

Title of Report:	Update on Department for Communities (DfC) additional funding and Anti-Poverty Stakeholder Steering Group
Committee Report Submitted To:	The Leisure and Development Committee
Date of Meeting:	18th May 2021
For Decision or For Information	For Information

Linkage to Council Strategy (2019-23)	
Strategic Theme	Resilient, Healthy & Engaged Communities
Outcome	Council will work to develop and promote stable and cohesive communities across the Borough
Lead Officer	Head of Community & Culture Community Development Manager

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	£0
Included in Current Year Estimates	YES/NO
Capital/Revenue	
Code	
Staffing Costs	n/a

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	Yes/No	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:

1.0 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with a monthly update on the additional funding received from the Department for Communities (DfC) to support the voluntary and community sector as it continues to recover and help citizens to get through the COVID-19 pandemic, and on the Anti-Poverty Stakeholder Steering Group.

2.0 Background

During the course of 2020-21 Council received the following additional funds from DfC for Covid-19 response activity:

Covid-19 Community Support Fund (1 st Tranche)	April 2020	£80,700.00
Covid-19 Community Support Fund (2 nd Tranche)	Sept 2020	£126,226.54
Covid-19 Financial Inclusion Fund	Nov 2020	£58,147.00
Covid-19 Food Partnership Fund	Nov 2020	£63,113.00
Food & Essential Supplies Fund	Dec 2020	£168,185.91
Volunteering Support Fund	Jan 2021	£42,046.48
Warm Well and Connected Fund	Jan 2021	£42,663.97
Covid -19 Community Support Fund (3 rd Tranche)	Jan 2021	£197,618.45
Covid-19 Food & Essential Supplies Transition Fund	Mar 2021	£126,139.43
Total Funding		£1,228,316.90

As part of the briefing from DfC in relation to the Food Partnership and Financial Inclusion Funds, Council were encouraged to build sectoral partnerships and facilitate a collaborative approach to deliver more effective and efficient and flexible support to citizens and move from an emergency response towards a more directed and sustainable approach to addressing poverty.

3.0 Anti-Poverty Stakeholder Steering Group (APSSG)

Over the past 5 months an Anti-Poverty Stakeholder Steering Group (APSSG) has been established in Causeway Coast and Glens bringing together those organisations including established foodbanks, advice centres and regional charities whose core business is tackling poverty in the Borough along with relevant statutory agencies in order to ensure a collaborative and co-ordinated approach. The terms of reference for the Anti-poverty Stakeholder Steering Group is attached at **Annex A**.

With support from Strategic Investment Board the APSSG has agreed a series of Objectives and Strategic Actions to set the direction for their work. These have been shaped by the partners on the APSSG and wider engagement through a series of focus groups and online survey with both statutory, voluntary and community stakeholders.

The **Objectives** are:

- Objective 1: Increase the coordination between organisations working with those most in need in the Causeway Coast and Glens area.
- Objective 2: Support those on low incomes or those in financial crises to maximize their income and minimise their costs.
- Objective 3: Improve the capacity of those that support those most in need.
- Objective 4: Promote better information, signposting and communication.
- Objective 5: Work in partnership with others to tackle the causes of poverty.

Strategic Actions have been developed under each of the Objectives as follows:

