



Whole Family Wellbeing Fund 2026

Large and Small Grant Funding – application guidance

Please read the following document before completing your small grant application.

Whole Family Wellbeing Fund (WFWF)

- Background information about WFWF
- Angus – Identified needs
- WFWF Key Information
- Guidance on application form
 - o Section A: Basic Information
 - o Section B: Project Details
 - o Section C: Performance and Finance
- Bidding Criteria
- Timeframes
- Distribution of the WFWF
- Monitoring and Evaluation

Appendices

1. National Principles of Holistic Whole Family Support
2. Performance Reporting

Background

On 1 July 2022, the Scottish Government announced that it is allocating £32m Whole Family Wellbeing Funding nationally as part of its commitment to support implementation of the findings of the Independent Care Review.

This review took place from 2017-2020 and listened to over 5,500 voices, over half of which, were our children and young people who have experience of the care system. The conclusion of this work was The Promise – a clear statement of what needs to change to support the lives and wellbeing of our children, young people, adults and families across Scotland.

In accordance with The Promise, the Scottish Government recognises that we need whole system change in line with the 10 Principles for Holistic Family Support (**See Appendix 1**) incorporating the following core components of how holistic, whole family support is delivered:

1. **Children and Families at the centre of design** - A children's rights-based approach to improved Family Wellbeing, with services designed with children, young people and their families' needs at the centre, supporting all families to flourish and thrive.
2. **Availability and access** - All families know how to and can access multi-sectoral, holistic, whole family support.
3. **Leadership, workforce and culture** – Cross-sectoral commitment to collaboration and innovation which empowers and supports the workforce to provide family-centred holistic support.
4. **Whole System approach** – A collaborative, multi-agency and multi-disciplinary approach to the funding, commissioning and delivery of family support.

The Scottish Government aims to ensure that every family that needs support gets the right family support at the right time, to fulfil children's rights to be raised safely in their own families, for as long as it is needed.

Angus Integrated Childrens' Services Partnership (AICSP) oversees the Whole Family Wellbeing Programme in Angus, and Angus Council and Voluntary Action Angus have responsibility for distributing the fund.

Grant funding from the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund (WFWF) is now available, and grant applications that support the redesign of existing services, maximise the use of resources and promote transformational change for families are especially welcome.

Angus – Identified needs

Angus still has significant levels of poverty and deprivation that impacts greatly on the lives of children and families across the region.

Needs and priorities in Angus

Overarching strategic direction for Angus

- **Early intervention and prevention** – prioritising support before crisis, particularly in early years and pre-birth.
- **Whole family, holistic support** – integrated, non-stigmatising services tailored to individual family needs.
- **Reducing inequalities and child poverty** – targeted support for families in SIMD 1 & 2 and vulnerable groups.
- **Improving mental health and wellbeing** – accessible, community-based and early support for children, young people and families.
- **Integrated, partnership delivery** – multi-agency collaboration and coordinated pathways of support.
- **Rights-based, trauma-informed practice** – aligned with GIRFEC, UNCRC and The Promise.

We welcome applications to the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund Grant Awards Programme for projects that align with the following strategic priorities as laid out in the Angus Integrated Childrens Services Plan 2026 to 2029 link:

<https://www.angus.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2026-07/Integrated%20Children%E2%80%99s%20Services%20Plan%202026-29.pdf>

1. Early intervention and early years support

- Reduce developmental concerns in children aged 27–30 months
- Increase enhanced early support (pre-birth to age 2), including coordinated multi-agency responses
- Strengthen family support pathways for pregnant women and infants
- Improve speech, language and communication outcomes

2. Whole family wellbeing & mental health

- Expand early, local mental health and wellbeing support for children, young people and families
- Develop whole family approaches to mental health support
- Improve access to community-based and preventative supports

- Address trauma, neurodevelopmental needs, and emotional wellbeing
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3. Tackling child poverty and inequality

- Target support to families experiencing poverty, particularly SIMD 1 & 2 communities
 - Reduce developmental inequalities linked to deprivation (especially for boys aged 27–30 months)
 - Address cost of living pressures and improve financial wellbeing
 - Support access to employment, income maximisation and essential resources
 - Reduce inequalities in healthy weight and wider health outcomes
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4. Improving physical health outcomes

