



TAIGH SOLAS (BAIRNS HOOSE) UPDATE REPORT

Report by Head of Children's Services/Chief Social Work Officer

PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of the Report is to update Members on Taigh Solas (Bairns Hoose) developments.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 Due to planning and budgetary challenges and complications with the original planned location of Taigh Solas, a decision was taken to explore the Education Development Centre (EDC) as an alternative option.
- 2.2 Plans have been completed and a high-level costing produced which indicate that the EDC is a suitable venue and the works required can be completed within budget.
- 2.3 Having considered the two available locations for Taigh Solas within Stornoway now in full, it is considered that the EDC presents the most effective option for progressing the project in terms of suitability, time and budget.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 **It is recommended that the Comhairle approve that the EDC is the location of Taigh Solas, the Outer Hebrides Bairns Hoose.**

Contact Officer: Jack Libby, Head of Children's Services/CSWO

Appendix:

Background Papers:

IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The following implications are applicable in terms of the Report.

Resource Implications	Implications/None
Financial	High level, indicative cost of Taigh Solas being located at the EDC is 423k with the Capital budget for Taigh Solas being 423k.
Legal	n/a
Staffing	n/a
Assets and Property	Locating Taigh Solas at the EDC helps to maximise the use of the space at the EDC. Children and Families Social Workers will relocate to the EDC, vacating the upper floor of St Lennans.
Strategic Implications	Implications/None
Risk	Being one of six Bairns Hoose pathfinders across Scotland, there is a reputational risk of not delivering on a Bairns Hoose.
Equalities	n/a
Corporate Strategy	Protecting the most vulnerable in our community.
Environmental Impact	n/a
Consultation	Library staff, Early Years staff and Social Work staff have been consulted about the proposals to use the EDC.

BACKGROUND

- 5.1 Scotland's Bairns Hoose is based on an internationally renowned model first developed in Iceland, called Barnahus. The Barnahus model brings together justice, health, social work and recovery support, to best meet the needs of child victims and witnesses.
- 5.2 Currently, once a crime has been reported, the child involved will need to speak to a multitude of different people – the police, social workers, doctors, nurses and others who are trying to help. This can mean they have to relive what has happened to them multiple times in different places. In fact, many young people have told us that what happens after a crime has been reported can be more traumatic for them than the crime itself.

DETAIL

- 6.1 The physical environment of a Bairns Hoose should be more child centred, and trauma informed. Taigh Solas will be warm, welcoming and familiar. It will provide a single location alternative to courts, social work offices and police stations, allowing each young person to feel safe and supported, and able to recover and thrive. Social workers will be based elsewhere in the EDC, keeping a separation between the two, in keeping with one of the core principles of the Bairns Hoose model.
- 6.2 Taigh Solas will mean that a child victim or witness of crime will only need to tell their story two or three times at most and one of these times will be recorded to be used in the justice process. This will remove long waits for a case to go to court, which can make it even more difficult for a young person to recover and thrive from what has happened to them.

- 6.3 For child victims on Uist and Barra, there will be a satellite to Taigh Solas based at Rowantree Centre in Benbecula.

CONCLUSION

- 7.1 Taigh Solas will provide children with an improved experience of their involvement in any part of a child protection investigation and will provide them with interventions that are trauma informed. Whilst the EDC was not the first and preferred location, it does fulfil the criteria set out in the Bairns Hoose standards and is deliverable within timescales and budget.