

Meetings Feedback form for Borders Community Action Representatives

Strategic meeting:

Wellbeing Programme Board

Date of meeting:

03/09/2024

Attended by:

J Amaral

Relevant agenda items:

Fair Funding Charter: Juliana Amaral (15 mins)

Grant Funding Application Process Improvements: Chris Myers and Jenni Craig (10 mins)

Winter Fuel Impacts Discussion: Chris Myers (10 mins)

Communication and Engagement Plan: Chris Myers (10 mins)

In-Person Workshop Update: Chris Myers (10 mins)

Specific points of interest:

Fair Funding Charter – Juliana presented the Fair Funding charter highlighting the 4 key principles of Third Sector Fair Funding:

Principle One: A Strategic Investment Approach

Principle Two: Accessible, Proportionate and Transparent Funding and Commissioning Processes

Principle Three: Adequate and Secure Funding

Principle Four: Proportionate Evaluation and Reporting to Funders



Third Sector Fair
Funding presentation

The full presentation can be found here:

The presentation was well received with partners feeling they have work to do in order to fully adopt the recommendations on the charter. Sohail Bathi (Director of Public Health) reviewed his position on microgrants and agreed that funding of all sizes should be allocated to reflect the diversity of provisions across the third sector. Lessons around timescales to process funding applications and reporting should be proportionate to the size of funding obtained.

All agreed on the importance of criteria and clear guidance for funding streams available. Jenni Craig (Director of Communities and Partnerships SBC) highlighted that this is not always easy as often criteria and short deadlines are imposed by the government. Juliana agreed and explained that the funding charter is also being presented to Ministers and Scottish Government as a cultural shift needs to be happening across the funding landscape. All agreed that this work needs to start soon.

Juliana was asked to look at what good looks like and report back to the board. It was also suggested that a subgroup is created to look at fair funding and fair procurement involving public and third sector organisations.

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Grant Funding Application Process Improvements – Chris provided an update on feedback received from Happy Healthy Sustainable fund and said there was a lot of relevance on feedback received and the principles of the third sector fair funding presented by Juliana.

All agreed that there's a clear need to identify the budget available for social prescribing and start designing a criteria around it. This should be the first action taken by the group. A subgroup to look at this was agreed.

Winter Fuel Impact Discussion – Chris raised the issue around winter pressures, particularly with the new increase in energy prices and the cap on winter fuel payments. Juliana mentioned the high volume of requests coming from communities for warm spaces grants. Jenni Craig mentioned the support from elected members for this type of initiative taking the successful coordinated approach led by Borders Community Action last winter.

Discussion around winter fuel payments and the CAB Warm and Well project funding until end of March 2024, this could be used to target people to apply to means tested benefits.

A subgroup to involve SBC, NHS, Registered Social Landlords (RSLs), 3rd Sector and Wendy Henderson (Impendent sector) was agreed to look at options.

Comms Engagement plan – all agreed that the Wellbeing Programme Board needs to be better communicated. Priorities areas and stakeholders mapping was discussed. A communications plan is to be designed and presented to the Board.

In-Person Workshop – A date has been agreed for the workshop taking place on 30/09. The workshop will look at issues such as loneliness, physical activity (inactivity) and the social determinants of health such as poverty and inequality.

AOB – Jenni Craig updated everyone on changes in Live Borders with Active School and Sports development coming under the council's umbrella. A new Sports strategy for the Borders is under development and will go out to consultation in October.

Comments:

The Third Sector Funding Charter was well received by the Board. All agreed with the principles and there was a commitment to adopt a new model for funding and procurement.

The Social Prescribing approach in the Borders need to be clear with clarity on budget available and a set of aims and outcomes. This should be the principle of a funding and/ or procurement process.

Actions from this meeting:

Juliana to explore fair funding models, look at participatory budget and how good looks like in other areas and feedback to the Board.

Distribution list for information:

BCA Team + Third Sector Leaders

Signed: J Amaral