**Whole Family Support - example**

Parental Employability Support Fund (PESF) which all local authorities have funding for as part of the Scottish Government's Tackling Child Poverty Action Plan. Like all LAs, we have Key Workers in place to help support both unemployed and employed parents to maximise their income either through benefits or improving their employment situation. Here is a link to the types of support provided - <https://www.clacks.gov.uk/community/parentalemploymentcw/>

The PESF Key Workers are part of the wider Clackmannanshire Works team, the Council's employability service, which provides person-centred support to local people of working age (16 - 67) to remove barriers to employment and help them progress towards and into work.<https://www.clacks.gov.uk/community/clacksworks/>

We are currently working with 63 eligible parents through PESF and I have provided a couple of case studies below to better illustrate the support available.

Case Study – ‘Jen’ is a lone parent with a primary school aged son. She had moved to Clackmannanshire and had a very limited knowledge of the area and services available locally for her. Jen had no family support near her so was keen to secure work that could be flexible for her son. She had started doing some online training prior to registering with PESF. We referred her to the New Enterprise Allowance scheme and the local Business Gateway service for start up support.

Jen had previously studied Mental Health and Social Care at college and had experience of working as a Listener at her local hospital. She had identified her long term goal of becoming a children’s counsellor but was keen to wait until her son was older before pursuing this further. She was however, keen to gain some additional work experience or training that would help her further down the line. We agreed a good starting point would be to gain some work experience with children and look at some basic courses such as the Mental Health Awareness. Alongside her business start up we started applying for jobs within schools, and enrolled her onto an online Mental Health Awareness course. We arranged a chat with an Educational Psychologist from the council to give her an idea of the type of work she could get involved in. On the back of this, we got her in touch with a local charity that provides support to families and was offered some volunteering with one of their groups.

Meanwhile, we continued to support Jen with her applications and supporting statements and arranged some interview prep for her too. After applying for several school based jobs, on her second interview she was offered a Support for Learning Assistant post at a local school. We supported Jen to access after school provision for her son and paid her first months invoice so she wouldn’t be out of pocket. We advised her how to claim some of her childcare costs back through her Universal Credit so she could keep on top of her childcare costs going forward. We provided clothes for starting work and paid her travel expenses for her first month.

Case Study - Young Parents. We received referrals for 7 young parents aged between 14-19yrs all due within a few weeks of each other. All of these parents were supported to access their Best Start Baby Payments pre birth and received a Money Advice appointment to check their welfare entitlement. One parent was supported to secure her first tenancy and access a community care grant and tenancy start up pack. Post birth, all young parents were supported to register the births, apply for the Scottish Child Payment, Child Benefit and UC. We provided birth certificates for evidence where required. While all the parents had differing circumstances and needs but it was apparent that all of them lacked a good peer support network, finding themselves distanced from their usual social circles. We were able to work alongside Action for Children to allow all the young parents to attend a Baby Group summer programme together. We provided transport to get to and from the group and they were met by their Key Worker each morning to introduce them all and help reduce nerves and anxiety. We ended up with a core group of 4 parents who attended for the duration of the 6 week programme. With permission, we then set up a WhatsApp group for them to be able to keep in touch. 2 of the parents have continued to access Action for Children services and have joined other groups to expand their social groups.