
FAB – End of Ring Fencing

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Fairer Scotland Fund (FSF) is due to cease as a ring-fenced fund from 2010/11. The FAB Partnership considered the implications of this at its meeting on 14th August 2009.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To note that the FAB Partnership has considered the implications of the end of ring-fencing of FSF from 2010/11.

3. DETAIL

- 3.1 The FSF will not be ring-fenced from 2010-11 onwards. Given the financial constraints of the Council's budget, there is potential for priorities to change in the allocation of FSF beyond 2009/10. The FAB Partnership has considered the implications of the FSF ceasing to be ring-fenced in terms of staffing redundancies and discontinuation of interventions to achieve agreed outcomes

- 3.2 The FAB Partnership currently makes recommendations to the Executive of the Council regarding administration of the FSF on behalf of the Community Planning Partnership. Governance arrangements will be developed with the establishment of the Social Affairs Thematic Group as part of the on-going improvement to the Community Planning Partnership.

- 3.3 The FAB Partnership has agreed that the allocation of FSF for 2010-11 will be presented to the Executive in two stages:

Stage 1: Projects currently funded by FSF which merit continued allocation, and newly identified projects as agreed by the FAB Partnership

Stage 2: In the event of unallocated FSF, the FAB Partnership will make recommendations based on identified gaps in resourcing in relation to need.

- 3.4 The criteria and procedures for allocating FSF have been developed by the FAB Partnership this year. The FAB Partnership has agreed timescales for making recommendations to the Council Executive on FSF allocations for 2010/11:

7 September 2009	Closing date for proposals for currently funded projects
25 September 2009	Assessment Panel considers proposals and makes recommendations
16 October 2009	FAB Partnership agrees recommendations for funding allocations as per stages 1 and 2 above

The closing date for proposals has been brought forward to allow sufficient time for scoring of projects by the Assessment Panel.

3.5 In 2011-12 the FAB Partnership anticipates a reduction in available funding from the Council budget. On the basis of advice from the Council's Head of Strategic Finance, the FAB Partnership has been recommended to adopt a cautious approach to allocating the FSF funding in 2010-11 until the budget position has been confirmed later this year.

4. CONCLUSION

With the end of ring-fencing from 2010/11, the FAB Partnership has acknowledged that funding needs to be identified and secured through continued partnership working to address poverty, deprivation and health inequalities in the longer term. The FAB Partnership will present a detailed action plan for 2010-11 to the Executive as part of the budget process.

5. IMPLICATIONS

Policy: recommendations are consistent with Community Planning process

Financial: there is likely to be a reduction in FSF allocation beyond 2010/11

Personnel: a reduction in future funding available will have implications for staff redundancies

Equality Impact Assessment: projects funded by FSF will undergo Equality Impact Assessment where applicable

For further information contact:

Susan Dawson, Health Improvement Officer

Tel: 01546 604213

E-mail: susan.dawson@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Margaret Fyfe, Service Officer – Community Regeneration and Voluntary Support

Tel: 01369 703214

E-mail: margaret.fyfe@argyll-bute.gov.uk