- Increase uptake of pre-school immunisations
 - Improve healthy weight and nutrition in early years
 - Promote healthier lifestyles for children and families
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5. Support for care-experienced children and families

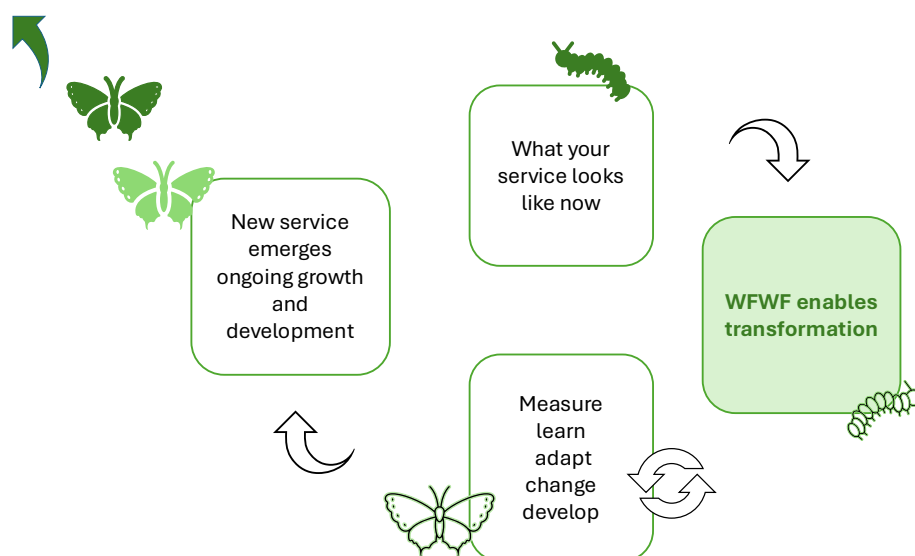
- Increase use of family-based care (kinship, foster, at home)
 - Reduce need for crisis intervention and out-of-area placements
 - Promote trauma-informed, relationship-based support
 - Work towards eliminating restraint in care and education settings
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6. System transformation and service design (critical for WFWF)

- Shift from crisis response to preventative, early help models
 - Improve accessibility and navigation of services (e.g. coordinated pathways, community connectors)
 - Reduce fragmentation and duplication in services
 - Strengthen co-design with families and communities
 - Use data and evaluation to demonstrate outcomes and impact
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WFWF – Key Information

The WFWF has been provided to the AICSP to build local capacity for transformational whole system change and to scale up and drive the delivery of holistic whole family support services.



Funding cannot be used to supplement or sustain existing services.

The Whole Family Wellbeing Fund is primarily focused on supporting operational and revenue costs, volunteer and one-off fixed term staff costs, expenses, equipment, etc. to fulfil the activity.

The fund has been awarded from the Scottish Government over a 4-year period between 2022 and 2027 as follows -

2022/2023 = £657,000

2023/2024 = £657,000

2024/2025 = £647,000

2025/2026 = £769,000

2026/2027 = £769,000

This fund allocation is being distributed over two years:

	October 2025	April 2026	December 2026	March 2027
VAA will distribute small grant funding	100k	N/A	100k	underspend

Angus Council will distribute larger grant funding	200k	200k	200k	underspend
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Funding limits:

Small grant funding (distributed by VAA) = Maximum £25,000 per grant application.

Larger grant funding (distributed by Angus Council) = £25,000 to £50,000 per application, with an option to apply for a one-off payment of up to £20,000 to help with start-up costs.

The WFW Fund will end on 31 March 2027.

Many providers will be competing for the same funds therefore applications should avoid duplication where possible.

Voluntary Action Angus can assist to connect organisations if required for this purpose.

Bids should be realistic, acknowledging that many organisations will be bidding for a share of the available amount per year.

All proposals need to align with locally identified needs (as set out above) and aim to reduce pressure on crisis services through the delivery of early intervention and preventative approaches.

