

Education, Children and Families Committee

10.00, Friday, 16 August 2019

2020/23 Communities and Families Grants to Third Parties Programme

Item number
Executive/routine
Wards
Council Commitments

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 The Education, Children and Families Committee is asked to:
 - 1.1.1 Approve the actions and changes set out in section 4.
 - 1.1.2 Request a report in March 2020 which details the process and outcome of the funding programme, and makes recommendations for awards.

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2020/23 Communities and Families Grants to Third Parties Programme

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This report contains proposals for making clearer and more robust the application process and funding decisions relating to the 2020/23 Communities and Families Grants to Third Parties Programme.

3. Background

- 3.1 The report to Committee in June 2019 was approved subject to two addenda and one amendment requesting further work and clarification, particularly around the application and assessment process. This report outlines how we propose to address these concerns.

4. Main report

- 4.1 **Assessment criteria and measures for success.** The five funding priorities are broad in their scope. In order to be confident that the applications which are assessed as successful best meet the priorities set, the assessment criteria are tightly defined. Within the application process, organisations will be required to identify up to three assessment criteria or measures of success (see Appendix 1). Against each measure of success applicants will identify a SMART target (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Timescale). Applicants will be required to demonstrate a clear link between the activities they are seeking funding for and the measures of success that they have identified. In addition, applicants will need to show how they will collect the information and data that will demonstrate that the activities funded have delivered against the assessment criteria or measures of success. Applications will be assessed using a 0 to 4 scoring scale that is also used for other grant programmes across the Council and in contract tendering processes (see Appendix 2).
- 4.2 Applicants will have access to workshops on writing their funding applications. These should be prepared, organised and delivered by third sector 'umbrella'

organisations such as EVOC and LAYC from within their existing resources. In order to avoid any conflict of interest, they will not be delivered by Council officers. The Council will, however, organise briefing sessions for prospective applicants to explain the application process and the assessment criteria.

4.3 Integrated Impact Assessment. An IIA will be carried out once the applications have been assessed and recommendations for funding are known. This will be appended to the report recommending funding awards for approval at the March 2020 Committee. The Council will also work with EVOC and LAYC to make sure, as far as possible, that equalities and rights are embedded at every stage of the application and assessment process. Relevant questions will be included in the application form and appropriate guidance given to assessors for both the scoring and moderation process.

4.4 Support to organisations whose funding application was unsuccessful. As set out in the Lessons Learnt report (October 2016), support will be offered to applicants who are not successful. This will take the form of:

- Signposting to other potential funding streams or support/advice with restructuring as appropriate;
- ‘Meet the Funders’ events;
- The offer of detailed feedback on why the application was unsuccessful and how its quality might have been improved;
- Investigating how service users facing a loss of service might, where practical and feasible, be offered appropriate alternative support.

4.5 Supporting local, community-based organisations. The assessment criteria will be weighted in favour of local, community-based organisations which can demonstrate a track record of working (and building long-term, trusted relations) in that community and delivering successful outcomes in the funding priority for which they are applying. Similarly, organisations working city-wide will need to demonstrate a track record of working in/across Edinburgh to deliver successful outcomes in the funding priority for which they are applying. However, important as this is, it should not in any way compromise the quality of the outcomes to be achieved, and awards must be made based on merit. The concerns and aspirations voiced by young people through activities such as *What Kind of Edinburgh?* and Youth Talk will also be taken into account when decisions are made about funding.

4.6 Funding Priority Information Sheets. Work with families is now included in funding priorities one and two. Consequently, as part of the assessment criteria the full range of Edinburgh Wellbeing Outcomes within a family context will be included. An organisation can make up to three individual applications, with a maximum of one per funding priority. In addition, it is proposed that an organisation can make one further application as part of a consortium to one funding priority, whether as the lead or a partner organisation in that consortium.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 The actions and changes set out in section 4 will be developed and incorporated into the funding programme.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 The 2019/20 budget for the Grants Programme is £3,470,712. The budget for 2020/21 will be agreed when the Council sets its new budget early in 2020.

7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

- 7.1 In addition to the engagement and consultation detailed in the June report, further consultation has taken place with EVOC and LAYC to prepare this report.

8. Background reading/external references

8.1

http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/4719/education_children_and_families_committee

9. Appendices

- 9.1 Appendix 1: Funding Priorities
9.2 Appendix 2: Scoring Criteria

Appendix 1 – Funding Priorities

Funding Priority
Improve learning and developmental outcomes for disadvantaged babies, infants, children, young people and their families including care experienced young people
Current position
<p>Research in Edinburgh indicates that school attendance and attainment are lower in those children and young people who come from areas of deprivation and disadvantaged backgrounds.</p> <p>Findings from recent surveys with parents and children and young people in Edinburgh indicate that they want to see a greater level of support provided in schools with more information on services and support available and a greater say in what is provided, supported by staff who are knowledgeable about available services and how to access them.</p> <p>The Additional Support for Learning Act recognises the need to support those who have additional needs which are causing a barrier to their learning. This could be for a variety of reasons such as disability, health, social and emotional factors. It is essential that all learning environments in the city meet those needs for these all learning environments in the city meet those needs for these children and young people to thrive and fulfil their potential.</p>
Assessment Criteria/Measures of success
<p>learning outcomes directly from activities</p> <p>improved attendance at school</p> <p>improved attainment at school</p> <p>Achieving (Edinburgh Wellbeing Outcome) I am ready for the next stage in my life</p> <p>Achieving (Edinburgh Wellbeing Outcome) I feel confident</p> <p>Included (Edinburgh Wellbeing Outcome) In my learning environment people involve me in activities</p> <p>Included (Edinburgh Wellbeing Outcome) I have help to overcome disadvantages and barriers</p> <p>Achieving (Edinburgh Wellbeing Outcome) I get the help I need to learn</p> <p>Parents and carers feel confident in their ability and skills to meet the daily demands of their parenting role</p> <p>Parents and carers feel supported to access study, work and community life</p>
Linkages to other plans
<p>Locality Improvement Plans</p> <p>Education Improvement Plan (<i>once agreed by ECF Committee</i>)</p> <p>Supporting Parents and Carers in Edinburgh 2017-20</p>
Award restrictions (what will or will not be funded)

