

Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee

10.00am, Thursday, 5 November 2020

Parental Employability Support Fund Grants

Executive/routine	Routine
Wards	All
Council Commitments	7, 31

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee is asked to note:
- 1.1.1 the information regarding the Parental Employability Support Funding (PESF) allocation from Scottish Government for delivery of initiatives to support parents into and to progress in employment;
 - 1.1.2 the award of funding to the successful applicants for delivery of employability activity funded through Scottish Government's Parental Employability Support Fund - Access to Industry (two projects), Enable Scotland and The Broomhouse Centre; and
 - 1.1.3 the further award of the remaining £21,368 of funding for a pilot project to be developed in partnership with Capital City Partnership, University of Edinburgh and The Datakirk.

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Parental Employability Support Fund Grants

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 Following the award of £677,000 Parental Employability Support (PES) funds from Scottish Government for delivery of employability activity to support parents into and progress in employment, it was agreed at the Adaptation and Renewal Programme Board on 1 July 2020 to progress with awarding of small grants through a process managed by Capital City Partnership (CCP).
- 2.2 The process is now complete, and due to the time constraints for delivery and the suspension of Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee, the award of funding was approved by Executive Director of Place in consultation with the Convener and Vice Convener, under delegated authority.

3. Background

- 3.1 Late in 2019, Scottish Government announced the forthcoming award of funds to Local Authorities for delivery of services to support parents into and to progress in employment. This was under the Tackling Child Poverty and in line with the No One Left Behind strategies.
- 3.2 The client groups who are eligible and will benefit from this fund are:
 - 3.2.1 Lone Parents who are unemployed or experiencing in work poverty;
 - 3.2.2 Parents with a disability or families who are unemployed or experiencing in work poverty and have a disabled child;
 - 3.2.3 Parents who are unemployed or experiencing in work poverty and have three or more children;
 - 3.2.4 Parents from a minority ethnic background who are unemployed or experiencing in work poverty;
 - 3.2.5 Parents who are unemployed or experiencing in work poverty and have a youngest child <1; and
 - 3.2.6 Parents who are aged <25 who are unemployed or experiencing in work poverty.

- 3.3 The total award to the Council to deliver PES over the three financial years 2019 - 2022 is £677,000. The award for 2019/20 was paid out in February 2020 and it was agreed with Scottish Government that the funds could be carried over into the following financial year.
- 3.4 Plans for delivery of PES in the Council, which had been approved in principle by Scottish Government, were put on hold due to the Covid-19 pandemic. As information emerged about the impact of the pandemic, officers worked with partners to develop a new proposal to enable parents who had been affected by the pandemic to benefit from the evolving opportunities in digital, retail and distribution and health and social care. This was approved by Scottish Government.
- 3.5 On 1 July 2020, the Adaptation and Renewal Programme Board approved the proposal, which entailed that the funds be awarded through a previously recognised and approved small grants process managed by CCP.
- 3.6 In addition to the funding to be allocated for specific projects, the proposal also included covering the cost of a part time Business Growth and Inclusion Officer and a small pot of money for specific projects for parents currently engaging through Communities and Families and Lifelong Learning services. This can be used for projects such as an options and choices course in conjunction with 'Saheliya', a black minority ethnic women mental health organisation based in Edinburgh, and engagement with families who are registered for 'Discover'.

4. Main report

- 4.1 Following the approval of the Adaptation and Renewal Programme Board, the grant allocation process was managed by CCP on behalf of the Council. The specification materials and application form were published on 20 July 2020, using similar materials to those used in previous Third-Party Grants and the No-one left behind grant allocation.
- 4.2 Applications were encouraged for proposals of up to £125,000 for delivery of projects over 18 months, starting on 1 October 2020, to keep delivery in line with the funding end date of March 2022.
- 4.3 Potential applicants were given the opportunity of guidance on their applications and a Questions and Answers log was hosted on the Joined up for Jobs website.
- 4.4 The opportunity closed on 20 August 2020 and six applications were received.
- 4.5 Applications were distributed to a scoring panel, whose membership was made up of individuals from the following organisations:
 - 4.5.1 City of Edinburgh Council, Business Growth and Inclusion;
 - 4.5.2 City of Edinburgh Council, Lifelong Learning;
 - 4.5.3 EVOC;
 - 4.5.4 NHS Lothian;