Guidance on Application Form

Section A Guidance: Basic Information

This is for the details for the organisation that is applying as the lead for the proposal. Contact details if applying as a consortium or partnership can be added in Section B.

Please do not submit more than one application, if you happen to generate multiple applications, please contact Robetsonl@angus.gov.uk who will offer advice and support.

Section B Guidance: Project Details

Following the detailed summary of your project you are able to list the contact details for all the partners involved if this is a consortium or partnership bid.

Collaborative or partnership bids are welcome and encouraged but bids must demonstrate meaningful collaboration across organisations in the delivery of whole family support. The associated methods and means should be clearly outlined within the application.

Being named on more than one application is acceptable but please state whether you are aware if any partners have also applied for similar funding. (All partners are required to sign the proposal if in agreement or they can be copied into the email when submitting the proposal for the same purpose.)

Q4 asks you to give a short summary of the project you wish to deliver. This question also asks you to make reference as to how your bid will support the redesign of services and maximise the use of existing resources. It is vital your application provides this detail.

Q6 asks you to refer to the Principles for Holistic Whole Family Support (see Appendix 1). It is important that these have been considered in the development of your proposal.

Q8 looks at the project outcomes which have been set by Scottish Government who aim to shift investment towards early intervention and prevention activities, ensuring that families can access support before they reach crisis point.

1. Improved family wellbeing

2. Reduced inequalities in family wellbeing

3. Reduction in families requiring crisis intervention

4. Reduction in the number of children and young people living away from their families

5. Increase in families taking up wider supports

The application form asks you to provide contextual information as to how you will meet these.

Q9 provides space to reflect on how your proposal has been developed by taking into account families' voices. It is important to ensure that children and families are meaningfully involved in the design, delivery, evaluation and continuous improvement of services. Please make reference to any consultation data you have gathered.

Section C Guidance: Performance and Finance

This section references the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) you will be required to report on. These have been laid out in Appendix 2. Please note you will be required to provide baseline data prior to receiving your award, using the digital system (support will be available if required) which will be made available to you if your bid is successful. You will be required to return monthly data using the WFWF monitoring arrangements. All data will be analysed using the WFWF Power BI Dashboard which will show performance, patterns and trends.

Successful funded projects will have the opportunity to join and contribute to the WFWF Community of Practice group.

The remainder of this section relates to project costs and financial governance.

Bidding Criteria

The Whole Family Wellbeing Fund has been established to support transformative and systemic change and the following criteria **applies to both Third Sector and Statutory Services equally, though the small grants will apply only to the Third Sector.**

The fund criteria sets out the broad parameters for how funding should be allocated to community organisations. However, this is intended to be flexible to allow local partnership groups to identify their own priorities for spend within the terms of the fund criteria.

1. Where allocations are used to scale up existing transformational activity, the funding **must only be used to fund the scaled element of the approach**, with a view to attaining a sustainable service. i
2. The funding must not be used to support business as usual or be used to replace funding already in the system for providing support to families. **Rather, the funding must be used as additional resource to support transformation** of the system in line with the National Principles of Holistic Family Support (See Appendix 1) and the ambition set out Angus Integrated Children Service Plan 2026 to 2029 and Keep The Promise.

Funding cannot be used to supplement or sustain existing services.

Applications are open to community groups and organisations (i.e. voluntary or community organisations; registered charities; groups or clubs; not-for-profit companies or Community Interest Companies, and Community Councils).

All applications must evidence a new systems approach that works towards building transformational capacity and/or scaling up existing services within AICSPP.

This fund cannot be used to replace funding, which is already, or should be, funded by statutory services. All applications must be new innovations.

In addition:

- The activity supported by the fund must incorporate effective and formative learning and evaluation which supports national learning and improvement.
- Funded activity must be able to demonstrate intended impact on the wellbeing of children and families, in line with agreed WFWF outcomes.
- The expectation is that this phase of development will focus on supporting six priority family types identified in the WFWF and Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan, which are;
 - Lone parent families
 - Families which include a disabled adult or child
 - Larger families
 - Minority ethnic families
 - Families with a child under one year old

- Families where the mother is under 25 years of age

Many providers will be competing for the same funds, therefore applications should avoid duplication where possible.

