation is growing across the partnership, however we know there is more we need to do to embed and scale up its application.

Children 1<sup>st</sup> have significant expertise in the Barnahus model and are an Associate member of the European PROMISE network and long-time advocates for bringing Barnahus to Scotland. In addition they bring notable experience in providing recovery services to children who have been victims of violence and involved in criminal and civil justice proceedings. Dr Hill of Children 1<sup>st</sup> worked with Professor Lundy and Dr Mary Mitchell to develop ‘Building a Culture of Participation in Barnahus: Implementing children’s right to participate in decision making’. Utilising research from across Barnahus, Children 1<sup>st</sup> have analysed the application of the Lundy model and created a useful guide for current and emerging Bairns Hoose.

Our partnership with Children 1<sup>st</sup> will enable Aberdeen City to have access to invaluable resources that can support our workforce to further develop their skills, capacity and confidence in our developing use and application of the Lundy model.

Our local Partnership are currently reviewing the format of our multi-agency Child's Plan to incorporate the Lundy Model. This is expected to be rolled out over the second half of 2023. We also welcome it being a core element of the Voice of the Infant, Practice Guidance. While being utilised in pockets the consistency of its usage remains an area of focus.

Our strong focus on prevention requires us to challenge ourselves to consider the alignment between the Bairns Hoose and our model of Family Support. This will ensure that data (quantitative and qualitative) is used to shape our wider model of Family Support.

### **Holistic support and common finance/commissioning**

The commissioning of a trauma recovery service will be on a whole family basis which will support our focus on rights across the partnership and provision of more holistic family support. This focus has been guided by what our children and families have told us about how they want to access services.

### **6.3 Please describe how you will involve staff in the service design and improvement for your partnership and its services. [wordcount maximum 500]**

#### **Leadership, shared governance and aligned policies.**

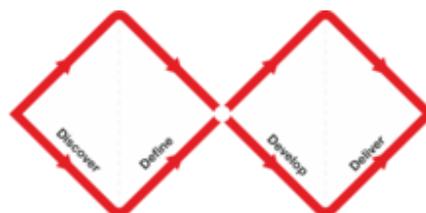
Senior Leaders have shared a commitment to deliver a local Bairns Hoose. The development now features in integrated and single agency strategic plans. Key leads from each agency sit on the Delivery Group and our SCIM team have heavily influenced our planning to date.

Local and National leaders shared with 150 staff from across the multi-agency workforce our planning and thinking in relation to Bairns Hoose at our recent Public Protection event in May 2023. The positive enthusiasm for delivering a Bairns Hoose was palpable. The event enabled the workforce to provide invaluable feedback and a strong operational perspective. This has been captured and we have ensured their comments and thinking is fully reflected in our application and planning.

Following submission of this application we recognise there is a need to increase the level of engagement across the multi-agency workforce. Engagement with operational leaders across Children's Social Work is planned for the end of August and will be a focus for our autumn Child Protection Development meeting. Progress will be routinely reported through internal and shared governance structures to ensure both public transparency and recognition of staff commitment and achievements as well as ensuring the connectedness of the Bairns Hoose to our wider system and structures.

### **Shared culture and holistic support**

It is proposed that the double diamond service design template be used to support the delivery of our Bairns Hoose and that the Delivery Group, staff team and Reference Group should now start to lead members of the wider multi-agency workforce through the stages of Discover, Define, Develop and Deliver to ensure they have full ownership of our Bairns Hoose.



It is thought that taking this approach will enable the wider workforce to feel part of the change and identify how their contribution will help to support those children impacted by the child protection and justice system as part of the wider model of Family Support. Taking this approach will also help the Bairns Hoose team develop a robust theory of change and associated evaluation framework to help monitor the impact of changes in the short, medium and longer term.

The tools available in [hls-practical-guide.pdf](#) are exceptionally helpful in helping us steward our system to reduce and mitigate risk of harm as we explore the interface with our wider model of Family Support. Taking a learning circles approach will help ensure that we look at the Bairns Hoose as part of our wider system and use all of the policy levers to secure improvement in outcomes for children and families. This approach also enables consideration of systems at differing levels including regional, place and at team around the child level.

### **6.4 Please describe the skills and capacity you have to support learning, service design and change and how you will support learning across the partnership to enable change. [wordcount maximum 500]**

#### **Information/ data sharing and shared culture**

In October 2022 Aberdeen City Council launched our **D365 data system**. This replaced the Council's existing data system for Social Work which no longer served our needs. The D365 system developed with Microsoft has been designed by social workers for social workers. The system has been shared with Scottish Government given its capacity to deliver multi agency chronologies as set out within the National Care Service Bill. The D365 data system currently records IRD/SCIM data which is reported to our Child Protection Committee and nationally.

