

**WWF Third Sector Synergy Spark:**  
**Igniting Collaborative Futures - Workshop 5**

**Overview:**

Prior to the session, organisations were invited to reflect on earlier workshops and develop initial project ideas shaped by ongoing discussions and shared priorities. During the session, several organisations presented their early-stage ideas through open conversation with attendees.

**Project Ideas Shared**

**Angus Independent Advocacy (AIA)**

**Initial Idea:**

Peer-Led Family Support Groups – designed to strengthen early intervention and prevention efforts by creating inclusive and organic community spaces. AIA proposes to recruit one staff member to facilitate and support volunteers who will lead the groups, helping ensure long-term sustainability.

**Who will this support?**

All-age support – from pre-birth to end-of-life.

**What difference will it make?**

- Increased skills, connection, and collective voice.
- Non-stigmatising peer-led support.
- Reduced crisis situations through earlier intervention.

**Evaluation Measures:**

- Stronger links with partner organisations.
- Decrease in statutory referrals.
- Increase in self-referrals.

*Note: "Peer" defined as someone with lived experience relevant to the group focus.*

## **Barnardo's**

### **Initial Idea:**

Supporting children, young people (CYP), and their families with additional support needs during key transitions – particularly those struggling to engage with education. Discussions are underway with Penumbra to explore a joint whole-family approach. The project would include a new staff member to operate a school-based buddy system.

### **Who will this support?**

Children in upper primary (P6/7) and their families, including care-experienced young people, without requiring a clinical diagnosis of any Neurodevelopmental condition.

### **What difference will it make?**

- Improved school attendance and wellbeing.
- Increased resilience and life chances.
- Early support for CYP development and family empowerment.

## **Aberlour**

### **Initial Idea:**

Enhancing existing support for new and expectant mothers by providing access to welcoming community spaces (e.g. "Baby & Blether" groups, coffee mornings) and practical support. Funding would be used for transport to hospital appointments, baby essentials, energy vouchers, and other critical needs.

### **Who will this support?**

New or expectant mums and their families, where no statutory services are involved.

### **What difference will it make?**

- Reduced isolation and loneliness.
- Better access to services and support.
- Improved wellbeing of parents and children.

## **Safe Families**

### **Initial Idea:**

Adaptation of a proven model currently operating across Scotland, focusing on community volunteer support. The model provides a 6-month support period (flexible based on need), involving three volunteer roles:

- **Host Families** – offer temporary overnight care for CYP (up to 26 nights/year).
- **Family Friends** – regular visits to offer practical or emotional support.
- **Resource Volunteers** – help with household tasks or home improvement.

### **Who will this support?**

All families, with a particular focus on larger families and those with neurodivergent (ND) needs.

### **What difference will it make?**

- Reduces isolation.
- Builds trusted relationships.
- Encourages sustained support networks, with some families later becoming volunteers.

### **Referral Pathways:**

Self-referral, health visitors, and schools.

## **Family Mediation**

### **Initial Idea:**

A standalone mediation project to complement other initiatives. This would offer impartial mediation services to help resolve conflict within families, reducing pressure on frontline staff in partner organisations.

### **Who will this support?**

All families where mediation is appropriate.

### **What difference will it make?**

- Reduces conflict.
- Allows partners to focus on delivering core services.
- Strengthens outcomes through early dispute resolution.

## **Project Gaps Identified**

The group discussions highlighted several areas where additional support or innovation could enhance the overall impact of the programme:

- **Fun, informal, community-based activities** to complement more structured interventions.
- **Support for fathers**, including targeted engagement opportunities.
- **Transition support for younger children**, particularly from nursery to primary school.
- **Enhancement of existing services**, not just new initiatives – particularly where additionality could increase impact.
- **Opportunities for grassroots community groups** to participate and receive support.