

Title of Report:	Social Connections Grant
Committee Report Submitted To:	The Leisure & Development Committee
Date of Meeting:	21 February 2023
For Decision or For Information	For Information

Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)	
Strategic Theme	Healthy, Active & Engaged Communities
Outcome	The Borough comprises cohesive and stable communities which work collaboratively with a range of stakeholders to address issues and deliver on opportunities
Lead Officer	Head of Community & Culture Community Development Manager

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	£0 net cost to Council
Included in Current Year Estimates	YES/NO
Capital/Revenue	Revenue
Code	33201
Staffing Costs	n/a

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	<u>Yes/No</u>	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	<u>Yes/No</u>	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 information on the outcome of the assessment of the first lot of applications received to the Social Connections Grant.

2.0 Background

In December 2022, Council approved a new Social Connections Grant as part of the annual Grant Funding Programmes. The Community Development team had reviewed the former Social Inclusion Grant with the aim of reinvigorating the grant programme considering a reducing number of applications but an evidenced need to support activities that addressed loneliness and isolation and created opportunities for social connections.

The name of the grant was changed from Social Inclusion Grant to Social Connections Grant and funding was secured through collaboration with the Northern Health & Social Care Trust through the Causeway Coast and Glens Loneliness Network as well as the Causeway GP Federation Multi-Disciplinary Team and Limavady GP Multi-Disciplinary Team. The grant was opened separately from the annual grant cycle in December and will operate on a rolling basis with several closing dates during the year, to allow for additional match funding that may become available in year.

For this first round of the Social Connections Grant the funding is solely that received from the Health Trusts, and this has allowed the programme to open for activities from February 2023 onwards.

3.0 Social Connections Grant

3.1 Purpose of Programme: To provide small grants to community and voluntary organisations to address loneliness and isolation and build social connections.

3.2 Levels of Grant: 100% of costs up to a maximum grant of £500.

A summary of the Guidance Notes for the grant programme, detailing eligibility and assessment criteria, is attached at **Annex A**.

3.3 Applications Received:

No. of applications received by 12 noon on 25 th January	32
No. of unsuccessful applications	3
No. of successful applications	29
Total value of SCG funding recommended	£13,839.58

When the Social Inclusion Grant opened last year there were only 12 applications received, 10 of which were successful. The new programme and approach have resulted in nearly triple the number of applications in the first round. A list of the applications received, and funding amount recommended are listed in **Annex B**.

Officers from the Community Development team will provide detailed feedback to the 3 unsuccessful applicants, and they can reapply to the programme or receive guidance to apply for other grants.

As it's a rolling programme, community organisations can still apply, and applications will be assessed after the next cut off point of 8th February.

Annex A: Eligibility and Criteria for Social Connections Grant

Programme Dates	<p>For activities from 1st February 2023 – 31st March 2024</p> <p>This is a rolling grant programme.</p> <p>First opening for applications: Wednesday 11th January 2023 First assessment of applications: 30th January 2023 Deadline for receipt of applications to be considered on 30th January is: Wed 25th January at 12 noon and every fortnight thereafter.</p>
Brief Description	<p>This Programme will provide small grants to community and voluntary organisations to address loneliness and isolation and build social connections.</p> <p>Example projects might be delivering programmes with a warm and friendly welcome, such as an arts and craft programme or nutrition and cooking programme. Your group might wish to extend your activities and open up for more people.</p>
Programme Objectives	<p>Your project should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • create more opportunities to bring people together to make connections doing something they enjoy; • help to reduce the social isolation that can be a result of living in poverty; • reach people who may be less likely to attend community activities; • enable local activities to become more accessible; • involve the people who will benefit from the project in shaping your project
Grant Amount	Up to £500
Who can apply	<p>Constituted community and voluntary organisations in Causeway Coast and Glens or who have their main activities based in the Causeway Coast and Glens;</p> <p>Must have a bank/building society account</p>
Ineligible Organisations	<p>Organisations with fundraising as their focus;</p> <p>Umbrella organisations that do not have a separate local constitution;</p> <p>Organisations that have substantial demonstratable reserves. See Section 1.8 of Guidance Notes for full list.</p>
What will we fund	<p>100% of project/ activity costs relating to the project, for example: tutor or facilitator fees, venue hire, materials, refreshments costs (up to a maximum of £250), transport & volunteer travel expenses (up to a maximum of £250). Essential operating costs may be eligible in some instances.</p>