We have made considerable progress in our use of live qualitative and quantitative data to drive more agile and responsive approaches. Our "request for assistance" process, which will soon (August 2023) be utilised by all partners inclusive of 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector, is helping CPP's gain a shared understanding of risk of vulnerability and aligns to our priorities and use of resources more effectively.

The Community Planning Partnership currently utilises the IHI approach to improvement science and working practices are well established. The Local Authority offers 'bootcamp' training in quality improvement for all project leads. This resource is available to support our Pathfinder.

The Local Authority has a highly effective Data and Insights team who will support the establishment of a PowerBi monitoring, reporting and analysis to help monitor impact in real time. The partnership's approach to data gathering and reporting in relation to Child Protection and Corporate Parenting has been positively evaluated by CELCIS and the Promise Scotland team with learning drawn to support reporting at a national level.

**Shared goals and aligned policy**

The Local Authority People and Organisation function have staff trained to help make effective use of service redesign principles and the Children and Family Service Cluster (education and children's social work) have experience of using the principles to design innovative pilots and tests of change, informed by the voices of service users, as part of our work to develop a robust Family Support Model.

We continue to participate in a Getting it Right for Everyone Pathfinder which builds upon learning from a local audit in relation to children with disabilities within the child protection system. This work is helping to develop consistency of planning for children with complex and enduring needs to ensure their needs are effectively planned for including beyond childhood.

There is considerable evidence of our commitment to learning and development, with SCIM and our Fit Like Hubs recognised nationally as best practice. Our partnership with Children 1<sup>st</sup> will enable learning from other national Bairns Hoose models to be taken into account.

Strength based practice is well established across the partnership.

We are developing a broader feedback loop in which children, young people and parents can reflect back to us their experiences of receiving family and social work support. While this can be challenging for the workforce the insight and learning this offers is invaluable. The work of the reference group will compliment this.

**Committed leadership and commissioning**

The Aberdeen Health Determinants Research Collaboration is led by the Council and extends across NHS Grampian, University of Aberdeen and Robert Gordon University. It will work with our commissioned external research contractor to support evaluation activity.

We are open to working in collaboration with the care Inspectorate to support the development of our evaluation framework

<b>SECTION 7</b>	<b>Data &amp; Evidence</b>
<b>Section weighting</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>7.1 Please describe how you will generate, collate and analyse data and evidence to monitor delivery and identify learning for improvement. Briefly outline what quantitative and qualitative data, including from children and young people themselves, you will gather, and who will be responsible for collecting and analysing information. [wordcount maximum 500]</b>	

### **Information/data sharing, shared culture and shared goals**

In 2017 the CPP adopted Institute of Healthcare Improvement methodology and significant progress has been made in the leadership of improvement through multi-disciplinary teams. As a result, relationships across the partnership are strong, policies are becoming more aligned through strong shared governance arrangements and fewer decisions are taken in isolation.

Pilots will “test the full implementation of the Bairns' Hoose model blueprint”. We recognise that there are three key elements to monitoring and evaluation. These are:

- standing single and multi-agency systems, practices and culture
- implementation of the Bairns Hoose approach, including application of the Bairns Hoose standards
- the impact of the Bairns Hoose approach including outcomes for the child, their family and wider society

#### **i. Standing Systems, Practices and Culture**

We have well developed monitoring and reporting of existing child protection services covering demand, pathways, processes (including SCIM), quality, resources and costs. It is important that the pilot is integrated into existing reporting arrangements so development can be considered within the context of the wider “whole system” approach. This work is supported by the Council’s Data & Insights team, working with practitioners across multi-agency partners and reported to our CPC and Chief Officers Group as part of a whole system approach to public protection.

#### **ii. Bairns Hoose Standards**

We will work with Scottish Government to agree performance indicators to support internal quality assurance against the Standards, design data collection and monitoring against the standards and support internal and external assurance.

