

Subject: **Communities Mental Health & Wellbeing Fund**

Purpose: To provide an overview of the Communities Mental Health & Wellbeing Fund distribution process and funding awarded

Recommendation: The IJB are asked to note and consider the success of the process to date, acknowledge the breadth of third sector activity across North Ayrshire.

Glossary of Terms	
NHS AA	NHS Ayrshire and Arran
HSCP	Health and Social Care Partnership
TSINA	Third Sector Interface North Ayrshire
CMH&WB	Communities Mental Health & Wellbeing
CVS	Community & Voluntary Service

1.	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
1.1	<p>This report presents an update on the North Ayrshire Communities Mental Health & Wellbeing Fund Plan</p> <p>The plan can be accessed here.</p> <p>https://storage.googleapis.com/wp-static/arrancvs/ef26eb84-cmhwb-local-plan-north-ayrshire.pdf</p>
2.	BACKGROUND
2.1	<p>As part of the Recovery and Renewal Fund, the Minister for Mental Wellbeing and Social Care announced a new Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund for adults on 15 October 2021, with £15 million made available across Scotland in 2021-22. The first year of a two-year fund to support mental health and wellbeing in communities.</p>
2.2	<p>North Ayrshire's allocation of this fund is £407,213.24. Locally the fund is distributed by Arran Community & Voluntary Service (Arran CVS), as a partner in the Third Sector Interface North Ayrshire (TSINA) taking the lead in administering the fund and securing input from their Integration Authority and wider partners throughout. Arran CVS as the grant holders have overall accountability for spend at a local level and will lead on reporting to national monitoring processes as well as to local evaluation. The TSI will not hold any funds allocated by the Scottish Government for 2021-22 beyond 31 March 2022.</p>

2.3	<p>This fund comes in response to the mental health need arising from the pandemic and is intended to benefit the full agenda for mental health and wellbeing in line with the key need set out in a local plan. The fund is to support community-based initiatives that promote and develop good mental health and wellbeing and mitigate and protect against the impact of distress and mental ill health within the adult population. Applications were accepted from a range of voluntary, 'not for profit' organisations, associations, groups, clubs, or consortiums/partnerships which have a strong community focus to deliver activities and opportunities, many of which will help people to connect with each other, build trusted relationships and revitalise communities. These projects will help develop a culture of mental wellbeing and prevention within local communities with improved awareness of how we can all stay well and help ourselves and others.</p>
2.4	<p>Partners from Health and Social Care, Community Planning, other organisational representatives, and people with lived experience were brought together through pre-existing positive TSI relationships to develop a local plan. Award panels were formed to review and discuss the applications over an 8-week period in a live scoring process. The process highlighted the many worthy, creative locally driven projects from groups who had grown in strength to meet local needs during the pandemic.</p>
3.	CURRENT POSITION
3.1	<p>The fund was oversubscribed, total value of applications £1,169,973</p> <p>Applications have highlighted the wide range of innovative and creative ideas that local communities have developed to assist in delivering local solutions, all with the common aim of caring for mental health.</p>
3.2	<p>The live score process led to identification of projects which focussed on meeting needs around financial insecurities, these were noted by the senior management team within North Ayrshire Councils as being highly beneficial, an agreement was welcomed whereby NAC would meet some of the shortfall from the Covid Financial Insecurities fund an addition £353,134.</p>
3.3	<p>This action led to suggestion of a contribution to projects which would support the good mental health of families, some projects were passed to the Children, Young People and Families CMH&WB Fund which has been underway for some time. At that point, the group had identified an underspend. Five projects met their approval and a further £52,999 was approved for distribution.</p>
3.4	<p>Following final decisions, the intimation of funding went out on 17th January 2022 (deemed as Blue Monday)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total applications submitted 86 (5 of these were withdrawn) • Applications processed 81 (2 withdrew at this point) • 61 funded projects • 55 organisations funded (4 have more than one project) <p>Total awards - £813,346</p>
3.5	<p>Twenty-five organisations have been offered support by the TSI to find alternative funds or to amend and improve applications or provisions to apply in 2023. Support was offered throughout the process and two have already secured funding via the Big Lottery, one is working with another partner to support them and a further two are being supported to apply for Community Benefits.</p>

3.6	<u>Anticipated Outcomes</u>
	<p>The projects aim to address priorities around improving mental health and well-being</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing social isolation and loneliness • Developing personal self-care/self-management, coping skills • Prevention and early intervention • Preventing suicides • Enabling financial inclusion and tackling poverty <p>There is a focus on the inclusion of certain key groups within these interventions. These will be highlighted as the projects emerge. Within the process each applicant was asked to consider accessibility and inclusion. Funded applicants will be provided with additional the 'Active, Connected, Included' resource, developed by the Scottish Commission for People with Learning Disabilities (SCLD). As part of the monitoring of allocated awards, all recipients will be asked in the coming months to say how they used the resource.</p> <p>The fund will provide significant investment into community support for adults in North Ayrshire, helping to grow community mental health resilience and the base for direct social prescribing. Project mapping has begun in line with pre-existing knowledge it will provide an information base for sharing with community, partners, and professionals to access supports.</p> <p>The fund brings the opportunity of shared learning, both thematic and geographical as partners and organisations collaborate to support and deliver activities over the coming months.</p>
3.7	<u>Measuring Impact</u>
	<p>Monitoring will be conducted by Arran CVS as part of TSINA in accordance with Scottish Government requirement and will consider initial approach to support immediate-term and longer-term impact. It is anticipated that light touch processes will be suitable for ongoing monitoring arrangements, this will be presented in a creative manner. However, there will be additional gathering of some baseline information. There are opportunities for shared learning with partners and anticipation is the local steering group will continue to oversee monitoring results and ensure knowledge is shared across services.</p>
4.	IMPLICATIONS
Financial:	None
Human Resources:	None
Legal:	None
Equality:	The process and practice identified within this report and the local plan reflect equality of access.
Children and Young People	None
Environmental & Sustainability:	None
Key Priorities:	It is anticipated projects will support outcomes within the North Ayrshire Strategic plan, priorities from the Ayrshire Mental Health Conversation and through priorities identified in locality partnership forums and locality planning partnerships across North Ayrshire, □
Risk Implications:	
Community Benefits:	

Direction Required to Council, Health Board or Both	Direction to: -	
	1. No Direction Required	x
	2. North Ayrshire Council	
	3. NHS Ayrshire & Arran	
	4. North Ayrshire Council and NHS Ayrshire & Arran	

For more information, please contact **Vicki Yuill** on **[01770 600611]** or **[vicki.yuill@arrancvs.org.uk]**