
FAB Planning Group report

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Management Committee agreed to set up a limited life working group at its February 2008 meeting to manage the transition from the activities of the previous four constituent funding streams to the new Fairer Scotland Fund.
- 1.2 This report summarises the progress made by the limited life group and the handover of this work to the newly formed Fairer Argyll and Bute Partnership that had its inaugural meeting on 19 December 2008.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 The Management Committee is asked to:
- note the progress made by the FAB Planning Group
 - endorse the FAB Plan for inclusion in the 2009 Single Outcome Agreement

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The CPP Management Committee agreed to form a limited live working group in February 2008 to progress work on the newly announced Fairer Scotland Fund. The group was chaired by the Council's Policy and Strategy Manager.
- 3.2 The working group included a mix of members to ensure links to all the key stakeholders groups affected by the funding – specially:
- community learning and regeneration
 - community support
 - the NHS
 - social work
 - employability
 - European funding
- 3.3 The Fairer Scotland Fund is a repackaging of existing funding streams for 2008/9 with a modest increase for 2009/10 and

2010/11. The new fund has fewer conditions to allow greater flexibility – the greatest change was the removal of specific quotas for geographic targeting.

4. KEY TASKS COMPLETED BY THE GROUP

- 4.1 The group focused on several key areas of work, in particular:
- development of an outline Plan and funding allocation to include in the 2008 Single Outcome Agreement
 - a needs analysis to review existing data and bring together information from a variety of sources to enable resources to be directed according to need
 - a review of existing activities to identify those that needed to continue and those that needed to change in response to the different objectives of the Fairer Scotland Fund and rules affecting how the money can be used
 - support for third sector organisations – allocating funding and inviting the third sector support organisations to come forward with proposals to access that funding
 - community engagement – extending local engagement to areas which were not previously in receipt of Community Regeneration Funds and strategic coordination of community engagement activities
 - drawing together other funding streams focused on equalities into a common process so that when the Fairer Scotland Fund is no longer ring fenced there is still a focus on tackling inequalities. Particular examples identified early on are the Health Improvement Fund (via the NHS) and Wider Role Funding (via the Registered Social Landlords)
 - changes to the governance arrangements to ensure that there is an effective ongoing partnership focused on tackling inequalities with input from a range of partner organisations and effective community input
- 4.2 Key outputs from the process are:
- the new FAB Partnership, chaired by Councillor George Freeman, that will oversee all ongoing work
 - the FAB Plan with recommended allocations for the Fairer Scotland Fund (detail about the Health Improvement and Wider Role funds have not been incorporated at this stage) – see appendix
 - the Needs Analysis, which has been published in summary form, but which also has numerous datasets that are available to partners (both can be accessed by contacting Chris Carr at chris.carr@argyll-bute.gov.uk (the data are applicable in other circumstances and partners are encouraged to use the information))
- 4.3 There has also been progress with the organisations that support the third sector, but no agreement at this stage on support to be provided via the Fairer Scotland Fund. Discussions are ongoing to

reach agreement, including involvement from the Scottish Government.

5. NEXT STEPS

- 5.1 The Planning Group is due to meet one more time to reflect on the process and identify any aspects where the process could have been improved.
- 5.2 The FAB Partnership now has responsibility for the FAB Plan and is due to meet again on 6 February
- 5.3 Discussions will continue with the Third Sector Steering Group with the aim of reaching agreement by the end of March 2009.

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APPENDIX – the Fairer Argyll and Bute Plan