

To: Renfrewshire Forum For Empowering Communities

On: 3 October 2023

Report by:
Chief Executive, Renfrewshire Council

TITLE:
Funding Focus

1. Summary

1.1 Community planning partners in Renfrewshire manage a number of funding streams that local community and voluntary sector organisations are able to access.

1.2 In addition to established funding streams such as the Villages Investment Fund, Parks Play Areas and Greenspaces Fund, Local Partnership funding and Celebrating Renfrewshire, a number of funding streams will be launched during Autumn 2023. Three funding streams to note are as follows:

1.3 Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund

1.3.1 Engage Renfrewshire is launching the third year of the Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund, which is funded by the Scottish Government. Key dates are:

- Fund Opens: September 29th 2023
- Fund Closes: November 30th 2023
- Cross-sector panel meet to deliberate: Jan/early Feb 2024

1.3.2 Applications of under £2,000 may receive outcome before Christmas but funding would not be received until early 2024. Funding will be distributed by March 31st 2024 at latest and activity can run until Jan 30th 2025.

- 1.3.3 The Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund can fund projects and activity that promote early intervention and prevention with regards to mental health and wellbeing for the adult (16+) population. Applications are welcome from unconstituted groups (cap of £2,000) or constituted groups (suggested request £10,000).
- 1.3.4 An exhibition of photographs from six groups funded through the second year of funding of the Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund will be held on October 5th at Renfrew Town Hall from 3:30pm – 6:30pm (official opening 4:00pm).
- 1.3.5 Photography is by Open Aye CIC, a local social enterprise based out in Lochwinnoch. To attend, please contact amcbride@engagerenfrewshire.com.

1.4 Sustainable Communities Fund

- 1.4.1 Renfrewshire Council's new Sustainable Communities Fund combines the Community Empowerment Fund and Climate Change Action Fund into a single, easy to access £1M grant fund. The Fund is further boosted by £550K from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, Communities and Place for the support and improvement of community assets and infrastructure.
- 1.4.2 The new Sustainable Communities Fund will strengthen work within communities to identify opportunities for land and assets within local areas to develop local projects which benefit those who live there – connecting people through regenerated local spaces and tackling inequality through community collaboration. The fund will be awarded using a tiered model of funding.
- 1.4.3 **Small - awards up to £10K:** capital and revenue funding to develop local projects and initiatives which are targeted at enabling community participation and promoting community collaboration and which build resilience within our communities.
Intermediate – awards of £10K to £25K: capital and revenue funding to develop projects or organisations with a focus on improving community infrastructure and/or community wellbeing and which have the potential to be replicated in other areas; and
Large – awards up to £100K: larger capital grants with the aim of supporting communities that aspire to take ownership or develop land or buildings in local communities.

1.5 Winter Connections 2023-24

- 1.5.1 Renfrewshire Council manages Winter Connections 2023-2024, which opened for applications on Friday 22nd September.
- 1.5.2 Winter Connections is a network of local places and spaces where people can connect to others in their community this winter. The Winter Connections Fund can provide small grants of up to £2,000 to organisations to help with the additional costs of making venues, activities and sessions open as part of the Winter Connections Programme.
- 1.5.3 There is no closing date for this funding as it will be allocated on a rolling basis. The fund will remain open until the available funding has been used. Application as early as possible is advised

2. **Recommendation**

- 2.1 It is recommended that members of Renfrewshire Forum For Empowering Communities note the funding streams opening during Autumn 2023 that are available to local community and voluntary groups.