

The City of Edinburgh Council

10.05am, Thursday 28 September 2023

Connected Communities Edinburgh 2024-27 Grants Programme – referral from the Education, Children and Families Committee

Executive/routine

Wards

Council Commitments

1. For Decision/Action

- 1.1 The Education, Children and Families Committee has referred a report on Connected Communities Edinburgh 2023-27 Grants Programme to council for decision.

Dr Deborah Smart

Executive Director of Corporate Services

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Legal and Assurance Division, Corporate Services Directorate

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Referral Report

Connected Communities Edinburgh 2024-27 Grants Programme

2. Terms of Referral

- 2.1 On 5 September 2023, the Education, Children and Families Committee considered a report by the Executive Director – Children, Education and Justice Services outlining proposals for the forthcoming round of Connected Communities Edinburgh 2024-27 Grant funding.

3. Background Reading/ External References

- 3.1 [Education, Children and Families Committee – 5 September 2023 Webcast](#)

4. Appendices

- 4.1 Appendix 1 – report by the Executive Director of Children, Education and Justice Services (PUBLIC)
- 4.2 Appendix 2 - report by the Executive Director of Children, Education and Justice Services (PRIVATE). This Appendix is circulated on the Private Reports section of the Agenda.

Education, Children and Families Committee

10:00 am, Tuesday, 5 September 2023

Connected Communities Edinburgh 2024-27, Grants Programme

Executive/routine
Wards

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 The Education, Children and Families Committee is asked to:
 - 1.1.1 Note the work done to date, including the Briefing Sessions delivered to Elected Members and the Community and Voluntary Sector, in partnership with LAYC (Lothian Association of Youth Clubs) and EVOC (Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations' Council).
 - 1.1.2 Note the cross-party support and approval granted by Elected Members on 22 August 2023.
 - 1.1.3 Notes a special meeting of Education Children and Families Committee will be scheduled for award recommendations at the beginning of December.
 - 1.1.4 Approve the refinements made to the 2024-27 Grants Programme.
 - 1.1.5 Approve the process to determine successful grant applicants.

Amanda Hatton

Executive Director of Children, Education and Justice Services

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Report

Connected Communities Edinburgh 2024-27, Grants Programme

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This report provides detail on the refreshed Connected Communities Edinburgh Grants Programme. This information has been shared with Elected Members in two briefing sessions. It has also been shared with the Community and Voluntary Sector over three engagement events which were led jointly with LAYC and EVOC. The report seeks approval to deliver the new 2024 – 27 grants programme according to the process and timeline set out.
- 2.2 The refined programme has been developed through a partnership with LAYC and EVOC on behalf of the community and voluntary sector.
 - 2.2.1 The programme has a new name: Connected Communities Edinburgh, 2024-27 Grants Programme.
 - 2.2.2 The 5 Funding Priorities have been combined into 3 broader Funding Strands.
 - 2.2.3 Organisations are required to complete a Pre-Application Eligibility Checklist to ensure they are eligible for this funding stream.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Council provides ‘funding to support activities that will help it to meet its commitments to the City and where the organisation does not have sufficient resources to deliver those activities on a self-sustaining basis itself’.¹
- 3.2 The 2020-23 Grants Programme awards will come to an end in March 2024, following ECF Committee approval of a 7 month extension.
- 3.3 The clarified criteria, refined process and refreshed application format have been discussed and developed through the meaningful collaboration between CEC, LAYC and EVOC. The outcomes for the programme are aligned with the CEC business plan, with particular focus on tackling poverty.

¹ Grant Standing Orders, paragraph 1.2.3

- 3.4 The basis for these developments was to ensure lessons were learned from the previous grants process. It reflects feedback from the sector, with an emphasis on partnership, and aims to ensure the process works for the sector as a whole.
- 3.5 NHS Lothian and Police Scotland are also partners in this process and have committed funding to this programme.
- 3.6 On 22 August 2023, cross-party support was granted by ECF Elected members to proceed with briefing sessions to the sector to give an opportunity for engagement, questions and clarifications (appendix 1)

4. Main report

Refined Programme Process:

