

# Equality & Poverty Impact Assessment 00312 (Version 1)

## SECTION ONE: ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

<b>Service &amp; Division:</b>	Social Work Adult Services	<b>Lead Officer Name:</b>	Jennifer Faichney
	None	<b>Team:</b>	Planning, Performance and Policy
		<b>Tel:</b>	07483920653
		<b>Email:</b>	jennifer.faichney@falkirk.gov.uk
<b>Proposal:</b>	<p><b>The Health Inequalities and Wellbeing Fund</b></p> <p>The Health Inequalities and Wellbeing Fund aims to develop community-based services and projects that minimise health and social inequalities and improve people’s health and wellbeing. This funding programme has been developed by representatives from the HSCP, Falkirk Council, and CVS Falkirk.</p> <p>This fund supports two key priorities – health and social inequalities and health and wellbeing. Applicants must support at least one priority and may also support both priorities. The fund is open to community groups, third sector groups, and statutory organisations. They can apply for up to £25k per annum for a two-year period as the fund is non-recurring and is to be spent by March 2024.</p> <p>Preference is given to funding proposals that include match funding, this can be in direct funds or in-direct based on existing staff and volunteer time. Funding can also be used to continue a project initially funded by short-term funds with evidence of good impact via evaluation.</p> <p>This fund can be used to support projects or services that contribute towards improved health and wellbeing within localities. It can be used for projects that support the development of recommendations outlined in the <a href="#">Independent Review of Adult Social Care (IRASC)</a>, particularly</p>	<b>Reference No:</b>	

in relation to earlier intervention and prevention, service user and carer participation, and self-management.

This fund can be targeted towards reducing health or social inequalities for a particular group or community. It can support people, groups, or communities whose health and wellbeing has been most adversely impacted by Covid-19. It can support projects funded beyond the scope of the HSCP, where match funding is provided and there is a clear demonstration of whole system impact. For example, a project focusing on families including children will be considered where part funded by another source. Collaborative working is encouraged to ensure that a whole systems approach is adopted to tackling health and social inequalities. If projects are supporting health and social inequalities, then they must also support at least one priority of the [Public Health Priorities for Scotland](#).

As a condition of receiving an award, applicants are required to monitor and report on how the funding has been spent and the impact that it has had. Monitoring will include what difference the funding has made to the community and progress made in achieving the outcomes set in their application proposal. Funding proposals will be assessed by a panel of representatives from Falkirk HSCP, Falkirk Council, and Third Sector. The panel will make funding recommendations and Falkirk HSCP Senior Leadership Team will take final award decisions.

<b>What is the Proposal?</b>	<b>Budget &amp; Other Financial Decision</b>	<b>Policy (New or Change)</b>	<b>HR Policy &amp; Practice</b>	<b>Change to Service Delivery / Service Design</b>
	Yes	No	No	No
<b>Who does the Proposal affect?</b>	<b>Service Users</b>	<b>Members of the Public</b>	<b>Employees</b>	<b>Job Applicants</b>
	Yes	Yes	No	No
<b>Other, please specify:</b>				

<b>Identify the main aims and projected outcome of this proposal (please add date of each update):</b>	
04/03/2022	The Health Inequalities and Wellbeing Fund aims to develop community-based services and projects that minimise health and social inequalities and improve people's health and wellbeing.

## SECTION TWO: FINANCIAL INFORMATION

For budget changes ONLY please include information below:			Benchmark, e.g. Scottish Average
Current spend on this service (£'0000s)	Total:	£741,266.50	We have awarded funds to support 21 community projects. We have awarded £102,958 to Falkirk Council projects that aim to improve the health and wellbeing of our service users. £638,308.50 has been awarded to third sector organisations to support local communities and target specific groups. For example, £50,000 has been awarded to support asylum seekers and resettled refugees. £59,732 has been awarded to support older people. £65,900 has been awarded to support people living with long-term health/mental health conditions. £117,951.42 has been awarded to projects tackling people who are socially isolated. £130,977.42 has been awarded to projects supporting vulnerable people.
Reduction to this service budget (£'0000s)	Per Annum:		
Increase to this service budget (£'0000s)	Per Annum:		
If this is a change to a charge or concession please complete.	Current Annual Income Total:		
	Expected Annual Income Total:		
If this is a budget decision, when will the saving be achieved?	Start Date:		
	End Date (if any):		