Assessment Criteria:	Will the project provide activities for people that are experiencing loneliness or social isolation within the community?	Yes/ No
	Have the beneficiaries been identified?	Yes/ No
	Has a full itemized breakdown of costs been provided?	Yes/ No

Annex B: Social Connections Grant Recommended Awards

Organisation	Activity	Funding Recommended	Amount Recommended (£)
Ballinlea Community Group	Community BBQ	No	£0.00
Ballybogey Community Association	Range of activities for Primary age kids	Yes	£500.00
Ballybogey Over 50's Club	Weekly classes for older peoples club (calligraphy, painting and gentle exercise)	Yes	£500.00
Ballykelly Primary School PTA	Intergenerational (parents/grandparents) gardening. Term time / weekly	Yes	£500.00
Ballywatt Presbyterian Women Crafters	Felting Skills Workshop	Yes	£500.00
Balnamore Community Association	Big Breakfast, Movie night for Youth	Yes	£359.78
Benedy Community Association Limited	One day traditional themed event with BBQ	No	£0.00
Bovalley Community Association	Warm Space with meal prep and craft workshops for women (8 weeks)	Yes	£500.00
Castle Community Group	Breakfast Club for older people with Bingo games.	Yes	£500.00
Cloughmills Cultural & Historical Society	Older people, woolcraft, flower arranging, refreshments (5/6 weeks)	Yes	£500.00
Coleraine Versus Arthritis	Monthly meetings with activities (craft, complimentary therapies) and speakers and a bus trip	Yes	£331.80
Cushendun And District Develop Assoc	Yoga sessions for the lonely in the area	Yes	£500.00
Dervock & District Community Association	Warm haven with mens and ladies activities incl board games and craft x 6 weeks	Yes	£420.00
Dungiven Community Choir	Community Choir (weekly and events)	Yes	£450.00
Friends Of Glenariffe	Warm Space Activity Programme	Yes	£500.00
Gaeil Ruairí Óg Agus Gaeil Na NGlíntí	Activity Classes & Conversation	Yes	£500.00
Glens Community Association	Luch club and flower arranging fol older people	Yes	£500.00
Glens Runners	C25K & transport for an annual run/ walk	No	£0.00

Glenshane Community Development Ltd	Adults 6 week activities	Yes	£500.00
Gortnaghey Social Club	Older persons Activity And Outing Project	Yes	£500.00
Limavady Family Centre	Family Programme for kids/parents/grandparents	Yes	£500.00
Limavady Volunteer Center	Extension of the Hen's Shed activities/arts & crafts	Yes	£500.00
Mae Murray Foundation	On line music and drama classes	Yes	£500.00
Moneydig Rural Network	Warm Space with weekly activities (craft, mindfulness, games, book exchange, reminiscence)	Yes	£500.00
Northern Ireland Blind Golf Association	Playing golf for members	Yes	£500.00
Rasharkin PS Parent's Assoc	After schools activities - orienteering and non sports	Yes	£500.00
Reach Portrush	6 weeks warm welcome, lunch club	Yes	£500.00
RealHope Parent & Toddlers	Music Classes for kids & Parents	Yes	£500.00
St Anne Kilrea St Vincent De Paul	Yoga, Befriending and dance	Yes	£500.00
St. Matthew's GAC Drumsumn	Young at Hearts Club weekly with light exercise	Yes	£500.00
Stendhal Festival LTD	Planting Project mixed age groups	Yes	£498.00
Texas Kickers Linedance Group	Line dancing classes for local residents x 10 weeks	Yes	£280.00
			£13,839.58