Theme	#	Strategic Action	
Objective 1: Increase the coordination between organisations working with those most in need in the Causeway Coast and Glens area			
Collaboration & Partnership	1.1	Facilitate an Anti-poverty Steering Group of relevant statutory bodies and those organisations providing advice and emergency support services in Causeway Coast and Glens	
	1.2	Implement a Wraparound Support Project	
Objective 2: Support those on low incomes or those in financial crises to maximize their income and minimise their costs			
Access to Food & Essential Items	2.1	Build the capacity of and support established foodbanks	
	2.2	Support a partnership-based approach to address food poverty and insecurity	
	2.3	Promote and support nutrition on a budget initiatives	
	2.4	Engage with Fare Share and community and voluntary sector organisations to ensure distribution of food to those in most need.	
	2.5	Promote and support pre-loved / reduce waste/ community sharing essential items initiatives (baby equipment, clothing, toys, digital devices, household items, furniture, DIY, gardening etc)	
Fuel Poverty	2.6	Promote and support energy efficiency initiatives	
	2.7	Promote and support emergency fuel support initiatives & fuel stamp scheme	
Financial Inclusion	2.8	Promote and support financial inclusion including financial capability and savings initiatives	
	2.9	Promote and support the maximisation of income and wraparound debt advice	
	2.10	Promote and support Social supermarkets	
Objective 3: Improve the capacity of those that support those most in need			
Capacity building for volunteers	3.1	Promote and support networking, peer learning and capacity building of volunteer involving organisations addressing poverty	
	3.2	Promote quality standards in provision of services	
	3.3	Promote and support pathways of volunteering for a diverse range of volunteers	
Objective 4: Promote better information, signposting and communication			
Information & Signposting	4.1	Provide a directory of Anti-poverty services	
	4.2	Promote and support a digital referral platform for anti-poverty services in CCG	
Communication	4.3	Deliver a multi-channel communications campaign to increase awareness of anti-poverty initiatives available in Causeway Coast and Glens	
	4.4	Promote and support signposting and support for Section 75 communities	
	4.5	Promote and highlight good practice in anti-poverty provision across Causeway Coast and Glens	
Objective 5: Work in partnership with others to tackle the causes of poverty			
Employability and skills	5.1	Establish links and potential future joint projects with the Labour Market Partnership / Workforce Development Forum	
Policy Influence	5.2	Influence policy and strategy development (PfG Outcomes, DfC Antipoverty Strategy, CCG Community Plan, Neighbourhood Renewal Action Plans etc) through a community of practice model.	
	5.3	Expand the evidence base by accessing data and sharing and carrying out research, including participatory research to access hidden voices	
	5.4	Support other projects that could add value to the work of the Steering Group e.g. Participatory Budgeting	
Partnership Development Recognition of the drivers of poverty and those organisations	5.5	Share information and practice, build relationships, collaborate and with the potential to develop joint projects as opportunities emerge and identify and promote two-way referral pathways, advocacy on new policies around areas relevant to the drivers of poverty including the following key areas:	
		Drivers of poverty	Organisation/ Partnership
	i.	Employment, training, skills	Causeway Coast and Glens Workforce Development Forum incl. Jobs & Benefits Office

Theme	#	Strategic Action	
that play a role and engage in this type of work		development, apprenticeships	
	ii.	Education	Schools Area Learning Partnerships (primary and secondary)
	iii.	Loneliness and isolation	Causeway Loneliness Network, Befriending schemes, Good Morning Schemes
	iv.	Financial wellbeing	Money & Pension Service, Advice Centres, Christians Against Poverty (CAP), Credit Unions
	v.	Domestic Violence	CCG Policing & Community Safety Partnership, Women's Aid, D&SVP
	vi.	Children and young people	EA Youth Service, Children & Young People's Service Partnership (CYPSP), Family Support Hubs, Schools Area Learning Partnerships, Surestarts, Family Centres.
	vii.	Mental health and wellbeing	Northern Healthy Lifestyles Partnership (& Western), Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDTs), Health Trusts, Public Health Agency (PHA)
	viii.	Sports and physical activity	Council Sport & Well-Being, Sport NI, Department for Communities (DfC)
	ix.	Social Prescribing & Community Health	Support Networks, Networks Involving Communities in Health Improvement (NICHI), PHA, MDT's
	x.	Rural	DAERA Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation (TRPSI) Programme, Northern Area Community Network, Rural Community Network
	xi.	Housing & Homelessness	Housing Executive, Causeway Homelessness Network
	xii.	Energy Efficiency	Council Energy Efficiency, Housing Executive
	xiii.	Drugs and Alcohol and other addictions	PHA, NICHI, Health Trusts, Community & Voluntary Sector

4.0 Spend of DfC additional monies during 2020-21

- 298 grants totalling £636,823 have been awarded to date to community and voluntary organisations for support for people who are experiencing difficulties with access to food, fuel poverty and connectivity.
- Wraparound support service is in place – LCDI crisis needs as well as to help them back to a position of financial stability.
- An awareness raising campaign 'Where To Turn' is currently underway with weekly social media posts and press article. Information leaflets containing contacts of emergency support services have been developed and will be distributed through a variety of channels including community groups. Further promotions including bus shelter advertising are planned.

Project	Update
Covid-19 Community Support Fund (3 tranches)	50 grants of upto £2,000; 47 grants of upto £3,000 and 51 grants of up to £4,000 awarded for activities that supported: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to food. • Those on low income and at risk due to financial stress. • Connectivity - to those living alone or isolated that are likely to experience greater challenges in accessing services.

Covid 19 Access to Food & Covid 19 Financial Inclusion Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding support provided to bolster infrastructure of four established foodbanks. • Anti-Poverty Stakeholder Steering Group established, and engagement undertaken with wider community and voluntary sector; • Wraparound support service delivered by a consortium of advice organisations and food banks between Jan-Mar 21. The service delivered an individually tailored wraparound support programme for people who have been adversely impacted by the economic fallout of the pandemic or who weren't currently availing of services. • Awareness raising campaign 'Where To Turn' undertaken with dedicated webpage, social media campaign and information leaflets produced; webinar was organised to ensure that community and statutory organisations knew how to refer to advice centres, foodbanks and other immediate supports.
Food and Essential Supplies Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 53 grants of upto £2,000 awarded for activities that provide food and other essentials prior to Christmas and the New Year and medium-term projects that support people in food poverty leading upto March 2021. • Direct award of £60,000 to 4 established foodbanks to ensure sufficient stocks of food for Jan-Mar period.
Warm, Well and Connected Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 grants of upto £2,000 for activities that address fuel poverty, tackle loneliness and isolation or promote good mental health and well-being in eligible areas of deprivation (NR, AAR, SPOD).
Volunteering Support Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 74 organisations received funding for volunteer expenses through a Volunteering small grant operated by the two local Volunteer Centres led by Causeway Volunteer Centre who provided other support based on a needs survey of groups.

