

Local Government and Communities Committee

Consultation of the Scottish Parliament on the Scottish Government's Revised National Outcomes

Submission from the Big Lottery Fund

The Big Lottery Fund in Scotland supports people and communities to make a positive difference in the areas that matter to them. Between 2015-2020, we will invest around £250m (through a mix of open and targeted funding) in activities that are positively contributing to the achievement of the National Outcomes, with a particular focus on work that aims to reduce inequality, promote community empowerment, build social capital and community cohesion, improve physical and mental wellbeing, and enhance local environments.

We are delighted to see the revised National Outcomes being shared widely across a range of platforms, and to have the opportunity to provide comment at this stage. We know from the conversations we are having with those we fund that the language and aspirations of the revised National Outcomes will resonate with many community, voluntary and public sector organisations across Scotland. We also know from the applications we are receiving, and from the work we are currently supporting, that there is already a wealth of learning and good practice that can contribute to discussions around the three new outcomes being proposed. Some examples include:

We live in communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe

Launched in 2014, Our Place is a £12m initiative that enables local people and groups to determine where National Lottery funding is spent in their community. Our 10-year relationship with seven communities across Scotland is focused on strengthening relationships with and between the people who live and work there. Everyone is being encouraged to use their strengths and develop the confidence and capacity required to take forward ideas that will make their communities even better places in which to live. Local priorities identified by these communities resonate with this National Outcome, particularly around providing inclusive opportunities for participation, increasing community resilience and developing approaches to community safety that engage with of people and partners.

Since 2015, we have also invested over £25m in a range of community-led activity and community assets across Scotland, and we would welcome any opportunity to share learning gathered from our customers.

We tackle poverty by sharing opportunities, wealth and power more equally

Our £16.3m **Delivering Financial Inclusion** programme launched in 2017, bringing £10m National Lottery funding together with £6m+ matched funding from the European Social Fund (ESF). This funding supports a partnership approach to services that tackle poverty, improve financial capability and promote social inclusion

across five local authority areas (Glasgow, Argyle & Bute, Dundee, Inverclyde and North Ayrshire).

Wider National Lottery funding has supported people experiencing significant disadvantages such as relationship breakdown, illness, disability, homelessness and discrimination. We also know from our extensive history of funding anti-poverty work that connections between organisations and at a local level are instrumental in addressing the many inter-related issues that lead to people experiencing poverty.

We grow up loved, safe and respected, so that we will realise our full potential

Since 2010, we have invested over £160m in projects across Scotland supporting vulnerable children, young people and families to address inequality and realise their full potential. Since 2015, we have funded a wide variety of meaningful work in this area through grants for improving lives. Some examples of the work include:

STAR (Siblings Together and Reunited) are providing children in care with the opportunity to meet with their siblings on a regular basis.

Circle are offering support to fathers with substance use issues during their partner's pregnancy and after their baby's birth.

Early Years Scotland are delivering a programme of work focused on improving family relationships for fathers currently imprisoned in Barlinnie and Castle Huntly prisons

Given our reach across Scotland, and across social policy areas, we are very fortunate to have a rich resource of data and networks that we can engage with, both at a national and a local level. A good example of this is the positive experience of supporting the Scottish Government's evidence gathering for the recent Child Poverty Bill. We will continue to encourage and support grantholders to share their experiences and their achievements, and would be delighted to take up any opportunity to convene relevant people and groups to support the development of the policy descriptions that will accompany the National Outcomes. We would also welcome the chance to engage in further discussions about the National Indicators, particularly if there are opportunities for us and our customers to explore consistent measurements and shared indicators.

We look forward to seeing the contributions you receive from colleagues working in and with the Third Sector in particular, and to participating in future discussions.

Sincerely,

Allison Mathews

Head of Knowledge and Learning, Big Lottery Fund in Scotland