



Report of the Director of Social Services

Social Care and Tackling Poverty Service Transformation Committee – 8 April 2024

Enabling Communities Grant

Purpose:	The report is to update the committee on the Enabling Communities Fund.
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For Information	

1. Background

- 1.1 The Social Care and Tackling Poverty Service Transformation Committee (STC) agreed to support the implementation of the Enabling Communities Grant fund at the meeting on the 23rd October 2023
- 1.2 The grant was launched on the 1st November 2023 across all platforms to internal and external providers in Swansea. The grant combined three areas including the Holiday Food scheme, Swansea Spaces and COAST (Creating Opportunities Across Swansea Together). The closing date for applications was the 23rd November 2023.
- 1.3 The multi-agency funding panel met on the 30th November 2023 and successful applicants were informed of the outcome on the 1st December 2023. On return of grant acceptances payments were made from the 5th December 2023.
- 1.4 The delivery of Enabling Communities Grant programme was from December 2023 to end of March 2024.

2. Funding

- 2.1 A fund total of £500,000 was made available for the Enabling Communities Grant fund. This funding stemmed from the ERF allocation made available in the 23/24 Council budget.
- 2.2 A multi-agency funding panel of Local Authority and Third Sector representatives assessed the applications against agreed criteria and made recommendations.
- 2.3 In total, 264 applications were received with a total value requested of £820,576.
- 2.4 The funding panel recommended that 237 applications to be approved which came to a total value of £500,091.

Below the values are broken down by programme.

COAST

128 applied for
105 approved (2 did not accept and offer withdrawn)
Value £245,526.56

Swansea Spaces

84 applied for
81 approved
Value £152,072.76

Holiday Food

52 applied for
51 approved
Value £99,682.40

Final funding total awarded: £497,281.72

3. Learning/Opportunities of approach

- 3.1 The partnership between the Commissioning Team and Tackling Poverty Service administered this grant successfully and enabled providers to receive funding and start delivery very quickly.
- 3.2 By developing the new application form which combined the three areas reduced administration for the teams and the applicants.
- 3.3 The scheme provided funding to 237 projects which would not have been possible without the funding.
- 3.4 The range of opportunities delivered included mental health support, social inclusion, additional learning needs support, sporting, cultural environmental, play and arts/crafts.

3.5 Outputs/outcomes include:

- Increased number of activities for people in Swansea
- Increased support for providers/projects in Swansea
- Improved emotional and mental health and wellbeing for participants
- Reduced social isolation
- Increased warm and welcoming venues and activities
- Increased skills for participants
- Increased access to food for school aged children during school holidays

Actual figures for outputs/outcomes will be available when the evaluation has been completed.

3.6 Some providers who applied for COAST funding felt the timing of the activities (weekend and holiday) was not suitable for their participants. This was mainly older young people and 50+ provision.

4. Conclusions and next steps

4.1 We are currently collating the evaluation and will complete a full report to send to the committee by the end of April 2024.

4.2 As part of the evaluation we will assess the viability of future provision as this was a one-off grant pot.

4.3 We have funding to provide school holiday activities in 2024/25 funded via the Shared Prosperity Fund.

5. Integrated Assessment Implications

5.1 The Council is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Acts.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage.
- Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language.
- Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
- Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

- 5.2 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development is the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals.
- 5.3. Our Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process ensures we have paid due regard to the above. It also takes into account other key issues and priorities, such as poverty and social exclusion, community cohesion, carers, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Welsh language.
- 5.4 The IIA screening process outlined there is no reputational risk to the council or any negative impact on any protected characteristics (Appendix 1 – IIA)

6. Legal Implications

- 6.1. There are no legal implications.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1. There are additional financial implications other than those set out in this report.

Background Papers:

None

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – IIA