

REPORT TO COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 2 SEPTEMBER 2021

LIVE LIFE ABERDEENSHIRE – POSITIVE ACTION GRANT FUND 2021/22

1 Reason for Report / Summary

To provide an update on the implementation of the Positive Action Grant Scheme and agree on future reporting.

2 Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

2.1 Acknowledge the process used to engage with local organisations and the detail and range of applications received and awards agreed across Aberdeenshire

2.2 Agree to receive a report on the impact of the scheme and future recommendations for the PAG scheme in Spring 2022

3 Purpose and Decision-Making Route

3.1 The development of an outcome-based scheme named Positive Action Grants was agreed by the Culture and Sport Sub-Committee on 3 December 2019.

3.2 The Live Life Aberdeenshire Grant Funding report of 8 February 2021 to Communities Committee outlined proposed options for the distribution for the funding available following the Council's budget setting process. The Committee agreed option 2, where Transition funding for 2021/22 was withdrawn with an alternative fund - Positive Action Grants – to be established. Implementation and agreement of awards was delegated to officers.

3.3 Area Managers were consulted to provide input to the final guidance for the Positive Action Grants scheme and were subsequently kept informed of the intended granted recipients, with the opportunity to provide local input.

4 Discussion

4.1 Due to the challenges of the pandemic, it was agreed not to launch the new scheme in the year 20/21. Small project-focused funding could then very effectively support the direct delivery of a range of health and wellbeing activity as restrictions eased and communities moved from response to recovery in 21/22.

4.2 Positive Action Grants aim to support Aberdeenshire organisations to directly deliver innovative sports and cultural projects which contribute to the aims of the Live Life Aberdeenshire Business Plan and Strategies. Awards are from a minimum of £200 with a maximum amount per year of £5000, from a total fund of £100,000.

4.3 The scheme has the four priority areas:

- Supporting mental health and physical wellbeing
- Supporting personal and family support outcomes
- Tackling poverty and inequality
- Building community resilience

4.4 A crucial aspect of the delivery of scheme was to assist local Aberdeenshire organisations to emerge from the period of restrictions with the ability to deliver quality services which support health and wellbeing outcomes. Live Life Aberdeenshire developed and has implemented a process which increased dialogue with and support for those wishing to apply.

4.5 Social media posts on LLA channels and a news release issued to local media outlining the new scheme and encouraging applications had a positive response.

4.6 The process was designed to engage and enable dialogue with potential applicants. The pre-application phase produced **30 noted interests** – this did not include any of the organisations that have previously received funding from LLA grant schemes. Each organisation was contacted, and as a result, most were encouraged to put in an application. Through review, it became clear that some would not be eligible.

4.7 By the closing date, 32 applications were received. Seven of those have a focus on cultural activity and 25 have a focus on Sport and Physical Activity. There were 12 applications in the north, 10 in central and 7 in the south. Four of the organisations previously received transition funding in 20/21.

The key themes covered by the applications are:

- Development of volunteers and staff through quality training
- Increase participation by reducing barriers – access to equipment/ reduce cost
- Targeted outcomes with a focus on mental health and wellbeing

Further detail on the applications and awards can be seen in appendix 1.

4.8 LLA officers formed a panel which further engaged with applicants before scoring applications, with the final decisions on allocation made by the LLA leadership team. Awards were agreed in August 2021 to allow projects to commence from September 2021.

4.9 Officers will work with organisations to evaluate the impact of the awards and an informal presentation covering the findings will be made to Committee in March 2022. A formal report will be brought to a subsequent Committee meeting, which will also cover future recommendations for the scheme.

4.10 In May 2021 all six area committees approved Area Plans. Included within the Area Plans are Action plans which set out service delivery and projects in each Area. The Service will ensure that when the updates to the action plans are reported to each area committee scheduled for November 2021, that the Positive Action Grants in each area are reported along with interim outputs and outcomes.

5 Council Priorities, Implications, and Risk

5.1 *This report helps deliver the Strategic Priority Health and Wellbeing within the Pillar "Our people", having the right people, in the right place, at the right time and tackling poverty and inequalities.*

Pillar	Priority
Our People	Education Health & Wellbeing
Our Environment	Infrastructure Resilient Communities
Our Economy	Economy & Enterprise Estate Modernisation

This report helps deliver against the

- Live Life Aberdeenshire strategies and the business plans actions.
- 6 local community plans – health and wellbeing themes.
- LOIP/ HEAL

5.2 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation(s) is (are) agreed.