#### **iii. Impact of the Bairns Hoose approach including Outcomes for the child, their family and wider society**

Scottish Government will “work closely with Pathfinder partnerships in a collaborative way to identify measures of success and gather data and intelligence”. From the Phase 1 evaluation and a review of other literature, we believe there are significant opportunities to develop the evaluation of impact, including:

- children and young people’s recovery
- therapeutic outcomes for children and their families
- experience of the justice process for children and families
- criminal justice outcomes

- impact for staff and organisations

We will work in partnership with Children 1<sup>st</sup> and the NIHR funded Aberdeen Health Determinants Research Collaboration (AHDR) to commission the University of Edinburgh, who have undertaken evaluation and development of programme theory relating to Scotland’s first Bairns Hoose. We will draw upon established protocols for designing ethical research approaches; data management, security and sharing protocols and data collection tool design. The participation of AHDR will provide additional support ensuring learning is captured and shared at a local level.

We anticipate a formative approach to evaluation informed by realist evaluation processes. We will utilise a mixed method approach to data collection, capturing both qualitative data (e.g. interviews, focus groups, observations) and quantitative data (e.g. statistical case data; survey responses; outcome measurements for children and families).

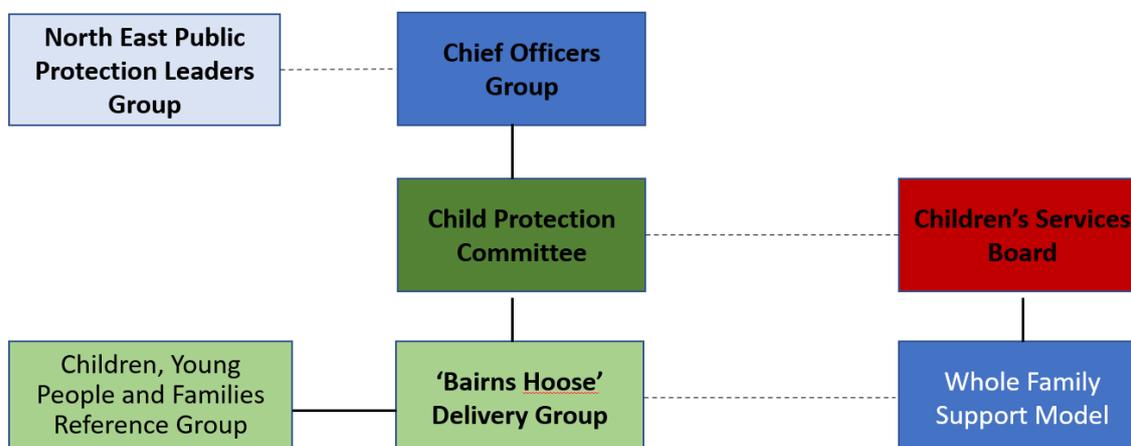
Formative evaluation will enable us to gather and analyse learning and feedback during development and implementation rather than waiting for an ‘end result’. This supports an ongoing reflective learning culture.

Realist evaluations are useful in evaluating complex programmes that produce mixed outcomes, helping to better understand how and why different outcomes occur for different stakeholders. This is considered appropriate for our evaluation. This will involve collaborative development of a programme theory (logic model) describing why and how we anticipate interventions lead to desired outcomes. This will be aligned with the Bairns’ Hoose Standards and Principles.

<b>SECTION 8</b>	<b>Governance, Leadership, Resources</b>
<b>Section weighting</b>	<b>15%</b>

**8.1 Please describe your proposed Pathfinder governance and reporting structures. [wordcount maximum 500]**

**Bairns Hoose Governance**



Our local COG has demonstrated strong leadership in their commitment to establish a Bairns Hoose. Operationally they have delegated planning to the CPC who have formed a multi-agency Bairns' Hoose Delivery Group, chaired by the CSWO. This group works in collaboration with a recently formed Reference Group of young people and families who have experienced child protection and justice systems.

The Chief Officers group have ultimate accountability for delivery at Aberdeen City Level and will receive routine progress reports and have access to agreed data as well as evaluation reports from the proposed partnership with the University of Edinburgh. This will enable them to gain robust and independent assurance that risks and issues are being resolved effectively and that the Bairns Hoose standards are being met.

The CPC shares an independent Chair with the Adult Protection Committee and this is considered to be helpful to maximise the impact of the resource and approaches available through our local Bairns Hoose.

The CPC will reporting of progress to COG will be shared with the Children's Services Board who will continue to oversee the development of our Family Support Model and ensure that the wider Family Support Model takes account of relevant learning and needs being identified around prevention and early intervention at the Bairns Hoose

The Bairns Hoose Delivery Group, has delegated authority to develop more detailed plans, is heavily influenced by the established Reference Group of those with lived experience of the child protection and justice systems. This will be an open group ensuring that newer experiences are captured and fully considered. This relationship will be maintained. Membership of the Delivery Group currently includes:

- Children's Social Work
- Police Scotland
- NHS Grampian
- SCRA
- Children 1<sup>st</sup>

We have positively connected with COPFS/SCTS and local members of the judiciary to share our planning to deliver our Bairns Hoose.

