Dear Colleagues,

It has been nearly a year since the new EHAP forms were launched and we are delighted to see so many professionals using them to support children, young people and families within South Gloucestershire.

The EHAP process can be hugely effective in helping families to make changes, which can have a positive impact on their lives moving forwards. However, we appreciate that sometimes the support and services that are needed to enable these changes to take place are not accessible due to there being financial costs involved. We are, therefore, excited to announce that some funding has been made available to support certain families who are engaging with the EHAP process.

Here are some questions and answers, which will help you to get a better understanding of what’s available and how to access the funding:

**Where has the money come from?**

South Gloucestershire Council receive money from the Government via the ‘Supporting Families’ Programme’ (previously known as the Trouble Families Initiative’) to support children and families within our local authority area.  In South Gloucestershire, the programme is called ‘Families in Focus’, which you have probably heard of. Much of the funding is used to commission whole services but some funding has been set aside to enable us to ‘spot purchase’ support for particular families, where a need has been identified through an Early Help Assessment and Plan (EHAP).

**How long will the money be available for?**

We have decided that this will initially be a 6 month pilot to see how many funding applications we receive and the type of support professionals are requesting. This will also enable us to review the process and make any necessary changes. The funding has, therefore, been agreed until March 2022. However, there is a high likelihood that the funding will continue beyond this.

**Which families are eligible to receive funding?**

There are certain criteria that need to be met before funding can be applied for. All of the details are in the documents attached.

**How do professionals apply for the funding for families they are working with?**

There is a separate ‘EHAP Funding request form’ which is attached to this email. Once completed, this needs to be sent to Compass – Compass@southglos.gov.uk We will be holding fortnightly meetings to consider the funding requests that we have received. Lead professionals will be informed via email if their application has been successful.

**How much money can be applied for?**

It has been agreed that the lead person for the EHAP can apply for a maximum of £500 per family.

**How will the money be given?**

The family or setting will not be given the money directly. The services that are commissioned will invoice the local authority directly once the funding that has been agreed and the work has been completed.

The attached documents provide more detailed information about the criteria and how to apply for the funding. If you have any further questions or queries then please contact Compass Compass@southglos.gov.uk

Kind Regards,

Compass Team

Claire, Dee, Jade, Jeannette, Kath, Luisa and Natalie