4.5.5 University of Edinburgh/ESESCRD Data Driven Innovation project; and

4.5.6 Capital City Partnership.

4.6 The scoring panel met on 8 September 2020 and made the following recommendations:

Reference	Applicant	Project Description	Total Spend	Comments
PESF01	Access to Industry	Access DDI – work with a cohort of Edinburgh parents who have an interest in training or re-training for jobs in the data sector. Link with ESESCRD DDI gateway.	£116,730.00	recommended for funding
PESF02	Access to Industry	Parents Participate Progress (3Ps) – employability service for unemployed parents, one-to-one support and skills-based activity in sectors where there are potential vacancies.	£112,100.00	recommended for funding
PESF03	Enable Scotland	Project focussed on parents of disabled children who are out of work and in low income employment. One-to-one support, welfare rights and employability skills.	£124,806.00	recommended for funding
PESF04	The Action Group	Real Jobs Lone Parent's Employability Service - employability service for parents of a disabled child and BAME parents.		not recommended for funding
PESF05	The Broomhouse Centre (SPACE)	Workspace - Employment and Skills – based in SW Edinburgh. Offers employability, self-employment and home-working support for low income and unemployed parents.	£124,996.00	recommended for funding
PESF06	The Datakirk	BAMELYTICS – data literacy and analytics employability project for BME parents living in Edinburgh.		suggest a pilot project - further discussions required
		Proposed spend	£478,632.00	
		Total budget	£500,000.00	
		Remaining Balance	£21,368.00	

4.7 As the expected start date for these projects was before the next Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee, these awards were approved by the Executive Director of Place in consultation with the Convener and Vice Convener.

4.8 CCP have informed the applicants of the outcome and offered detailed feedback.

5. Next Steps

5.1 Further discussion will take place between CCP, University of Edinburgh and The Datakirk around developing a pilot project to test the BAMELYTICS approach.

5.2 A steering group will be set up with members of the original scoring panel, who will meet regularly to ensure that targets are being met and detailed reporting is submitted to Scottish Government on a quarterly basis and also into the Child Poverty Action Group.

5.3 A link officer from Business Growth and Inclusion will work with the successful projects to ensure integration with other commissioned services and link in with the Early Years team to promote the projects to parents who are benefitting from the expansion of 1,140 hours funded childcare- in line with Scottish Government recommendations.

- 5.4 Reporting on spend and targets will be conducted via CCP's regular quarterly report to Business Growth and Inclusion and the CCP Board. CCP will also report on spend and targets via the Council's Child Poverty Group.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 There is no financial impact to the Council as all delivery costs are contained within the grant award from Scottish Government.
- 6.2 The ongoing successful projects will be contract managed by CCP under the existing Service Level Agreement and Council officer time to support this would be supplemented through current No-One Left Behind staffing and the grant award as above.

7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

- 7.1 The specification was developed in partnership with those who were involved in the scoring process and was in direct response to information gathered relating to the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on parents and families.
- 7.2 The impact on this client group will be positive as the projects will enable them to enhance their employability and develop new skills to help them to secure or progress in employment. There is also a link to income maximisation advice which will ensure that these families benefit in real financial terms.
- 7.3 Partnership working has been at the heart of the development of this proposal, both between Council departments and other partners such as University of Edinburgh and EVOC and has been designed to complement the current strategic skills pipeline as well as meet the needs of those who have been affected by the impact of Covid-19.

8. Background reading/external references

- 8.1 Scottish Government's [Parental Employment Support Fund](#).
- 8.2 [Covid Impacts Edinburgh and South East Scotland](#).
- 8.3 Scottish Government's [No-one Left Behind](#) policy.
- 8.4 [Every Child, Every Chance](#) tackling child poverty delivery plan.

9. Appendices

- 9.1 None.