- 4.1 The five Funding Priorities of the 2020-23 Grants Programme have been combined into three Funding Strands. Funding Priority 4 (positive destinations) and Funding Priority 5 (alcohol and substance abuse prevention) are integrated into Funding Strand 1 and 2 respectively:
 - 4.1.1 Funding Strand 1: Learning outcomes for disadvantaged children, young people and families in Edinburgh.
 - 4.1.2 Funding Strand 2: Health and wellbeing outcomes for children, young people and families in Edinburgh.
 - 4.1.3 Funding Strand 3: Youth and children's work in Edinburgh.
- 4.2 These three Funding Strands are for direct service delivery, support and coordination, each with a focus on benefitting children, families and communities. Organisations may not apply to more than one Funding Strand each of which has a minimum of £10k and a maximum of £100k per year.
- 4.3 These Funding Strands have been clearly explained in further detail at briefing sessions. The Funding Strands are intentionally broad, to encourage a wide variety of proposals contributing towards the collective goal of reducing the outcome gap for those who experience the greatest inequality. Further guidance for organisations will be issued when the programme opens for applications. This helps ensure a positive, equitable and inclusive future for our city.
- 4.4 For robust governance and prevent any potential conflicts of interest, a separate Managed Fund has been created to support intermediary organisations (such as LAYC and EVOC). It would be unethical for these partners to be in competition for award with the networks they support.

Application Process:

- 4.5 **Connected Communities Edinburgh** has a sharper focus, designed to support local, community-based organisations whose services are informed by local knowledge and intelligence. As such, the first step of the application process will be the completion of a Pre-Application Eligibility Checklist, whereby organisations will

self-evaluate the suitability of their organisation/project/proposal to the programme (appendix 2).

- 4.6 Section 1 of the Eligibility Checklist asks organisations if they are based in / delivering work in Edinburgh; if their organisation holds charitable status, and if their organisation's annual income is under £2 million. Answering 'NO' to any of these questions means the organisation is ineligible.
- 4.7 To target support to local, community-based organisations, the criteria of direct work in Edinburgh and an annual income of under £2 million have been introduced. This reflects feedback and lessons learned from the previous Grants programme.
- 4.8 The eligibility requirement to hold charitable status has been introduced to provide best value through the scrutiny that comes from Scottish Regulated Charity pluralistic board structure². Scottish Charity Law is the gold standard for voluntary sector governance. CICs (Community Interest Companies) are regulated by Companies House which takes a light touch regulatory approach. CIC's have a basic asset lock, and their structure lacks the transparency and robustness of regulated Scottish charities.
- 4.9 Section 2 of the Eligibility Criteria will inform the review, mapping and weighting of the funding across different funding streams, frameworks, programmes, and localities. This allows the CEC/LAYC/EVOC partnership to identify potential gaps in service delivery across the city, which will then be addressed in the awarding process.
- 4.10 Section 2 will not be scored but demonstrates how effectively public money is used to deliver improved outcomes across the city. It seeks transparency around any potential for double funding or duplication.
- 4.11 Desired Outcomes: Once organisations have completed the Pre-Application Eligibility Checklist and decided which Funding Strand to apply through, they will be asked to rank the City Priorities (Addressing poverty and inequality in Edinburgh, working towards a sustainable future in Edinburgh, ensuring wellbeing and equalities are enhanced for all) in order of importance to their proposal. They will also be asked, how their project/proposal contributes to the delivery of the city priorities. This is not a scored question; the intention is to ensure robust monitoring and reporting on outcomes and encourage organisations to think about how their proposal/project contributes towards these aims.

Application Form:

- 4.12 The new Application Form has been refined based on feedback and lessons learned. It only asks relevant questions, designed to be straightforward to complete and assess. The new Form seeks clear and concise information about the proposal and budget. Applicants will be asked to build an annual uplift of no more than 2.5% into their proposals, ensuring they are not receiving stand still funding each year. The new application form will contain the scoring criteria and weighting to allow the organisations to make the strongest applications possible.

² Grant Standing Orders, paragraph 6.3 Funding and Sustainability 'Prior to any award of a grant exceeding £25,000 the financial sustainability of the applicant organisation shall be assessed'.

4.13 The new process also allows for partial Awards to be made with potential for ensuring more funding can be directed to where the need is greatest. If a partial award looks likely, the organisation will be advised and through discussion, may be asked to submit further information. This will be in advance of final decisions enabling organisations to plan ahead.

Scoring and Assessing:

4.14 Applications will be scored using a weighting matrix that incorporates a multiplier. The multiplier allows for more subtle scoring and a greater number of final scores. This ensures no-one can predict/influence the scores and avoids large numbers of organisations being scored the same. This helps determine where full or partial awards may be granted. Each Funding Strand will have different weighting, reflecting the overall purpose of and criteria for the Funding Strand.

