



Clare Haughey MSP
Convener
Health, Social Care and Sport Committee

13 March 2025

Dear Clare,

The Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund for Adults - Two Year Funding as part of Fairer Funding Pilot.

I am pleased to inform you that the Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund for Adults has been included in the Scottish Government's new Fairer Funding Pilot, securing funding at a level of £15 million per year for the next 2 years.

The pilot was formally announced on 5 February and further information can be found [here](#).

Organisations were selected to receive two-year funding based on their meeting one or both of two following key criteria:

1. National organisation providing essential, ongoing, frontline support to communities.
2. Organisations which directly deliver against the Scottish Government's priority of eradicating child poverty.

As you will be aware, the Communities Fund, which has seen £66 million invested to date, supports grass roots community groups in tackling social isolation, loneliness and mental health inequalities. It prioritises a range of 'at risk' groups such as people with a long term health condition or disability, older people and LGBTQIA+ communities.

In the last two years the Fund has had a particular focus on responding to the cost of living crisis and an increased emphasis on those facing socio-economic disadvantage. It has also been included as a commitment within the [Best Start, Bright Futures: tackling child poverty delivery plan 2022-26](#), given the strong links between poor mental health and poverty. In Year 3 of the Fund, 56% of projects supported people from at least one of the six priority family groups highlighted in the Plan.

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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Taigh Naomh Anndrais, Rathad Regent, Dùn Èideann EH1 3DG
St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
www.gov.scot



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Detailed reporting data for the first three years of the Fund shows that the Fund has been successful in:

- Providing around 4,800 grants to a diverse range of grassroots community projects including those based around peer support, physical activity, arts and crafts activities, social interaction and befriending, with a strong emphasis on the key themes of prevention and early intervention, suicide prevention and addressing social isolation.
- reaching 'at risk' groups, particularly people facing social isolation and loneliness, people facing socio economic disadvantage or severe and multiple disadvantage, people with a long term health condition or disability, and older people;

The fifth and sixth year of funding will directly support our commitment to increase our focus on prevention and early intervention as part of a whole system approach to mental health and wellbeing in Scotland.

I will be announcing the funding for the Communities Fund on 14 March during a visit to Empower Women for Change, a charity providing support to BAME women in Glasgow. The charity was successful in securing funding from Year 4 of the Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund to provide a variety of trauma informed support for vulnerable minority ethnic women.

I would be grateful if you could bring the additional funding for years 5 and 6 to the attention of the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee.

Yours sincerely,



MAREE TODD MSP

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