5.0 Activities during 2021-22

Council received a further letter of variance to the Community Support Programme Contract from DfC on 29th Mar 2021 for a Covid-19 Food & Essential Supplies Transition Fund for an amount of £126,139.43.

The purpose of this Transition Fund is to enable Councils to transition from emergency food support response towards a more strategic and sustainable approach to food poverty/food insecurity issues and DfC have advised that these monies can be spent during 2021-22.

When full details of what other monies, if any, are available from DfC for anti-poverty initiatives in the incoming financial year, and when evaluations have been completed for the projects undertaken in 2020-21, officers will work with the Anti-poverty Stakeholder Steering Group to finalise a detailed Anti-poverty Action Plan for 2021-22, which will include proposals for spend of the Covid-19 Food & Essential Supplies Transition Fund. This Action Plan will be brought to Leisure & Development Committee for consideration and approval.

Causeway Coast and Glens Anti-poverty Stakeholder Steering Group (APSSG)

Terms of Reference

December 2019

Purpose of the Anti-poverty Stakeholder Steering Group

- To establish an Anti-Poverty Stakeholder Steering Group to bring together those organisations whose core business is tackling poverty in the Borough in order to ensure a collaborative and co-ordinated approach.
- To oversee the consultation and development of an 18-month Anti-Poverty Action Plan and subsequent Plans.
- To ensure that an integrated and multi-disciplinary approach is taken to addressing poverty that will be embedded in the Community Plan for Causeway Coast and Glens.
- To engage with community, voluntary, statutory and business organisations to provide a comprehensive package of support to those most in need ensuring that there is an open and transparent channel of communication and dialogue, information flow, referrals, and exchange.
- To develop well-coordinated referral pathways with clear, targeted outcomes for those most in need.
- To identify more clearly the causes, drivers, determinants and impacts of poverty on residents and the pathways in and out of poverty for different cohorts of the population in the CC&G area e.g., women particularly lone parents; people from minority ethnic groups; younger people and students (under 25); people experiencing mental ill health; those renting their home; and self-employed, variable hours and gig economy workers; and those who have been furloughed.
- Collaboratively, through working together to identify how to prevent people in the CC&G area from falling into poverty. Allied to this to develop short- and long-term solutions that help lift people out of poverty, where individuals will be navigated with empathy and respect through these activities / support that will empower them to greater levels of well-being for themselves and their family.
- To promote awareness of poverty related issues in the Borough and empathy towards those who experience it so that all sections of society can see their role in helping to address it
- To influence and advocate on behalf of those in poverty around the causes and consequences of poverty in the Causeway Coast and Glens area.
- To help illustrate the integrated ecosystem that influences poverty and challenge how gaps in services or support can be addressed through more effective working together.
- To ensure effective collaboration with regional services and a blending with local services and support.

Secretariat

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Community Development Team will act as the secretariat to the CC&G Anti-poverty Stakeholder Steering Group (APSSG).

Reporting to

This Causeway Coast and Glens Anti-Poverty Stakeholder Steering Group will report as a sub-group to the Causeway Coast and Glens Community Planning Health & Wellbeing Thematic Working Group with reports included on the regular meeting agenda of the Causeway Coast and Glens Community Planning Strategic Partnership.

Focus of The Group

The focus of the group will be on

- Information sharing
- Networking and sharing practice
- Working together to reduce duplication
- Identifying gaps and coordinating activities effectively
- Avoiding displacement and ensuring additionality
- Collective promotion of their core work
- Collaborating to address the immediate issues for individuals and families related to poverty; and
- Working collaboratively across sectors to help develop a longer-term sustainable approach that helps bring people out of poverty and helps to develop initiatives that contributes to removing the challenges that contribute to poverty.