4.15 Applications will be scored by officers and partners who have a good working knowledge of the city, local priorities and needs. This will include CEC, NHS, BAME and third sector representatives, young people and potentially Police staff. Once the assessment and scoring is complete, the recommendations will be moderated by a Panel comprised by an independent Chair, EVOC and LAYC representatives. The outcome will be discussed with ECF Elected Members before being shared with Committee in a special meeting in December 2023.

4.16 Below is an example of the scoring matrix and multiplier for FUNDING STRAND 1 showing how it works.

Panel member: Assessor 1	organisation: EXAMPLE A			organisation EXAMPLE B			organisation: EXAMPLE C		
	Score	Multiplier	Total	Score	Multiplier	Total	Score	Multiplier	Total
Clearly identified evidence of need score out of 6	6	X 6	= 36	6	X 6	= 36	6	X 6	= 36
Quality of learning opportunity Score out of 5	2	X 5	= 10	5	X 5	= 25	3	X 5	= 15
Consideration of protected characteristics Score out of 4	2	X 4	= 8	3	X 4	= 12	2	X 4	= 12

Confidence of intended impact Score out of 3	3	X 3	= 9	3	X 3	= 9	2	X 3	= 6
Total Score (max = 86)		final total:	= 63		final total:	= 82		final total:	= 69

4.17 Below is an example of how the scores are collated and used to inform recommendations. The scores from Assessor 1 above are highlighted in yellow.

	Assessor 1	Assessor 2	Assessor 3	Assessor 4	Assessor 5	Total
Organisation A	63	57	68	67	75	Sub totals in red 330
Organisation B	82	76	62	62	76	348
Organisation C	69	49	63	60	61	301

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 Committee is asked to note that implementing lessons learned from the 2020-23 Grants Programme has been, and will continue to be, key in the development of Connected Communities Edinburgh. This, along with feedback from the sector have formed the basis of discussions with LAYC and EVOC.
- 5.2 Work is actively underway to ensure there is no gap in funding for organisations directing services to those with protected characteristics and BAME groups. Addressing poverty and inequality will run through all Funding Strands, ensuring funding is reaching those who need it most in Edinburgh.
- 5.3 Pending approval of the process, the programme is scheduled to open to applications week beginning 11th September. A special ECF Committee meeting will be arranged at the beginning of December where award recommendations will be presented for approval.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 The annual budget for Connected Communities Edinburgh is £3,519,461.
- 6.2 Organisations funded through the current grants programme all benefitted from the extension to March 2024. However, Connected Communities Edinburgh is a new three-year grant programme and some organisations may not be successful. They

should be considering an exit strategy/mitigation as part of their planning and while applying to the new grants programme.

7. Equality and Poverty Impact

- 7.1 Connected Communities Edinburgh encourages and supports a wide variety of proposals contributing towards the collective goal of reducing the outcome gap for those who experience the greatest inequality and ensuring a positive, equitable and inclusive future for our city.
- 7.2 An IIA will be completed by CEC, LAYC and EVOC and discussed with Elected Members prior to recommending the awards.
- 7.3 A delay to the planned timeline will create a gap in awarding grants for new applications. This will impact organisations and the people benefitting from services that support people affected by poverty and inequality.

8. Climate and Nature Emergency Implications

- 8.1 An IIA will be completed by CEC, LAYC and EVOC and discussed with Elected Members prior to recommending the awards.

9. Risk, policy, compliance, governance and community impact

- 9.1 The refined programme has been developed collaboratively through a partnership with LAYC and EVOC on behalf of the community and voluntary sector.
- 9.2 Briefing Sessions have been delivered to the community and voluntary sector who have welcomed the collaborative nature of the process and the programme itself.
- 9.3 Feedback has been very positive with questions and clarification points being published together with the application guidelines.