Subject	Yes	No	N/A
Financial	x		
Staffing		x	
Equalities and Fairer Duty Scotland		x	
Children and Young People's Rights and Wellbeing		x	
Health and Wellbeing	I/A attached as App 2		
Town Centre First		x	

5.3 There are no staffing implications. Financial implications are outlined in paragraph 4.2 and in Appendix 1

5.4 An integrated impact assessment has been carried out as part of the development of the proposals set out above. It is included as Appendix 2 and *there is a positive impact as follows*

- *Funding provided will deliver inclusive projects which support and reduce barriers of the most disadvantage.*

6 Scheme of Governance

- 6.1 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report. Their comments are incorporated within the report and are satisfied that the report complies with the Scheme of Governance and relevant legislation.
- 6.2 The Communities Committee is able to consider this matter as per its delegations in Section D6, paragraphs 6.2 and 6.5 in Part 2A, List of Committee Powers in the Scheme of Governance. As the matter related to the support of activities that are related to the development of Sport, Leisure, Culture and Heritage
- 6.3 The Head of Communities, Wellbeing and Partnerships has the general delegation to award grants to external bodies subject to financial regulations as set out in Part 2B, Section A.23, List of Officer Powers in the Scheme of Governance

Laurence Findlay
Director of Education and Children's Services

Report prepared by: Claire Thomson, Customer Services Manager
Date: 11/08/2021

List of Appendices
Appendix 1 – Awards
Appendix2 - IIA

Appendix 1

Council Area	Number of Applications received	Number of Awards		Total Applied For	Total Awarded
		Culture / SPA			
Banff and Buchan	8	2	6	£35,300	£25,282
Buchan	4	1	3	£8,455	£7,290
Garioch	4	0	4	£18,967	£13,288
Formartine	6	0	6	£28,212	£18,974
Marr	8	4	4	£21,447	£18,015
Kincardine and Mearns	2	0	2	£6,150	£2,438
Aberdeenshire	32	7	25	£118,531	£85,287

Aberdeenshire Council

Integrated Impact Assessment

Positive Action Grants - LLA

Assessment ID	IIA-000073
Lead Author	Claire D Thomson
Service Reviewers	John Cornfield
Subject Matter Experts	Susan Forbes, Lynne Gravener, Christine McLennan
Approved By	John Cornfield
Approved On	Wednesday August 18, 2021
Publication Date	Wednesday August 18, 2021

1. Overview

This document has been generated from information entered into the Integrated Impact Assessment system.

The Positive Action Grant scheme delivers health and wellbeing outcomes through supporting local organisations with funding. The scheme will increase awareness of the support and partnership opportunities with Live Life Aberdeenshire.

This scheme is new for the year 2021/22. It is open to Aberdeenshire based organisations that deliver in Aberdeenshire.

During screening 3 of 10 questions indicated that detailed assessments were required, the screening questions and their answers are listed in the next section. This led to 3 out of 5 detailed impact assessments being completed. The assessments required are:

- Childrens' Rights and Wellbeing
- Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty
- Health Inequalities

In total there are 11 positive impacts as part of this activity. There are 0 negative impacts, all impacts have been mitigated. The impact on 1 groups is not known, information is provided in the detailed sections of this document.

A detailed action plan with 1 points has been provided.

This assessment has been approved by john.cornfield@aberdeenshire.gov.uk.

The remainder of this document sets out the details of all completed impact assessments.

2. Screening

Could your activity / proposal / policy cause an impact in one (or more) of the identified town centres?	No
Would this activity / proposal / policy have consequences for the health and wellbeing of the population in the affected communities?	Yes
Does the activity / proposal / policy have the potential to affect greenhouse gas emissions (CO2e) in the Council or community and / or the procurement, use or disposal of physical resources?	No
Does the activity / proposal / policy have the potential to affect the resilience to extreme weather events and/or a changing climate of Aberdeenshire Council or community?	No
Does the activity / proposal / policy have the potential to affect the environment, wildlife or biodiversity?	No
Does the activity / proposal / policy have an impact on people and / or groups with protected characteristics?	Yes
Is this activity / proposal / policy of strategic importance for the council?	No
Does this activity / proposal / policy reduce inequality of outcome?	No
Does this activity / proposal / policy have an impact on children / young people's rights?	No
Does this activity / proposal / policy have an impact on children / young people's wellbeing?	Yes

