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Clare Haughey MSP
Convener
Health, Social Care and Sport Committee
The Scottish Parliament

18th of July 2023

Dear Clare,

Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund for Adults - Publication of the Independent Evaluation Report for Year 1 and the Monitoring and Reporting Summary for Year 2

In April this year, I wrote to inform Paul Kane MSP, the then Deputy Convener that a further £15 million was being made available for a third year of the Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund for adults (the Fund) for 2023-4.

The Fund supports grass roots community groups in tackling social isolation, loneliness and mental health inequalities made worse by the pandemic and the cost of living crisis. £36 million has been invested since the Fund launched in 2021 resulting in around 3300 awards being made to a wide range of local projects across Scotland to date. These included projects focused on peer support, sport and exercise, nature, social spaces, art, and therapeutic approaches; with a strong emphasis on the key themes of prevention and early intervention.

I am writing to inform you that both the External Evaluation of Year 1 of the Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund for Adults and the Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund for Adults Year 2 - Monitoring and Reporting Summary, will be published on the Scottish Government website on 19 July. Links to both reports are attached below and will be live at 11am on 19 July.

[Evaluation of Year 1 of the Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund for Adults.](#)

[Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund for adults Year 2 - Monitoring and Reporting Summary.](#)

Easy read versions will be available for both documents shortly.

Tha Ministearan na h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus an Rùnaire Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh www.lobbying.scot

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The Year 2 Monitoring and Reporting Summary report draws on reporting data provided by Third Sector Interfaces, which deliver the Fund locally, and provides a national picture of Year 2 of the Fund.

An external research organisation, Blake Stevenson Ltd, was commissioned in February 2023 to undertake an evaluation of the Fund in terms of the impact of Year 1 funding and an account of the delivery process across Years 1 and 2. The evaluation includes a range of case studies highlighting the impact of the funding.

Both reports draw out learning from the first two years of the Fund and will help inform future practice.

I would be grateful if you could bring the publication of these reports to the attention of the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee.

Yours sincerely,



Maree Todd MSP

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