[Voluntary Action Angus](#) can help connect organisations if required for this purpose.

Bids should be realistic, acknowledging that many organisations will be bidding for a share of available amount per year.

All proposals need to align with locally identified needs and must also align with key improvement plans, including The Promise, Tackling Poverty Strategy, and other relevant local and national priorities.

Proposals should reflect current developments in service provision and aim to reduce pressure on crisis services through the delivery of early intervention and preventative approaches.

Proposals will be evaluated against the following criteria:

Scoring:

1 = no evidence

2 = limited evidence

3 = adequate evidence

4 = strong evidence

5 = excellent evidence

- Equity of reach - (does the proposal engage hard to reach groups?)
- Geographical spread - (does the proposal cover areas of highest poverty and deprivation or ensure balance across Angus?)
- Added value/leverage - (does the proposal bring in extra resources – match funding?)
- Sustainability - (will the impact continue beyond WFWF funding?)
- System fit - (is the proposal aligned with GIRFEC, The Promise, WFWF, CSP?)
- Scale v depth of impact - (Does the proposal strike the right balance between numbers reached and intensity of support?)
- Risk and safeguarding - (does the proposal demonstrate strong safeguarding and risk management for vulnerable families?)
- Learning and Quality Improvement - (evidence of commitment to continuous improvement?)
- Partnership/collaboration - (does the proposal work with other agencies and services rather than operating in isolation?)
- Transformative approaches - (does the proposal go beyond service delivery to address the root causes, shift power or enable systemic change?)
- Impact on families - (does the proposal consider the needs of the whole family not just individuals?)

- Opportunity to scale up - (does the proposal test or pilot new approaches that could be upscaled or replicated?)
- Identified need - (does the proposal clearly identify the needs of the client group/community?)

Timeframes

SMALL GRANT FUNDING – to be administered by VAA

Local community-based activity

- Application process opens 01 October 2026 for second tranche of applications
- application process closes 30 November 2026 at 12 noon
- grants up to 25K
- targeted at grassroots, smaller third sector organisations
- encourages match funding (where possible) collaborative approaches, family involvement

examples

- peer support programmes
- family consultation and participation activities
- family strengthening activities

The evaluation process runs from 1 December 2026 to 15 January 2027, and decisions will be made by 22 January 2027 and communicated to applicants as soon as possible.

If you are unsuccessful in your bid, you will be notified by letter or email of this decision.

LARGE GRANT FUNDING – to be administered by Angus Council

Wider community-based activity and system wide change programmes

- Application process opens 01 October 2026 for second tranche of applications
- application process closes 30 November 2026 at 12 noon
- grants up to 50K (with additional 20k start up money where evidenced)
- targeted at Angus wide projects and partnerships to bring about system wide change in how holistic early support for families is delivered.
- encourages match funding (where possible) collaborative approaches, family involvement

examples

- Develop community-based family hubs or drop in approaches where families can access several forms of advice and support without needing a formal referral
- provide outreach in places families already use such as schools, community centres, health settings, leisure facilities, village halls, community spaces etc
- develop targeted outreach approaches for families who are less likely to approach traditional services
- test approaches where families can “reach in” for help rather than having to be “formally referred” into a service
- develop community capacity through volunteers, peer mentors, parent champions or community ambassadors

The evaluation process runs from 1 December 2026 to 15 January 2027, and decisions will be made by 22 January 2027 and communicated to applicants as soon as possible.

If you are unsuccessful in your bid, you will be notified by letter or email of this decision.

Distribution of the WFWF

The Whole Family Wellbeing Funding has been allocated by Scottish Government to AICSP.

The funds will be held and distributed by Angus Council, in partnership with Voluntary Action Angus. The application process has been designed to ensure a proportionate approach to evaluation.