3. Impact Assessments

Children's Rights and Wellbeing	No Negative Impacts Identified
Climate Change and Sustainability	Not Required
Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty	No Negative Impacts Identified
Health Inequalities	No Negative Impacts Identified
Town Centre's First	Not Required

4. Childrens' Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment

4.1. Wellbeing Indicators

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Safe		Yes		
Healthy	Yes			
Achieving		Yes		
Nurtured		Yes		
Active	Yes			
Respected		Yes		
Responsible		Yes		
Included	Yes			

4.2. Rights Indicators

UNCRC Indicators upheld by this activity / proposal / policy	Article 6 - Life, survival and development Article 31 - Leisure, play and culture
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4.3. Positive Impacts

Impact Area	Impact
Active	If organisations that support children's mental and physical well-being are successful. In that case, there will be increased opportunities and support in local communities for children to participate in a range of activities. The award criteria supports organisations who provide physical activity.
Healthy	If organisations that support children's mental and physical well-being are successful. In that case, there will be increased opportunities and support in local communities for children to participate in a range of activities

4.4. Evidence

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
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Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
External Consultation	Review of core grant scheme	Consultation with stakeholders identified that there was positive work that impacted on the health of the child. This however was restricted to a limited number of organisations. This new scheme provides the possibility for a wide range of organisations to apply across Aberdeenshiire enabling delivery an increased number of settlements and through a wider range of activity.	The new scheme offers an oppertubity for children from across Aberdeenshire to benefit from new funding that supports health and wellbeing.

4.5. Accounting for the Views of Children and Young People

Children and young people have not directly been engaged in the development of the scheme.

4.6. Promoting the Wellbeing of Children and Young People

If organisations that support children's mental and physical well-being are successful. In that case, there will be increased opportunities and support in local communities for children to participate in a range of activities. Young peoples wellbeing will be positively impacted through participation, training opportunities, mentoring and supportive local organisations

4.7. Upholding Children and Young People's Rights

The scheme criteria for 2021/2022 encourages the support to groups most impacted by the Covid 19 Pandemic. A review of the scheme after year one will determine the impact on young people and encourage their feedback.

4.8. Overall Outcome

No Negative Impacts Identified.

If organisations that support children's mental and physical well-being are successful. In that case, there will be increased opportunities and support in local communities for children to participate in a range of activities. Young peoples wellbeing will be positively impacted through participation, training opportunities, mentoring and supportive local organisations.

5. Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty Impact Assessment

5.1. Protected Groups

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Age (Younger)	Yes			
Age (Older)	Yes			
Disability	Yes			
Race		Yes		
Religion or Belief		Yes		
Sex		Yes		
Pregnancy and Maternity		Yes		
Sexual Orientation		Yes		
Gender Reassignment		Yes		
Marriage or Civil Partnership		Yes		

5.2. Socio-economic Groups

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Low income	Yes			
Low wealth	Yes			
Material deprivation	Yes			
Area deprivation	Yes			
Socioeconomic background				Yes
	Will find out by: Identify where participants at funded project reside			

5.3. Positive Impacts

Impact Area	Impact
Age (Older)	Increased offer that specifically supports older people reduced barriers to access and equipment
Age (Younger)	increased opportunities to participate locally support for youth volunteer experience personal development through coaching qualifications Support for vulnerable groups of young people
Disability	Funding for equipment which enables and encourages inclusion
Area deprivation	Funding will be provided for identified areas of deprivation
Low income	The scheme will support organisations who reduce barriers through reduce costs or supply of equipment

Impact Area	Impact
Low wealth	Funding will reduce costs for participation
Material deprivation	Funding will reduce costs for participation in particular providing equipment

5.4. Evidence

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
External Consultation	Review of core grants scheme	Consultation with stakeholders identified that there was positive work that impacted on health and wellbeing and reduced barriers to those impacted and excluded. This however was restricted to a limited number of organisations. This new scheme provides the possibility for a wide range of organisations to apply across Aberdeenshiire enabling delivery an increased number of settlements and through a wider range of activity, thus reducing barriers to those impacted and excluded.	The new scheme offers an oppertubity for children from across Aberdeenshire to benefit from new funding that supports health and wellbeing and reduces inequalities.

