



Paul O’Kane MSP
Deputy Convener
Health, Social Care and Sport Committee
The Scottish Parliament

20th of April 2023

Dear Paul,

£15 million funding for year three of the Adult Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund 2023/24

In light of the overwhelming response to the £36 million provided over the first two years of the Adult Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund (£21 million in 2021/22 and £15 million in 2022/23) I am pleased to advise that a further £15 million funding will be provided for a third year of the Fund for 2023/24. This brings our total investment to £51 million over 3 years.

The announcement will be made by the Cabinet Secretary for NHS Recovery, Health and Social Care on Friday 21 April at 9am.

The Fund supports grass roots community groups in tackling social isolation, loneliness and the mental health inequalities made worse by the pandemic and, more recently, the cost crisis. It prioritises a range of ‘at risk’ groups such as people facing socio-economic disadvantage, people with a long term health condition or disability, older people and LGBTI communities. In its second year the Fund has had a particular focus on responding to the cost crisis and an increased emphasis on those facing socio-economic disadvantage. This will continue to be a priority in the third year.

Reporting data for the first two years of the Fund shows that it has been successful in:

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- supporting a diverse range of mental health and wellbeing approaches across Scotland (including peer support, befriending, physical activity, arts and crafts activities and much more);
- reaching 'at risk' groups, particularly people facing social isolation and loneliness, those facing socio economic disadvantage or severe and multiple disadvantage, people with a long term health condition or disability and older people;
- developing a new collaborative delivery model involving Third Sector Interface (TSI) led local partnerships;
- engaging people with lived experience in shaping the fund, with 100% of TSIs reporting the involvement of people with lived experience in Year 2.

I would be grateful if you could bring the additional £15 million funding to the attention of the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee.

Yours sincerely,



Maree Todd MSP

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