The establishment of a Bairns Hoose is outlined in both our Children's Services Plan and our Child Protection Committee Improvement Plan. A shared evaluation framework is currently in operation across both groups given the inextricable links and shared responsibilities and this connection will be maintained. Progress reports and data dashboards will be considered by both Groups to ensure that learning is fully taken account of.

Facilitated by the National SCIM Implementation team, we are actively exploring options to enable the delivery of SCIM across Orkney and Shetland. This would share capacity and extend the remit of NE SCIM co-ordinator, to include co-ordinating SCIM activity for both Island partnerships. With the SCIM model being a

core component to realising the Bairns Hoose Standards we have had extended our discussion with both Island Authorities to explore how our Bairns Hoose and planning for a North East Trauma Recovery service could support children, young people and families from Orkney and Shetland.

Aberdeen City currently provides child protection data, including SCIM data, to the Child Protection Committees of Aberdeenshire and Moray the capacity to extend this to Orkney and Shetland is would further enhance local governance and oversight.

**8.2 Please describe how you will develop leadership at all levels to understand, drive and inspire the development of the Bairns Hoose. Please also outline how you will approach developing and embedding your Bairns' Hoose vision, values and culture across the partnership. [wordcount maximum 500]**

**Committed leadership**

Senior leaders are already fully committed to the development of a Bairns Hoose. The Bairns Hoose features in single and multi-agency strategic Plans

As this Pathfinder bid is submitted, it is important that we plan an extensive engagement progress to ensure that the wider workforce are involved in driving the changes. We know from our development of SCIM it is critical that senior leaders are committed to the change, but equally important to empower and enable leaders at all levels to lead development and delivery. This work will now be progressed, building on other multi-agency improvement activity.

**Shared policies and goals**

As a Community Planning Partnership, we are commitment to early, preventative and sustainable support to scaffold children, young people and families to mitigate the need for child protection registration or statutory intervention in keeping with The Promise and the recommendations of the Children's Hearing System Review. This pathfinder submission is being prepared as we evaluate our progress towards delivery of Plan 21-24 and valuable learning from this evaluation will continue to inform our planning.

The establishment and development of Operational Teams will be important and a planned programme from OD, as outlined previously, is proposed. It is proposed that the Operational Team give consideration of the professional learning required by the wider workforce to ensure that all staff supporting children, young people and families are aware of the critical role of the Bairns Hoose in our wider model of Family Support.

**8.3 Please describe the financial commitment that will be in place to successfully support the Partnership for the duration of the Pathfinder phase. [wordcount maximum 500]**

**Common financing and commissioning**

The location of the Bairns Hoose within an integrated ELC provision provides great opportunities to look at the Bairns Hoose as part of the wider system to develop

our shared understanding of risk and vulnerability. The building being proposed for use is owned and operated by Aberdeen City Council.

Considerable progress has been made in pooling resource across the universal services to co-designing and deliver services to vulnerable groups. Building on this there is a commitment from all partners to collocate relevant staff and further integrate data, processes and practice to fully deliver on the Bairns Hoose 'four room' concept.

The business case for the physical infrastructure is now at an advanced stage with final approval anticipated early in 2024. . Partners have actively contributed to informing the Bairns Hoose design, highlighting their service needs to support an integrated way of working. Discussions are continuing to agree how partners will financial contribute to the building costs.

Children 1<sup>st</sup> have notable expertise in the Barnahus model, alongside considerable experience in providing whole family recovery services to children who have been victims of violence and involved in criminal and civil justice proceedings. This experience provides confidence that our trauma recovery service will mitigate the unnecessary need for families to access a multiplicity of services thereby ensuring value to the public pound. Our partnership with Children 1<sup>st</sup> will also enable our capacity to maximise funding opportunities through their existing relationships with local corporate partners.

Email your completed application to [bairnshoose@gov.scot](mailto:bairnshoose@gov.scot) by 3pm on Monday, 21 August 2023. If you have any questions or if you would like to discuss your submission, please get in touch by contacting [bairnshoose@gov.scot](mailto:bairnshoose@gov.scot)

Thank you for your interest in the Bairns' Hoose Pathfinder Phase.