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
External Consultation	Aberdeenshire Voices on the pandemic , Same storm different boats ...	lived experience report on the impact of Covid 19 pandemic. Highlighted the challenges across out communities but heard from those in disadvantaged groups. Impact on new scots, older people, young people, low income households, fuel poverty. Mental health and well-being is a recurring theme throughout this report - and reflects the experiences of people in the earlier stages of the pandemic. As we move into 2021 and a new vaccine it is important that we continue to reach out to those in our communities who will continue to be impacted most in the readjustment period and beyond.	Scheme should target those in most need and reduce barriers

5.5. Engagement with affected groups

Applicants have provided details of needs assessment they have undertaken with key groups. Officers have discussed evidence with the applicants .

5.6. Ensuring engagement with protected groups

Officers have supported the applicants to engage and involve those with protected characteristics

5.7. Evidence of engagement

Applicants have provided learner feedback and impact

5.8. Overall Outcome

No Negative Impacts Identified.

The scheme provides funding to a range of projects which will increase delivery and options for all to participate, additionally specific projects will be funded that support those who experience barriers to participation.

6. Health Inequalities Impact Assessment

6.1. Health Behaviours

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Healthy eating		Yes		
Exercise and physical activity	Yes			
Substance use – tobacco		Yes		
Substance use – alcohol		Yes		
Substance use – drugs		Yes		
Mental health	Yes			

6.2. Positive Impacts

Impact Area	Impact
Exercise and physical activity	<p>Increased range and types of opportunities of offer which increase physical wellbeing</p> <p>Reduce d barriers i.e. cost, access, equipment, geography</p> <p>Specifically designed programmes for those with disability</p> <p>Support in place to encourage the non-participant to engage</p>
Mental health	<p>Funding for projects which deliver and encourage participation form those with mental health issues.</p> <p>Increased awareness of LLA offers and ongoing support for those engaged in funded programmes.</p> <p>Funded projects deliver partnership work with mental health support groups</p> <p>Increased opportunities for training and qualifications</p> <p>Partnership with local CLD to support vulnerable families</p>

6.3. Evidence

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
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Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
External Consultation	Community impact assessment Aberdeenshire – impact of Covid 19 September 2020	<p>Impact on individuals, community and organisations. Include the following</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A significant amount of people are drinking more units of alcohol • A high number of people report to be more stressed and anxious than before • A substantial amount of people are concerned about the impact of the pandemic on other people's mental health and wellbeing • There is general concern about capacity and sustainability on maintaining and delivering services to meet current and future demand • Residents are concerned that there are gaps in the support available for certain groups for example single parents, vulnerable groups and young people. 	Greater requirement for support to those impacted and have health and wellbeing challenges
External Consultation	Aberdeenshire Voices on the pandemic , Same storm different boats ...	<p>lived experience report on the impact of Covid 19 pandemic. Highlighted the challenges across out communities but heard from those in disadvantaged groups.</p> <p>Impact on new scots, older people, young people, low income households, fuel poverty.</p> <p>Mental health and well-being is a recurring theme throughout this report - and reflects the experiences of people in the earlier stages of the pandemic. As we move into 2021 and a new vaccine it is important that we continue to reach out to those in our communities who will continue to be impacted most in the readjustment period and beyond.</p>	Significant impact on health and wellbeing in low income families

6.4. Overall Outcome

No Negative Impacts Identified.

Funding provided will deliver inclusive projects which support and reduce barriers of the most disadvantaged

7. Action Plan

Planned Action	Details	
<p>Awards will be reviewed against agreed criteria which supports inclusive projects to deliver health and wellbeing outcomes. Successful applicants will provide evidence of the impact and feedback from participants.</p>	<p>Lead Officer Repeating Activity Planned Start Planned Finish Expected Outcome Resource Implications</p>	<p>Claire D Thomson No Friday July 16, 2021 Thursday March 31, 2022 Live Life Aberdeenshire will increase partnership working to deliver projects that support both mental and physical wellbeing. Increased understanding of needs in certain areas/ communities of need in Aberdeenshire. Positive impact on the sustainability of local organisations 100K Allocated in 2021/22</p>