

To: Renfrew Local Partnership

On: 19 May 2021

Report by:
Chief Executive, Renfrewshire Council

TITLE:
**Renfrew Local Partnership Budget Monitoring Report and 20/21 Funding
Application Feedback**

1. Summary

- 1.1 Renfrew Local Partnership provides funding to community groups to undertake projects. This funding is allocated from the General Grant Fund, the Renfrew Common Good Fund and, through a Participating Budgeting exercise known as Celebrating Renfrewshire, the Youth Challenge Fund.
- 1.2 A table setting out the funds allocated by Renfrew Local Partnership in 2020/21 and current budget position is attached as an appendix to this report.
- 1.3 Feedback from projects receiving funding in 20/21 on the outcome of projects is also attached. Due to the impact of Covid 19 on the capability of groups to successfully deliver projects, some groups have returned funding to the Local Partnership. In recognition of this situation it has been agreed that Local Partnership underspends in 2020/21 will be carried forward and added to the budget for 2021/22. For 2021/22, the normal arrangements will apply, requiring all funding to be spent by the end of the financial year with no provision for carry over to the following year.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 It is recommended that the budget monitoring report and feedback from recipients of funding in 2020/21 be noted.

3. Feedback From 2020/21 Grant Recipients

- 3.1 Feedback on the use of Renfrew Local Partnership funding allocated in 2020/21 was received from twelve organisations.

1. Lamont Farm (Award Through Celebrating Renfrewshire)

Funding from Renfrew and other Local Partnerships enabled Lamont Farm to provide a service when able to open to the public during 2020 and to enable the public to visit animals safely in the fields when other services were unavailable. Projects were also carried out via the internet, for example Zoom sessions with local children. Animal handling for children under-12 was also delivered safely.

Lamont Farm was opened July-November 2020. Over 1,000 people attended in a single day in during July.

Even during periods when the farm could not fully open, access to the Farm's fields for the public has provided a way of reducing stress and depression.

2. Paisley and District Boys Brigade Battalion Administration.

The Boys Brigade received funding from Renfrew and other Local Partnerships to run events and for Battalion Headquarters running costs. Funding enabled staff to maintain the Headquarters building and prepare it to be ready to open and function fully once lockdown restrictions eased.

3. Back To School Bank Paisley (Award from 2019/20)

Funding received from Local Partnerships enabled Renfrewshire Back To School Bank to support around 100 families with clothing, including coats, shoes, uniform basics and winter essentials (hats, scarves and gloves). This has enabled children in families experiencing hardship to be able to attend school ready to learn, feeling a sense of pride and dignity.

4. Renfrew Accordion and Fiddle Club

Renfrew Accordion and Fiddle Club has taken the decision to wind up its operation after 37 years of service to the local community. The grant of £440 from Renfrew Local Partnership will be returned to Renfrew Common Good Fund following final winding up of the group's finances.

5. Renfrew Care Home Activity Group (Award from 2019/20)

While the project to create a Namaste Room at Renfrew Care Home has been delayed by restrictions over the last year, the project will go ahead now that circumstances allow. Funding will be used for decoration of a room and purchase of chairs and Namaste items.

6. Renfrewshire Christmas Toy Bank

Lo The funding had been applied for for support with our Christmas campaign however then to expand to operate all year. The funding allowed us to do this by paying for a year of storage as well as other items listed below.

We now run at Easter, Halloween and Christmas as well as supporting all year round with birthday gifts.

Teens are always hard to buy for so often we purchase gift cards. They have all been distributed.

The funding purchased:
Storage for a year £1,859
Gift cards £2,360
Toys and gifts £859
Easter £1,650

We had put in for Halloween as well however did not get from all partnerships meaning we could not make the funding go as far as to Halloween.

Christmas - 2,510 completed referrals
Over 40 organisations referred to us

Easter - 3,594 big eggs, 1,465 small creme egg type as well as over 1,500 small toys and arts and crafts items.

45 schools

26 nurseries

14 charities and other organisation received eggs from us

Birthday boxes

All social work departments, health visitors, star project, ebi unites, the space project as well as some schools and nurseries have a stock of gifts that they can take from. This means items have already been quarantined at their end. They then fill out a record sheet and we top up their supply when needed.

Other organisation refer to us due to space or working from home.

We were able to provide safe, new toys and gifts of a high quality taking away and stigma. Our referral process also set up parents and carers with other services that we cannot offer - helping us all work together to keep services fair.

The toy bank also relieves financial strain or helps stop families getting into debt.