**SECTION THREE: EVIDENCE** Please include any evidence or relevant information that has influenced the decisions contained in this EPIA. (This could include demographic profiles; audits; research; health needs assessments; national guidance or legislative requirements and how this relates to the protected characteristic groups.)

**A - Quantitative Evidence** This is evidence which is numerical and should include the number people who use the service and the number of people from the protected characteristic groups who might be affected by changes to the service.

--

**B - Qualitative Evidence** This is data which describes the effect or impact of a change on a group of people, e.g. some information provided as part of performance reporting.

**Social - case studies; personal / group feedback / other**

Projects applied to the health inequalities and wellbeing fund must support at least one priority of the Public Health Priorities for Scotland. These priorities are: 1) A Scotland where we live in vibrant, healthy and safe places and communities; 2) A Scotland where we flourish in our early years; 3) A Scotland where we have good mental wellbeing; 4) A Scotland where we reduce the use of and harm from alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs; 5) A Scotland where we have a sustainable, inclusive economy with equality of outcomes for all; and 6) A Scotland where we eat well, have a healthy weight and are physically active.

Projects can also be used to support the development of recommendations outlined in the Independent Review of Adult Social Care, particularly in relation to earlier intervention and prevention, service user and carer participation, and self-management. Relevant IRASC Recommendations include: helping people to access care and support when they need it; responding appropriately to the needs of local citizens, including for prevention and low-level support; supporting carers to carry out their caring role and to take a break from caring; and enabling people to stay in their own homes and communities, to maintain and develop rich social connections and to exercise as much autonomy as possible in decisions about their lives.

**Best Judgement:**

<b>Has best judgement been used in place of data/research/evidence?</b>	Yes / No
<b>Who provided the best judgement and what was this based on?</b>	
<b>What gaps in data / information were identified?</b>	
<b>Is further research necessary?</b>	Yes / No

**If NO, please state why.**

**SECTION FOUR: ENGAGEMENT**

Engagement with individuals or organisations affected by the policy or proposal must take place

<b>Has the proposal / policy / project been subject to engagement or consultation with service users taking into account their protected characteristics and socio-economic status?</b>	No	
<b>If YES, please state who was engagement with.</b>		
<b>If NO engagement has been conducted, please state why.</b>	This funding programme has been developed by representatives from the Health and Social Care Partnership, Falkirk Council, NHS FV, and CVS Falkirk.	
<b>How was the engagement carried out?</b>	<b>What were the results from the engagement? Please list...</b>	
<b>Focus Group</b>	No	
<b>Survey</b>	No	
<b>Display / Exhibitions</b>	No	
<b>User Panels</b>	No	
<b>Public Event</b>	No	
<b>Other: please specify</b>		
<b>Has the proposal / policy/ project been reviewed / changed as a result of the engagement?</b>	Yes / No	
<b>Have the results of the engagement been fed back to the consultees?</b>	Yes / No	
<b>Is further engagement recommended?</b>	Yes / No	

## SECTION FIVE: ASSESSING THE IMPACT

**Equality Protected Characteristics:** What will the impact of implementing this proposal be on people who share characteristics protected by the Equality Act 2010 or are likely to be affected by the proposal / policy / project? This section allows you to consider other impacts, e.g. poverty, health inequalities, community justice, carers etc.