10. Background reading/external references

- 10.1 Programme background: : 2020/23 Communities and Families Grants to Third Parties Programme, 2020/23 Third Party Revenue Grants Programme Extension

11. Appendices

- 11.1 Appendix 1 Connected Communities Edinburgh presentation slides
- 11.2 Appendix 2 Pre-Application Checklist draft
- 11.3 Appendix 3 Draft Weighting and Scoring Matrix



Connected Communities Edinburgh, 2024-27 Grants Programme

Refreshing the programme, simplifying the process, working together

Connected Communities Edinburgh

2024-27 Grants Programme



BRIEFING SESSION

Contents

This presentation will cover:

- Brief context
- Work done to date
- Funding Strands
- Eligibility criteria
- Timeline

Context

- The 2020-23 Third-Party Revenue Grants Programme was approved for a 7-month extension until March 31st 2024.
- The 2020-23 Programme saw 75 awards granted to organisations across Edinburgh.
- The aim of Connected Communities Edinburgh is to continue supporting the invaluable work local, community-based organisations do for the children, young people, families and communities of our city.

Context: Process

- Connected Communities Edinburgh will continue to be a **protected grant funding programme**. This means it will not be competitively tendered via a procurement process.
- There will be no gap in funding due to the extension period of the 2020-23 programme.

Context: Budget

- The budget for Connected Communities Edinburgh is **£3.5m pa** with contribution from the NHS and Police Scotland.

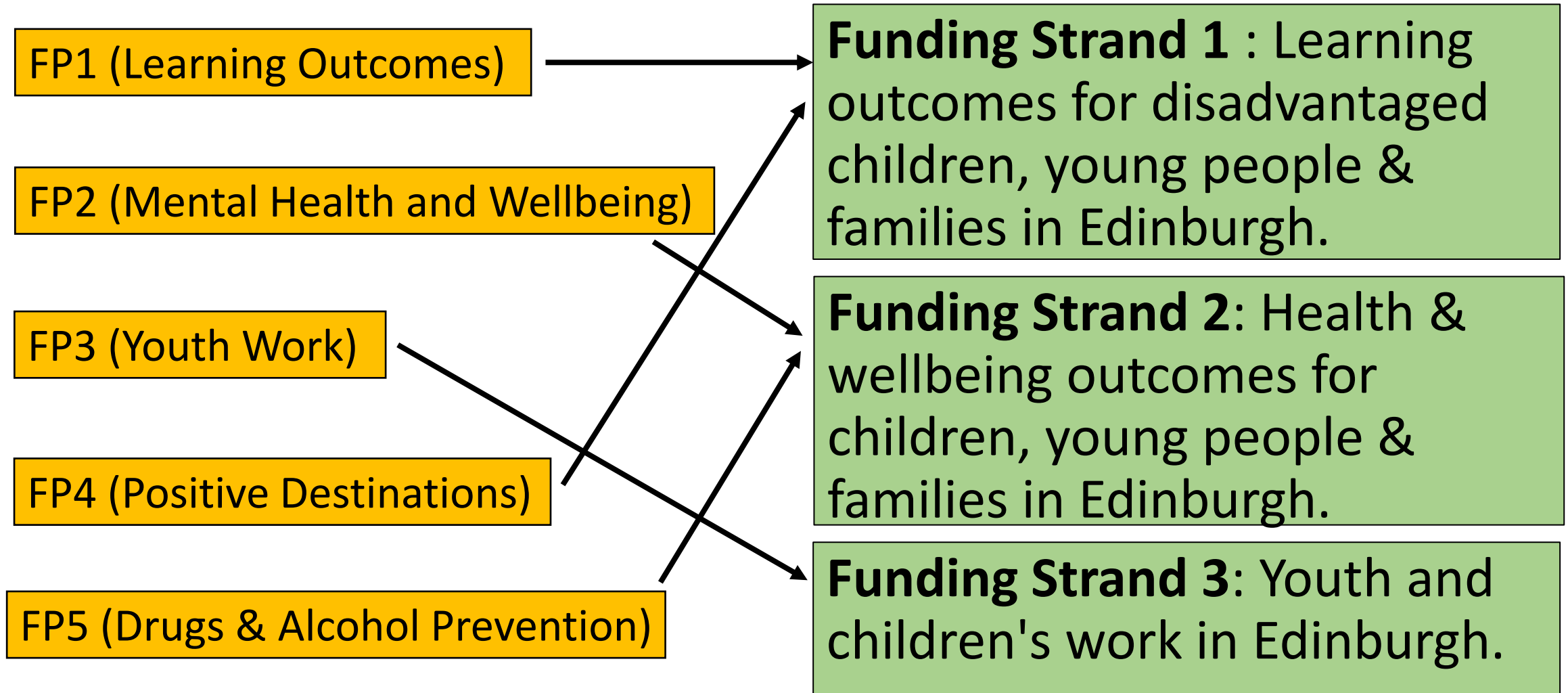
Work done to date

- CEC and LAYC entered into a **meaningful collaboration**, with support from EVOC.
- Learning lessons from the 2020-23 Grants Programme has formed the basis of discussions and decisions made:
 - Protected characteristics
 - Areas of deprivation across the city
 - Locally responsive, locally focused

Refined Process

- We have introduced streamlined, sharper priorities.
- The 2020-23 programme contained 5 funding priorities, each with specific outcomes expected.
- These previous 5 funding 'priorities' have been combined into 3 'funding strands'.