Easter helped with food poverty as well as helping with an Easter egg hunt and another organisations Easter activities for the children that they support.

Businesses act as drop off points. This was a bit stop and start due to Covid however we try to use as many local small businesses as possible which also tends to bring them some new customers helping the local economy.

7. Shopmobility Paisley and District

Local Partnership funding was spent as intended on materials, equipment and volunteer expenses to ensure the provision of a mobility scooter and wheelchair service in Renfrewshire.

During lockdown open hours for the project were longer than normal. A new website was developed and support given to enable people to visit relatives in hospital, access scooters (including advice and maintenance), access counselling services, pick up prescriptions, get out of their home and access food.

8. C-Change Dates-n-Mates

The money was a contribution towards direct running costs and was used as a contribution towards the salary of our Community Engagement and Events Worker.

Our outcomes were focused on ensuring adults with learning disabilities:

- have opportunities and support to make and sustain natural friendships and close personal relationships with increased levels of wellbeing and happiness;
- develop the skills and abilities to make decisions about, develop and sustain close personal relationships and friendships;
- are better able to participate in the social, economic and cultural life of Renfrewshire
- have a wide range of rewarding volunteering opportunities which also increase their engagement with the local community.
 - Improved social connection between people with learning disabilities and the wider community through a number of events organised in local amenities in Renfrewshire.

The money was spent on direct staffing costs as originally planned, but our service delivery was different due to Covid-19. We had to cease all in person events and move our events online.

9. Renfrewshire Walking Network

The funding was to promote the Walking Network through printed booklets and promotional material. These are placed in library's Community Facilities and Doctors surgeries. There was also money for training of new leaders and equipping them with Waterproofs and First Aid kits.

As we work with elderly and vulnerable groups all walks were cancelled due to Covid in March 2020. It is only in the last month that we are gradually restarting the Community Health Walks. This as delayed spending the grant on booklets and promotional material along with training and equipment. It is our intention to spend the grant as intended as things get back to normal.

10. Renfrew YMCA

Renfrew YMCA secured funding to undertake renovation work to our building in Canal Lane, we are developing the space into a multi-sensory centre to support children and young people with and without additional support needs, and we are also installing a community kitchen. The completed work will allow the YMCA to be open to all community members and be a community hub. When undertaking the work we have come up against completely unseen costings, once the ceiling was taken down we have found that our beams holding the roof up are structurally unsafe.

We spent the funds on a structural engineer and building work. This was a capital building project, the successful completion of this work would allow us to work with over 90 children and young people plus their families a week. This work allowed us to continue the building work so that Renfrew will have Renfrewshire's only multi sensory centre that has state of the art sensory equipment that can be used by all ages. Young people with additional support needs will be further integrated into the YMCA and there will be development of a community kitchen.

11. Friends of Knockhill Park

The project is to advance education and promote health and Wellbeing in the community and tackle isolation and discrimination with all age groups. The project allows the community to try new activities and workshops without costing and promotes positive mental health. It encourages the community to participate in activities throughout the year being through the day, after school and holidays. Over 200 people will benefit.

Due to Covid 19, we were unable to spend this grant with everything being in lockdown. We have an extensive summer programme being planned with this grant for this year. Our project will ensure positive mental health awareness. It will also enhance and create a safe and secure environment for people to learn, meet new people and learn new skills so we have healthier children and adults.

12. Rainbow Turtle (Award through Celebrating Renfrewshire)

Through education we hoped to help develop informed and active global citizens. The money was mainly spent on salary of an education officer who liaised with schools and other groups to educate and promote Fair Trade.

The money was mainly spent on salary of an education officer who liaised with schools and other groups to educate and promote Fair Trade. We promoted Fair Trade Fortnight and started a podcast about Rainbow Turtle, Paisley and Fair Trade.

We promoted Fair Trade via the Rainbow Turtle shop in Gauze St. Covid made it difficult to work in person with schools and organisation and the education officer was on furlough for some of the year, so more was done on line. This limited the impact in a difficult year. Previous years are more typical of our impact across Renfrewshire schools and organisations. In the coming year we intend to employ the education officer for more hours.

Rainbow Turtle works across all Renfrewshire and the main use of the funding is to pay part of the salary of a part-time Education Officer who works across all of Renfrewshire and makes all our resources to all schools and organisations across the county. As such it is not easy to break down how much each Local Partnership benefitted individually. All schools were offered online resources, especially during Fair Trade Fortnight.

