

Education, Children and Families Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 22 May 2018

Communities and Families Grants to Third Parties 2019/22

Item number	7.14
Report number	
Executive/routine	
Wards	
Council Commitments	31

Executive Summary

This report seeks approval for a one year extension of award to all Communities and Families Main Grant award holders which will enable redesign work to be completed on a new grants programme for 2020-21 onwards.

Communities and Families Grants to Third Parties 2019/22

1. Recommendations

The Education, Children and Families Committee is asked to:

- 1.1 Approve the extension of all Main Grant awards by one year (to March 2020).
- 1.2 Note that this extension period will be used to review the current programme and set priorities for a new programme.
- 1.3 Note that a report will be prepared for Committee in March 2019 outlining arrangements for 2020-21 onwards.

2. Background

- 2.1 In May 2015 the Education, Children and Families Committee agreed recommendations made by the Member Officer Working Group to run a three year Main Grant Programme (2016-19) and an annual Small Grants Programme.
- 2.2 Although the Main Grant Programme was implemented in line with the criteria agreed, the subsequent assessment and grant allocation process gave rise to a number of issues. As a consequence, at its meeting on 11 February 2016, the Education, Children and Families Committee agreed to reconvene the Third Party Payments Short Life Working Group to discuss lessons learned. EVOC was also co-opted onto the group. This group also considered the Small Grants Programme and reported to Committee on 11 October 2016.
- 2.3 A number of changes have been made to the Small Grant Programmes for 2017-18 and 2018-19 based on the recommendations of the Third Party Payments Short Life Working Group.
- 2.4 In December 2016 Committee agreed the recommendations contained in the Youth Work Funding 2017-2019 report which agreed awards for 8 organisations until March 2019 and the development of a participatory budgeting process to award smaller grants to support open access youth work. An update report on this process was received by Committee at its meeting in August 2017.
- 2.5 The three year awards made to organisations in February 2016 run out in March 2019 and it is necessary for Committee to consider what the approach to making grant awards to third parties should be for the period 2019-20 onwards.

3. Main report

- 3.1 There are four grant awards being made by Communities and Families in 2018-19:
- Three Year Main Grant Programme (2016-19) - £2,800,000 pa
 - One Year Small Grant Programme (2018-19) – £108,000 pa
 - Youth Work Grants (2017-19) - £434,000 pa
 - Choose Youth Work Grant Programme (2018-19) - £166,000 pa (Four locality programmes and one citywide programme using participatory budgeting)
- 3.2 The future direction and running of the two youth work grant programmes is being covered in a separate report to Committee (Choose Youth Work Report).
- 3.3 The Three Year Main Grant Programme has funded work against the six strategic objectives of the Integrated Children’s Services Plan for 2014-17. This has resulted in a wide range of activities at both local and citywide levels. There was no allocation set against any of the strategic objectives so the levels of investment across the strategic objectives has been the result of the scoring process.
- 3.4 The recent adoption of the new Integrated Children’s Services Plan has resulted in a smaller set of rewritten strategic objectives and it is important to consider how any new grant programme could operate using these objectives.
- 3.5 The funding landscape for the voluntary sector has changed since the development of the Three Year Main Grant Programme. There has been the introduction of new funding sources e.g. The Pupil Equity Funding operating through a framework arrangement but with final decisions resting with Headteachers. The more critical factor is the ongoing financial pressures on all funders resulting in smaller funds to disperse and higher levels of competition. The Community and Families grant programmes will be subject to further savings.
- 3.5 Work needs to be undertaken to prepare a new programme that more clearly aligns grant investment to some or all of the new Integrated Children’s Services Plan objectives whilst taking into account the wider financial environment.
- 3.6 In order to give sufficient time for this work to be completed, it is therefore proposed to offer all current main grant award holders an extension of award for one year to March 2020.
- 3.7 It is also proposed to run the small grant programme for 2019-20 with the intention that future arrangements would be agreed through the Main Grant Programme review.
- 3.8 It is intended that the review and redesign work would take place over the rest of 2018 and a report brought to Committee in March 2019.

- 3.9 Should Committee agree to the approach taken in this report then the timetable for the Main Grant programme would be as follows;
- April 2019 – Application process open
 - June 2019 – Closing date for applications
 - July/August 2019 – Assessment of applications
 - October 2019 – Report to Committee with award recommendations
- 3.10 The proposed timetable would mean that organisations would be able to get applications in before the holiday period. A decision on awards in October 2019 would give any unsuccessful current award holders five months to plan their response before their funding would run out at the end of March 2020.

4. Measures of success

- 4.1 Each grant recipient will be required to complete a funding agreement that details SMART targets to be achieved by the organisation within the funding period. The achievement of these targets contributes to an identified Strategic Aim within the Integrated Children's Services Plan.
- 4.2 Young people are involved in decision-making on funding for work with young people across the four locality programmes.

5. Financial impact

- 5.1 The new programmes will be developed in accordance with the budget available, taking account of the requirement to make further savings from expenditure on third party grants and contracts as per the Council's commitments. To minimise the impact of this on the award holders, it is proposed that any allocation of three year grant awards takes account of this at the point of award in order to allow organisations to plan appropriately.

6. Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

- 6.1 This report builds on the work and reports addressing the previous Main Grants programme (2016-19) and changes as recommended in the [Lessons Learnt report](#) approved by Committee in October 2016.

7. Equalities impact

- 7.1 The funding of activity by third parties through grant aid contributes to the Council's delivery of its Equality Act 2010 duty to seek to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality and foster good relations.

8. Sustainability impact

- 8.1 The awarding of grants to third parties enables the Council to meet Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 Public Bodies Duties as well as contributing to the city's Sustainable Edinburgh 2020 objectives.

9. Consultation and engagement

- 9.1 There was engagement involving stakeholders to review the third party grants process throughout 2016. Specifically this included reforming the Elected Members Working Group and an online consultation with third party organisations. This work resulted in the [Lessons Learnt report](#) approved by Committee in October 2016.

10. Background reading/external references

- 10.1 [Children and Families Grants to Third Parties 2015/16 Education Children and Families Committee 19 May 2015](#)
[Children and Families Grants to Third Parties 2016/19 Education, Children and Families Committee 06 October 2015](#)
[Member Officers' Working Group – Lessons Learnt from Review of Revenue Grants Programme Education, Children and Families Committee 11 October 2016](#)
[Youth Work Funding 2017-19 Education Children and Families Committee 13 December 2016](#)
[Choose Youth Work: Youth Work Participatory Budgeting – Phase 1 Education Children and families Committee 15 August 2017](#)

Alistair Gaw

Executive Director for Communities and Families

Contact: David Hoy, Commissioning Officer

E-mail: David.Hoy@edinburgh.gov.uk | Tel: 0131 469 3457

11. Appendices

11.1 None.