How the WFWF be Monitored and Evaluated

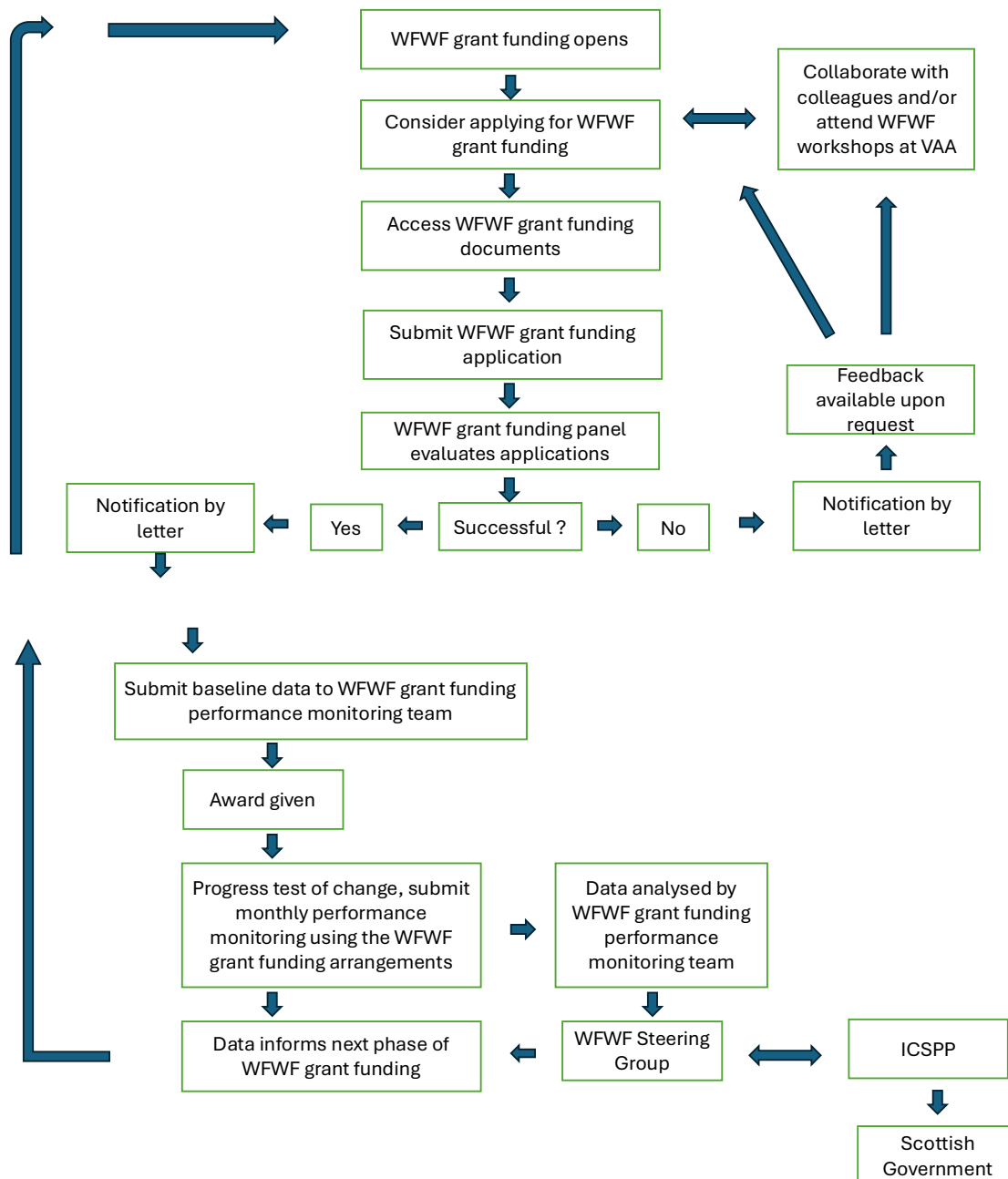
Monitoring and Evaluation

Angus Council will lead on the monitoring and evaluation of the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund to ensure its impact is effectively measured.

Organisations receiving funding will be required to submit baseline data before the award is granted.

A link to a standardised performance monitoring tool will be provided by Angus Council, enabling organisations to input numerical data, service user feedback, and workforce insights. While organisations can use their existing data collection tools or develop new ones, all information must be recorded and submitted in the designated digital questionnaire templates.