Total Budget
45-55%
Maximum Award
£120,000

Funding Priority
Improve mental health and wellbeing outcomes for children, young people and their families
Current position
Research in Edinburgh on risk taking behaviours indicates that early school engagement, community engagement and parental monitoring are vital protective factors that support children and young people's risk taking, without them coming to significant harm.
Assessment Criteria/Measures of success
learning outcomes directly from activities improved Edinburgh Wellbeing (healthy) outcomes directly from activities improved attendance at school Healthy (Edinburgh Wellbeing Outcome) I get the care and support I need Healthy (Edinburgh Wellbeing Outcome) I am able to deal with difficult things Healthy (Edinburgh Wellbeing Outcome) I enjoy life Nurtured (Edinburgh Wellbeing Outcome) I am listened to when I am worried or upset
Linkages to other plans
Locality Improvement Plans
Award restrictions (what will or will not be funded)
Total Budget
6-8%
Maximum Award
£50,000

Funding Priority
Support the personal and social development of young people through the delivery of effective universal youth work programmes
Current position
Youth work in Edinburgh can support children and young people to increase educational attainment, employability and health and wellbeing. These opportunities are also crucial in offering packages of support that provide protective factors while children and young people grow and develop. They also offer the opportunity to form relationships with a trusted adult out with the home and school environment which can be very important for many vulnerable children and young people.
Assessment Criteria/Measures of success
linkage to locality improvement plan (where appropriate) accredited awards achieved improved Edinburgh Wellbeing (active) outcomes directly from activities Achieving (Edinburgh Wellbeing Outcome) I feel confident Active (Edinburgh Wellbeing Outcome) I play / take part in activities with others Included (Edinburgh Wellbeing Outcome) I have opportunities to be with people who are important to me Respected (Edinburgh Wellbeing Outcome) I have help to share my views
Linkages to other plans
Locality Improvement Plans
Award restrictions (what will or will not be funded)
Total Budget
28-32%
Maximum Award
£100,000

Funding Priority
Improve the level of participation in learning opportunities for all secondary school age young people and continue to increase positive destinations
Current position
Evidence in Edinburgh indicates that looked after children face specific barriers to training and employment, consequently a specific focus on reducing the cluttered landscape of employability programmes, early intervention support for those who need it, and a continued development of the Edinburgh Guarantee will be critical. The Scottish Government are now publishing the Participation Measures, which demonstrate the percentage of all young people aged 16-19 in education, employment and training.
Assessment Criteria/Measures of success
Numbers attending accredited awards achieved % of young people achieving a positive destination Achieving (Edinburgh Wellbeing Outcome) I am ready for the next stage in my life Achieving (Edinburgh Wellbeing Outcome) I feel confident Included (Edinburgh Wellbeing Outcome) In my learning environment people involve me in activities Included (Edinburgh Wellbeing Outcome) I have help to overcome disadvantages and barriers Achieving (Edinburgh Wellbeing Outcome) I get the help I need to learn
Linkages to other plans
Locality Improvement Plans
Award restrictions (what will or will not be funded)
Total Budget
8-10%
Maximum Award
£50,000

Funding Priority
Ensure that children and young people's health and wellbeing are not damaged by alcohol and drugs through the delivery of effective drugs and alcohol prevention work and substance misuse services
Current position
Research in Edinburgh on risk taking behaviours indicates that early school engagement, community engagement and parental monitoring are vital protective factors that support children and young people's risk taking, without them coming to significant harm.
Assessment Criteria/Measures of success
improved Edinburgh Wellbeing (healthy) outcomes directly from activities Healthy (Edinburgh Wellbeing Outcome) I get the care and support I need Healthy (Edinburgh Wellbeing Outcome) I look after myself Safe (Edinburgh Wellbeing Outcome) I keep myself safe
Linkages to other plans
Locality Improvement Plans
Award restrictions (what will or will not be funded)
Total Budget
3-5%
Maximum Award
£40,000

Appendix 2 – Scoring

Scoring

Assessment	Score	Interpretation
Excellent	4	Response is completely relevant and excellent overall. The response is comprehensive, unambiguous and demonstrates a thorough understanding of the requirement and provides details of how the requirement will be met in full.
Good	3	Response is relevant and good. The response is sufficiently detailed to demonstrate a good understanding and provides details on how the requirements will be fulfilled.
Acceptable	2	Response is relevant and acceptable. The response addresses a broad understanding of the requirement but may lack details on how the requirement will be fulfilled in certain areas.
Poor	1	Response is partially relevant but generally poor. The response addresses some elements of the requirement but contains insufficient/limited detail or explanation to demonstrate how the requirement will be fulfilled.
Unacceptable	0	Nil or inadequate response. Fails to demonstrate an ability to meet the requirement.

Advice to Assessors

Strong applications will:

1. Show a clear understanding of need and that their intent (what the organisation proposes to do in response to the need) is obvious;
2. Have a clear implementation strategy which is obvious to users and officers;
3. Have a clear, understandable method which can show that the work has had an impact on service users, and contain measures of success which can be evidenced.