Funding Strands



NOTE: Organisations can apply through one Funding Strand

Funding Strand 1: Learning outcomes for disadvantaged children, young people, and families in Edinburgh

- Funding Strand 1 focuses on delivering learning opportunities and outcomes for disadvantaged children and families in Edinburgh. Consider **what the learning outcomes of your proposal/project are** and **which disadvantage(s) your proposal addresses**. The guidelines for Funding Strand 1 encourage a wide variety of proposals addressing local need.
- **'Learning Outcomes'**: this strand focuses on SQA/accredited forms of learning outcomes and learning outcomes in a wider sense (outdoor learning, creative learning, personal and social development outcomes etc.).
- **'Disadvantaged'**: an increasing numbers of children and families are facing poverty. Poverty affects every area of the city, with high concentrations of poverty found in all 4 localities. If addressing poverty, consider what your proposal/project does to alleviate the impacts of poverty on learning in the widest sense.
- As well as poverty, examples of disadvantages children, young people and families face are race, gender, sexuality, disability, intersectionality between various protected characteristics, those who are care experienced and those who are young carers.

Funding Strand 2 : Health and wellbeing outcomes for children, young people, and families in Edinburgh

- It is paramount that children, young people, and families in Edinburgh can access support when struggling with their mental health or improving/developing their wellbeing. Funding Strand 2 broadly focuses on **what your project/proposal does to support children, young people and/or families in Edinburgh with their mental health and wellbeing** and **how your proposal/project will aid participants in reaching their full potential, with focus on early intervention and prevention approaches.**
- **‘Mental health’**: children and young people in Edinburgh, and across Scotland, are facing a growing mental health crisis, exacerbated by the current landscape of lasting and devastating impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic, climate change and the cost-of-living crisis. Since the pandemic, 39% of 11–24-year-olds in Scotland have reported concerns about their mental wellbeing.
- **‘Wellbeing’**: wellbeing can include a myriad of factors, for example: physical wellbeing, substance misuse, sexual health and wellbeing, lack of access to opportunities, social isolation, and many more.

Funding Strand 3 : Youth and children's work (5-25) in Edinburgh

- Funding Strand 3 focuses on the provision of youth and children's work in Edinburgh. Edinburgh's children and young people benefit from a rich landscape of services across the city. Universal and targeted youth work has been evidenced to produce benefits and positive outcomes in health and wellbeing, educational outcomes, employability, personal and social development, and intercultural learning. The positive changes youth work spaces bring to people and communities are innumerable and can last a lifetime. **Detail what youth work and or children's work services your project/proposal offers and what positive outcomes delivery will produce for children, young people, and families in Edinburgh.**

Application

- The refreshed programme will have a sharper focus, with clearer aims.
- Connected Communities Edinburgh will focus support to **local, community-based organisations**.
- Organisations will be required to complete an **eligibility checklist** prior to application.
- Eligible organisations must deliver **direct work in Edinburgh**, hold a **charitable status**, and have an **annual income of less than £2 million**.

Links with the City Priorities

After choosing which Funding Strand to apply through, you will then be asked to rank and explain how your project/proposal addresses the City Priorities:

- 1. Ending poverty and preventing adverse outcomes such as homelessness and unemployment**
- 2. Becoming a net zero city**
- 3. Ensuring wellbeing and equalities are enhanced for all**

Robust and Impartial Application Assessment

- Minimum and maximum budget for each funding strand: £10,000-£100,000 per year.
- Organisations should plan their budget to include a yearly uplift of 2.5%.
- There will be a **marking matrix** to ensure grants are awarded by the most fair, transparent and equitable means possible.
- The above will provide flexibility for partial awards.
- Poverty and inequality runs through all 3 funding strands.