The Education Officer is responsible for the online presence of Rainbow Turtle and that has been more important in the past year where physical contact was so drastically reduced.

She produced regular newsletters, maintained the website and posted regularly on Twitter and Instagram. Our followers on these platforms increases listed below in 3.2, over 1000 Twitter followers and almost 100 people follow us on Facebook. The charity works closely with the trading arm, Rainbow Turtle Trading and we have 26 active volunteers and more interested in joining.

Schools were closed for most of the year which meant normal business in terms of direct education work with pupils had to be postponed. However, contact with teachers continued, with a Teacher's Blog being set up, so mainly online. A number of events were planned over the year, but by necessity these have been rescheduled.

The Education Officer built up a wide variety of materials and resources, primarily online activities which can be rolled out when circumstances change. Hence, schools will be in a much better position to embed Fair Trade into the curriculum as normal services resume.

Home learning materials were developed for parents and guardians who were educating young people in the home. A wide variety of sessions, activities and digital learning opportunities were offered.

Updating the website and offering information and resources as well as drawing together links to relevant sites, was a key element of the work.

These resources were accessed by parents, teachers, partner organisations and interested members of the public who found them useful, engaging and informative. In previous , 'normal' years we were able to more by working with churches and other groups to have Fair Trade stalls, selling and education. We have previously worked with St Mirren's women's football team and using Fair Trade footballs. We have links with Scottish Fair Trade Forum and Just Trading Scotland (JTS) which is based in Paisley.

Renfrew Local Partnership Budget Monitoring Report 2020/21

General Grant Fund	£ 40,103 (net of Members expenses)
Total Funding Awards	£ 35,962.32
Carry Forward to 2021/22	£4,140.68

Grant Ref	Organisation	Awarded £	Paid £	Still To Be Paid £
FR1066	Renfrew Over 50s Swim Club	£2,500	£2,500	
FR1075	Renfrew Accordion and Fiddle Club	£440	£440	
FR1095	Renfrewshire Walking Network	£500	£500	
FR1103	Our Place Our Families	£8,950	£8,950	
FR1111	Boys Brigade Paisley and District	£250	£250	
FR1128	Renfrewshire Toy Bank	£1,214	£1,214	
FR1134	Arkleston and Newmains Over 60s Club	£1,200	£1,200	
FR1144	C-Change Scotland	£2,500	£2,500	
FR1151	Friends of Knockhill Park	£10,000	£10,000	
FR1156	RAMH (Recovery Across Mental Health)	£2,311	£2,311	
FR1172	Renfrewshire Access Panel	£2,239.32	£2,239.32	
FR1201	Renfrewshire Association of Growers and Gardeners	£2,000	£2,000	
FR1212	Shopmobility Paisley and District	£1,358	£1,358	
FR1215	Paisley and District U3A	£500	£500	

Renfrew Common Good Fund	£67,360
Total Funding Awards	£67,360
Carry Forward to 2021/22	£0

Grant Ref	Organisation	Awarded £	Paid £	Still To Be Paid £
FR1220	Renfrew YMCA	£13,325	£13,325	
	Arkleston Primary	£3,500	£3,500	
	Newmains Primary	£3,500	£3,500	
	St James Primary	£3,500	£3,500	
	Kirklandneuk Primary	£3,500	£3,500	
	Renfrew High	£3,500	£3,500	
	Trinity High	£3,500		£3,500
FR1221	Renfrew YMCA	£10,000	£10,000	
FR1222	Arkleston and Newmains Community Centre	£11,000		£11,000
	Underpass Mural Project	£2,620		£2,620
	Robertson Park	£9,415	£9,415	

Celebrating Renfrewshire Fund	£18,657
Total Funding Awards	£18,657
Carry Forward to 2021/22	£0

Grant Ref	Organisation	Awarded £	Paid £	Still To Be Paid £
CE1001	Renfrew YMCA	£1,800	£1,800	
CE1014	Loud'n'Proud	£2,000		£2,000
CE1016	Young Enterprise Renfrewshire	£2,000	£2,000	
CE1021	Paisley Pirates Supporters	£1,371	£1,371	
CE1023	Lamont Farm	£2,000	£2,000	
CE1029	St Mirren Youth FC	£2,000	£2,000	
CE1031	Renfrew High Sports Leaders	£2,000	£2,000	
CE1036	Always Included	£2,000		
CE1037	Renfrewshire Carers	£1,886		£1,886
CE1038	Trinity High School Leaders	£850		£850
CE1049	Rainbow Turtle	£750	£750	