This new approach to performance reporting offers several key benefits. By collecting and analysing live data in real time, Angus Council and partners can quickly identify trends, emerging needs, and areas for improvement. The standardised format ensures consistency, enabling a strategic needs assessment across all funded projects, while also reducing administrative burden by streamlining data submission. This approach strengthens accountability, supports evidence-based decision-making, and enhances our ability to demonstrate the fund's impact effectively.



Appendix 1. National Principles for Holistic Whole Family Support

1. Non-stigmatising: Support should be promoted and provided free from stigma and judgement. Services should be as normalised as accessing universal services.

2. Whole Family: Support should be rooted in GIRFEC and wrapped around about the whole family. This requires relevant join up with adult services & whole system, place based, preventative addressing inequalities.

3. Needs based: Support should be tailored to fit around each individual family, not be driven by rigid services or structures. It should cover the spectrum of support from universal services, more tailored support for wellbeing and intensive support (to prevent or in response to statutory interventions). Creative approaches to support should be encouraged.

4. Assets and community based: Support should be empowering, building on existing strengths within the family and wider community. Families should be able to 'reach in' not be 'referred to'. Support must be explicitly connected to locations that work for local families and the community, such as schools, health centres, village halls and sports centres.

5. Timely and Sustainable: Flexible, responsive and proportionate support should be available to families as soon as they need it, and for as long as it is required, adapting to changing needs.

6. Promoted: Families should have easy, well understood routes of access to support. They should feel empowered to do so and have choice about the support they access to ensure it meets their needs.

7. Take account of families' voice: At a strategic and individual level, children and families should be meaningfully involved in the design, delivery, evaluation and continuous improvement of services. Support should be based on trusted relationships between families and professionals working together with mutual respect to ensure targeted and developmental support.

8. Collaborative and Seamless: Support should be multi-agency and joined-up across services, so families don't experience multiple 'referrals or inconsistent support.

9. Skilled and supported workforce: Support should be informed by an understanding of attachment, trauma, inequality and poverty. Staff should be supported to take on additional responsibilities and trusted to be innovative in responding to the needs of families.

10. Underpinned by Children's Rights: Children's rights should be the funnel through which every decision and support service is viewed.

Appendix 2. Performance Reporting

The following KPI's have been identified to show transformational change across Angus under the WFWF.

Here is an example of what organisations will be asked to report:

Children and Families at the centre

Engaged in meaningful consultation and participation:

Number of CYP involved in consultation and participation

Number of adults/parents/caregivers involved in consultation and participation

Number of families involved in consultation and participation

Evidence of joint decision making in support plans

Family consultation and participation embedded in systems and processes across sectors

Availability and access

Requests for assistance:

Number of pregnant women requesting support

Number of families with baby < 1 year requesting support

Number of families with child(ren) < 3 years requesting support

Method used to request assistance

Timescale between request and response

Engagement, assessment and matching to services:

Number of families declining support and reason why

Number of families engaged with assessment

Analysis of need

Numbers of families matched to services

Method used to communicate and match family with service

Service delivery:

Number of services supporting a family

Types of support provided to a family

Analysis of need and service delivery

Number of families in need of support out with "9 to 5" hours

Number of families completing programmes of support

Improved outcomes:

Number of families reporting improved outcomes

specific outcome measures for families:

- Family well-being is strengthened
- families increase resilience optimism autonomy and ability to meet their own needs
- increase confidence and self-esteem in children and parents
- parents achieve specific skills
- family has a sense of meaning and purpose
- family can establish and maintain healthy nurturing relationships with each other and extended support network
- families have improved engagement in community activities
- children's likelihood of remaining with family is increased
- a focus of a whole family approach to problem solving

Family feedback (learning loop):

Qualitative feedback from CYPF – an evaluation of service provision

Qualitative feedback from workforce of service providers

Whole System Approach (WSA) and joined up support

Whole systems approach is being used in key areas to manage change and strategy

Evidence of collaboration across sectors

Evidence of system change

Long term impact

Workforce and culture

Improved awareness of Whole Family wellbeing approach across the workforce

More practitioners and agencies are "thinking family"

Trauma Responsive Practices are embedded in practice

Support for service providers who wish to apply for WFW funding

Commissioning of services to meet the needs of the community

Grant Funding awards are successful