Application process



Complete 'Pre-Application Eligibility Checklist'



Choose which Funding Strand to apply under (1,2, OR 3)



Complete Application Form



Submit Application Form

- Application open: **11th September 2023**
- Application closed: **13th October 2023**
- Grants Approval: **ECF Committee**
- Grants Award : **1st April 2024**

Key dates

Appendix 2 CONNECTED COMMUNITIES EDINBURGH, Grants Programme 2024-27

Pre-Application Eligibility Checklist

CONNECTED COMMUNITIES EDINBURGH

Pre-Application Checklist

SECTION 1		YES	NO
1.1	Does your organisation hold charitable status?		
1.1a	If your organisation does not hold charitable status, are you <i>currently</i> in the process of applying for charitable status? (Evidence required)		
1.2	Is your organisation based in the city of Edinburgh?		
1.3	Does your project/proposal meet at least one of our funding strands?		
1.4	Are your organisation's accounts independently scrutinised?		
1.5	Does your proposal deliver <u>direct</u> services to children, young people and/or families in Edinburgh?		
1.6	Is your organisation's annual income less than £2 million?		

If you have answered 'NO' to any question in Section 1 your organisation is not eligible for Connected Communities Edinburgh. Please do not submit an application for this fund.

If you answered NO to Q 1.1 but YES to Q 1.3, you may submit an application, but you must provide evidence of you application to become a registered charity.

Appendix 2 CONNECTED COMMUNITIES EDINBURGH, Grants Programme 2024-27

Pre-Application Eligibility Checklist

Your answers to question 2 will not be scored but will help us understand how public money delivers outcomes across Edinburgh. Answering YES to any of these questions does not exclude you from applying if you are eligible, nor will it affect decision to fund (Section 1), and ensures no duplication.

SECTION 2			
2.1.	If your organisation has a contract with CEC/Health and Social Care and Capital City Partnership, please briefly describe how your proposal complements, expands and/or is additional to work you are undertaking through your existing contract with the Council (max 250 words). This includes contracts, frameworks, service level agreements.		
2.2	If your organisation receives any other funding from CEC/Health and Social Care and Capital City Partnership, please briefly describe how your proposal complements, expands and/or is additional to work you are undertaking through your existing contract with the Council (max 250 words).		

SECTION 2		
2.3	Which localities in the city will your proposal address?	
	<i>(Please X all which apply, note: you can X as many localities as your proposal will focuses support to, e.g. if you are a Citywide organisation you may X all 4 localities or if your proposal is to address identified need in smaller areas in different localities you should X which localities)</i>	
1	North West locality	
2	North East locality	
3	South East locality	
4	South West locality	

CONNECTED COMMUNITIES EDINBURGH

Appendix 4

Funding Strands: DRAFT Weighting and Scoring criteria.

Funding Strand 1 Learning outcomes for disadvantaged children, young people & families in Edinburgh.		Funding Strand 2 Health & wellbeing outcomes for children, young people & families in Edinburgh.		Funding Strand 3 Youth and children's work in Edinburgh	
Focuses on learning opportunities for people facing greatest disadvantage and addressing identified need.	6	Focuses on delivering outcomes that help improve wellbeing, where there is an identified need.	6	Focuses on the provision of youth and children's work (age 5 – 25 or 26 if care experienced) in Edinburgh.	6
Includes both accredited learning and informal learning delivering personal and social outcomes.	5	Includes both physical, social and mental wellbeing.	5	Includes both universal and target youth and children's work.	5
Aims to alleviate the impact of poverty and other disadvantage through learning.	4	Aims to benefit those facing greatest disadvantage and/or who face barriers through an early intervention and prevention approach.	4	Aims to realise positive outcomes in health and wellbeing, education and learning employability, personal and social development, and intercultural learning.	4
Considers the needs of people with protected characteristics.	3	Considers the needs of people with protected characteristics and those who are socially isolated and/or disabled and/or struggling with their mental health.	3	Considers the needs of children and young people, particularly where a need is clearly identified.	3
Includes care experienced and young carers.	2	Includes substance misuse, sexual health and wellbeing, lack of access to opportunities and social isolation.	2	Includes creative, accessible (application form) solutions that reach out to include children and young people least likely to engage	2
Benefits at least one of the 6 poverty priority groups	1	Benefits at least one of the 6 poverty priority groups	1	Benefits at least one of the 6 poverty priority groups	1