Key Tasks of the Group

The key tasks for the group will be:

- Attend monthly meetings (fortnightly initially)
- Network with and build an understanding of the key direct provision players in CC&G area on the APSSG as well as those players whose less direct role is in addressing poverty, share relevant Action Plans and agree mechanisms for appropriate and timely referrals to each other's services
- Seek to understand and articulate issues associated with poverty in the CC&G area
- Develop a high-level outcome based anti-poverty framework for CC&G (linked to the CC&G Community Plan, the new NI Anti-poverty Strategy and aligned to PfG and other relevant policies)
- Develop an initial 18-month action plan – based on lived experiences of local people in CC&G area
- Gather relevant data and lived experiences stories about poverty relevant to the CC&G area and solutions developed to address it
- Identify where additional research or data gathering is required to get a more in depth understanding of poverty locally (QUB/UU links and possibly action research project)
- Contribute to the co-design of a NI Anti-poverty Strategy and Action Plan – based on evidence and lived experiences of local people in CC&G area
- To continue to co-ordinate support that addresses those in crises moving towards the coordination of a more prevention-based service and one that avoids dependence

- To promote the coordination of services through a wraparound and holistic approach to anti-poverty support services with a focus on sustainability and a joined-up service offering to those most in need
- To improve people’s awareness and understanding of poverty and disadvantage that encourages more empathy
- To highlight hidden poverty and pockets of disadvantage
- Ensure information about access to services is well communicated, is easily understood, and is delivered based on evidence of objective need
- To agree protocols between key delivery agents – either verbal or written
- To value and recognise both expert and local knowledge and share good practice and recognise the diversity of practice, outcomes, and solutions in the CC&G area
- To identify gaps in existing services and respectfully challenge other delivery agents and commissioners/ funders where gaps exist or where delivery is not meeting need with a focus on the co-design of solutions
- To contribute openly and collaboratively to discussions in addressing issues raised or ideas presented with a focus on finding solutions
- To communicate and share the group’s work with the community, feeding back comments as required
- To maintain links and seek updates relevant to the plan from other initiatives including, among others the Northern Healthy Lifestyles Partnership, Causeway Loneliness Network, Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships, Workforce Development Forum.

Principles

- Partnership based and collaborative
- Co-design, co-production and outcome focused
- Empathetic and accessible
- People and community centred – lived experiences
- Innovative and agile
- Easily understood and friendly
- Beneficial for all
- Respectfully learn from the points of view of others
- Fair and inclusive

Membership

Membership will reflect those who directly deliver anti-poverty activities in the CC&G area including, but not exclusively, the following:

Community/Voluntary Representatives	Sector	Key Statutory Players	<i>Others as and when required (but not as members)</i>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Advice Causeway • Limavady Community Development Initiative (Roe Valley Community Foodbank/ Limavady Social Supermarket) • Limavady Advice Centre • Ballycastle Foodbank • Ballymoney Foodbank • Vineyard Compassion (Causeway Foodbank/ Reset Social Supermarket) • Limavady Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership • Coleraine Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership • St Vincent de Paul • Salvation Army 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department for Communities • Public Health Agency • Northern Health and Social Care Trust • Western Health and Social Care Trust • CC&GBC Community Development • CC&GBC Community Planning • CC&GBC Energy Efficiency Advisers • Education Authority • Workforce Development Forum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Healthy Lifestyles Partnership • Causeway Loneliness Network • Money and Pensions Service • Causeway Area Learning Partnership • Homeless Action Group • Family Support Hubs • Children & Young People's Services Partnership • Multi-Disciplinary Teams • DfC Jobs and Benefits Office • DAERA • Community Networks • Volunteer Centres
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Keeping people Informed and learning from others

- Link with CCG Community Engagement Platform to reflect on the work of the Steering Group and inform it on what is working and what could be improved
- Host an Annual conference for deliverers to reflect on practice and hear from others

Cross-cutting Themes

The Steering group will undertake its work in line with the Department for Communities Cross Cutting themes of:

- Anti-poverty
- Well-being and Inclusion
- Sustainability and Inclusive Growth and
- Agility and innovation

Attendance and Quorum

- Ability to equitably represent the views and lived experiences of those in poverty
- Depth of knowledge and expertise in addressing poverty related issues in the CC&G area
- Capacity to communicate effectively with other stakeholders and feed back to the community
- All APSSG members are expected to attend each meeting, in person or via teleconference and if unable to attend to nominate someone else to attend and feedback as required.
- A majority of the number of members shall constitute a quorum
- All members are equal

Frequency of meetings

- The Steering Group will meet fortnightly until the end of January 2021 and then monthly thereafter
- Ground rules for behaviour at meetings will be agreed by and with the group to ensure meetings run smoothly

Chair

- An independent chair will be appointed who will act in an impartial manner and ensure that all views are heard in a respectful manner

Conflict of Interest

Members will be asked to declare any conflicts of interest and must adhere to the Seven Principles of Public Life¹ and the Council's GDPR² obligations

Expenses and Remuneration

There will no fee for participation in this Anti-poverty Stakeholder Steering Group. Members will be able to recover any reasonable expenses incurred for travel and subsistence at the discretion of CC&GBC in accordance with relevant CC&GBC rates and guidance.

¹ [The Seven Principles of Public Life - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

² <https://www.causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk/footer-information/privacy-statement>