

Equalities Participation Network – August 25th 2022

Present: Myshele Haywood (GREC), Shola Ajide (Fountain of Love Church), Julie Brown (Autism Understanding Scotland), Roslynn Fowler (Aberdeen Action on Disability), Molly McCall (GREC), Baldeep McGarry (ACC Equalities), Fay Morrison (community member, tenants' participation group), Maria Jose Pavez (GREC). **Speakers:** Claire Shaw (ACVO), Chris Smillie (ACHSCP). **Apologies:** Ru Carroll, Carol Hannaford, Libby Hillhouse, Mateusz Lagoda, Mary Rasmussen.

Claire Shaw – Aberdeen Council for Voluntary Organisations (ACVO) Communities Mental Health & Wellbeing Fund

Claire's presentation can be viewed here: <https://youtu.be/KbRzXY5qx4w>

- Part of the Recovery & Renewal Fund – soon to open Year 2 for applications.
 - Obviously a different context now with the 'cost of living crisis' affecting people's mental health and wellbeing.
 - Particular emphasis for projects on suicide prevention, social isolation, loneliness, and inequalities that were made worse by Covid-19.
 - Focus on small grassroots groups, and 'at risk' communities.
 - Three categories – small and large projects, and 'community commissioning,' where multiple groups work together on a shared project.
 - Full details in Claire's presentation.
 - Further information on the ACVO website: <https://acvo.org.uk/mhw-fund-round-2/>
 - Claire is also able to help groups make applications – contact her here: claire.shaw@acvo.org.uk
 - The person facilitating the 'community commissioning' process is Bea Dawkins. She works with communities to pull in different organisations to meet the needs they've identified, and helps them work together. Contact her here: bea.dawkins@acvo.org.uk
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Q&A and Discussion – ACVO

Small groups often find it difficult to apply for funding – mostly run by volunteers without expertise in writing applications. Also difficult to find sources that provide money for core funding and staff (rather than specific projects).

- Claire noted that the Communities Mental Health & Wellbeing Fund can cover core funding. She talked about Maslow's 'hierarchy of basic human needs' – you can't engage in 'higher level' projects without first covering the basics like rent and heating.
- Also noted that groups applying for smaller amounts of funding don't need to be registered charities, or even to have a bank account. If in doubt about whether your group is eligible, please get in touch.

Any ideas for getting funding for volunteers' expenses like bus tickets?

- One person suggested contacting the bus companies – their organisation had success in the past in getting some free bus tickets to give their volunteers as needed.

Does the fund cover counselling costs or specialised counselling services?

- Claire said this was a major issue in Year 1. The fund is not ‘treatment focused,’ but counselling is often an important element of support – which the fund does cover. This led to a lot of confusion, and some updated guidance has been written. So: **yes** for counselling and similar services that **complement** clinical treatment. Claire can help your organisation figure out where the line is.

Often different services blend into each other – for example, someone comes to speak to a benefits advisor, and lots of other issues come up. Is there funding for this kind of overlap?

- This seems like a good opportunity for a ‘community commissioning’ approach – to follow-up after the meeting.

Funding is not available to continue ‘ongoing projects’ that were started in Year 1 of the fund. What’s the difference between new and ongoing projects? Do we have to start from scratch?

- Applications are welcome from existing projects – just have to show how you’re developing or improving the project. Important to show the impact you’ve already had, and how you plan to build on that.

On collaborating between groups – what are the data protection and GDPR implications? For example, we are not comfortable sharing the personal details of our volunteers.

- Excellent question – Sandy Mathers or Mike Melvin would be the people at ACVO to speak with about this.

Would the fund cover specialist training for volunteers on how to support people with dementia, bereavement, etc?

- Yes.

Would the fund cover volunteer recruitment? For example, hiring a professional video company to make a promotional video to attract volunteers, or purchasing radio advertising.

- Potentially – but this sounds like a good opportunity for connecting with other organisations like SHMU or the college to develop this kind of project in a different way.

Can a group get funding for more than one project?

- Yes – and there is no specific deadline for applications, so it doesn’t need to be all at once.

**Chris Smillie – Aberdeen City Health & Social Care Partnership (ACHSCP)
Health Improvement Fund + Q&A and Discussion**

Chris’s presentation can be viewed here: <https://youtu.be/RYnJVaqjn8>

- Chris noted that while projects focusing on geographic areas generally have priority, this year there is a category for ‘communities of interest’ (like many of the groups in EPN).
- There is also community involvement in the assessment process, with community representatives on the panels that decide which projects receive funding.

Which fund should my group apply to? Our project seems to fit both.

- Chris and Claire work together – applications are similar for both funds, so you only need to apply once – if your project is a better fit for the other fund, Chris will send it to Claire, or vice-versa. It’s also possible to get matched funding from both.

Hate Crime Awareness campaign

In April we discussed the barriers to reporting hate crime, and what information an awareness campaign should cover. Today we briefly discussed 'look and feel' with four examples of potential posters:

- 'Colourful and eye catching' (previous hate crime awareness poster from GREC)
- Dark and serious (black background with white, grey and muted colour scheme, image of a distressed person hiding their face)
- Two different 'neutral' information posters (plain colours, one with drawings of people, one without any drawings)
- All the posters had text saying 'you are not alone' with sections for information about hate crime and how to report it.

The general consensus was that the 'colourful' poster was too 'cartoony' and not serious enough, and the 'neutral' ones were a bit boring and not likely to catch people's attention. People liked the 'dark' poster, but felt the image should not be too negative – maybe something like a hand on a person's shoulder, to illustrate the 'you are not alone' idea. Tough to balance the seriousness of hate crime with a sense of hope and support, without making light of it. Myshele agreed to work on a draft with the suggestions for next month.

Next Meeting:

On **Thursday 29 September** GREC is co-hosting an event with Police Scotland about **Hate Crime and Third Party Reporting** (how your community groups can help people report hate crimes) – we hope that any EPN members who are interested can make it along. More details in the accompanying email.

The next online meeting will be: **Thursday 27 October 2022, 5:00-6:30 on Zoom, topic TBC.**