

Ministear airson Cùram Sòisealta agus Sunnd Inntinn
Tom Arthur BPA

Minister for Social Care and Mental Wellbeing
Tom Arthur MSP



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

T: 0300 244 4000
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Clare Haughey MSP
Convener
Health, Social Care and Sport Committee
The Scottish Parliament

24 December 2025

Dear Convener

The Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund for Adults - £3 Million Additional Funding in 2025-26.

I am pleased to inform you that an additional £3 million has been made available for the Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund for Adults in the current financial year (2025-26). This is in addition to the £15 million already invested this year.

As you will be aware, the Communities Fund, which has seen £81 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.

The Fund has been included in the Scottish Government's Third Sector Fairer Funding Pilot, with a further £15 million committed next year (2026-27).

In recent 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 and it has 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 4 of the Fund, 44 % 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 across the first four years of the Fund shows that the Fund has been successful in:

- Providing around 6,100 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;

This additional £3 million is being provided in light of the success of the Fund and continuing demand. We know the Fund has been oversubscribed every year since it was established and this additional money will undoubtedly make a real difference to local communities by providing funding for more projects this year.

The First Minister will be announcing the funding for the Communities Fund on 29 December during a visit to Eats Rosyth Community Hub, Fife.

I would be grateful if you could bring the additional funding for Year 5 to the attention of the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee, noting it will be formally announced later this month.

Yours sincerely,



Tom Arthur MSP

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