

Strengthening the third sector

Our approach

The Council and CPP are adopting an approach based on outcomes to the application of Fairer Scotland Fund monies to strengthen the third sector. The outcomes are specified, measures and targets will be agreed following more detailed discussion on the preferred option. Delivery will be planned and managed by the organisation(s) that sign the agreement to deliver on the outcomes in return for significant investment by the Council and CPP. The Council and CPP will not specify how the outcomes are to be achieved.

Our outcomes

These outcomes reflect Scottish Government objectives for the Fairer Scotland Fund and local priorities to see a stronger, more active third sector. This is a high level priority for the Council and the CPP.

The outcomes we wish to see achieved are:

- More active third sector, supporting more community activity
- Better quality support for third sector organisations across the whole of Argyll and Bute
- Equitable access to support for all communities in Argyll and Bute
- A clear voice advocating the interests of the third sector in Argyll and Bute locally and nationally
- Stronger and more active social enterprises winning contracts to provide services

Council/ CPP investment

The Council and CPP are prepared to invest £50-100K in 2008/9 and £85-180k in 2010/11 from the Fairer Scotland Fund. Once the Fairer Scotland Fund becomes part of the block allocation for the Council this support would be expected to continue at the same level in future years.

This complements the significant investment of £280k pa in the CVSs and Volunteer Centre by the government in the period 2008-2011.

Whilst funded to a much lower level, the Argyll and Bute Social Enterprise network is considered to be an equal player in this process.

Monitoring and target setting

The Council and CPP are not specifying measures or targets to track progress toward the outcomes. These will be expected to be part of the proposal submitted by the end of September and then subject to discussion before final agreement on the way forward.

The proposal

The proposal needs to be submitted by the end of September for evaluation and further discussion before final agreement. There are several key points that need to be covered to help develop a shared understanding of the proposal and to give reassurance that what is proposed is deliverable.

Timing

The proposals can be implemented from 1 April 2009 or be achieved through a transition phase with clear milestones. The transition period would be expected to be complete by mid-2010 so that there is time to respond to any changes in Scottish Government funding from 2011 onwards.

Communications

The proposal needs to include a communications plan. The plan should also address how the proposals will meet the needs to represent the third sector and more specially ensure effective engagement with the CPP.

Governance and stakeholders

The governance arrangements should be clearly set out to show how they will ensure effective management and control of the preferred options, ensure stakeholder representation and provide clear leadership.

The proposals should indicate how the requirements of different stakeholders (especially those providing funding) will be met.

Options and appraisals

The proposal must show the different options that have been considered, an appraisal of each and indicate the preferred approach.

Evidence

There must be clear evidence supporting the options and appraisals. This may come from, for example, the lottery demonstration project, from other areas and from other sectors.

Evidence must be presented that gives confidence to actions to continually improve quality and to ensure that access will be equitable.

Sustainability

The proposals should indicate how the long-term viability of the proposal will be maintained and future options/ambitions for development.

This may also include actions to ensure long-term security through income generation.

Sensitivity and risk

The proposals should also indicate the sensitivity to changes in the level of funding. This should focus on the impact on outcomes rather than specific activities, but where applicable detail of changes in activity should be included.

This should also indicate any risks to the proposal, the probability and impact of those risks and action within the preferred options to reduce those risks.

Agreement

There are a number of organisations involved in this process and we would want to see consensus with all the main partners, including specifically the three CVSs, ABVC and ABSEN, clearly signed up to the agreed process.

Brian Barker/Margaret Fyfe

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