Protected Characteristic	Neutral Impact	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	Please provide evidence of the impact on this protected characteristic.
<b>Age</b>	✓			Approved proposals will be required to submit regular monitoring evaluation returns to evidence the positive impact they have on minimising health and social inequalities.
<b>Disability</b>	✓			Approved proposals will be required to submit regular monitoring evaluation returns to evidence the positive impact they have on minimising health and social inequalities.
<b>Sex</b>	✓			Approved proposals will be required to submit regular monitoring evaluation returns to evidence the positive impact they have on minimising health and social inequalities.
<b>Ethnicity</b>	✓			Approved proposals will be required to submit regular monitoring evaluation returns to evidence the positive impact they have on minimising health and social inequalities.
<b>Religion / Belief / non-Belief</b>	✓			Approved proposals will be required to submit regular monitoring evaluation returns to evidence the positive impact they have on minimising health and social inequalities.
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>	✓			Approved proposals will be required to submit regular monitoring evaluation returns to evidence the positive impact they have on minimising health and social inequalities.
<b>Transgender</b>	✓			Approved proposals will be required to submit regular monitoring evaluation returns to evidence the positive impact they have on minimising health and social inequalities.
<b>Pregnancy / Maternity</b>	✓			Approved proposals will be required to submit regular monitoring evaluation returns to evidence the positive impact they have on minimising health and social inequalities.



**Public Sector Equality Duty: Scottish Public Authorities must have 'due regard' to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance quality of opportunity and foster good relations. Scottish specific duties include:**

				inequalities.
<b>Poverty</b>		✓		This fund aims to develop community-based services and projects that minimise health and social inequalities and improves people's health and wellbeing. Projects can target reducing health and social inequalities for a particular group or community as well as support people, groups, or communities whose health and wellbeing has been most adversely impacted by Covid-19. Proposals that meet this criteria will be required to submit regular monitoring evaluation returns to evidence the positive impact they have on minimising health and social inequalities.
<b>Care Experienced</b>				
<b>Other, health, community justice, carers etc.</b>		✓		This fund aims to develop community-based services and projects that minimise health and social inequalities and improves people's health and wellbeing. Projects can target reducing health and social inequalities for a particular group or community as well as support people, groups, or communities whose health and wellbeing has been most adversely impacted by Covid-19. Proposals that meet this criteria will be required to submit regular monitoring evaluation returns to evidence the positive impact they have on minimising health and social inequalities.
<b>Risk (Identify other risks associated with this change)</b>				

	<b>Evidence of Due Regard</b>
<b>Eliminate Unlawful Discrimination (harassment, victimisation and other prohibited conduct):</b>	
<b>Advance Equality of Opportunity:</b>	

**Foster Good Relations (promoting understanding and reducing prejudice):**

## SECTION SIX: PARTNERS / OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

Which sectors are likely to have an interest in or be affected by the proposal / policy / project?		Describe the interest / affect.
<b>Business</b>	No	
<b>Councils</b>	Yes	Funding proposals can be accepted from statutory organisations to add value to an existing service.
<b>Education Sector</b>	No	
<b>Fire</b>	No	
<b>NHS</b>	Yes	Funding proposals can be accepted from statutory organisations to add value to an existing service.
<b>Integration Joint Board</b>	Yes	Specific projects or services may be commissioned during the funding period based on identified needs within locality profiles or other strategic needs assessments.
<b>Police</b>	No	
<b>Third Sector</b>	Yes	Funding proposals can be accepted from community and third sector groups.
<b>Other(s): please list and describe the nature of the relationship / impact.</b>		

## SECTION SEVEN: ACTION PLANNING

**Mitigating Actions:** If you have identified impacts on protected characteristic groups in Section 5 please summarise these in the table below detailing the actions you are taking to mitigate or support this impact. If you are not taking any action to support or mitigate the impact you should complete the No Mitigating Actions section below instead.

Identified Impact	To Who	Action(s)	Lead Officer	Evaluation and Review Date	Strategic Reference to Corporate Plan / Service Plan / Quality Outcomes

### No Mitigating Actions

**Please explain why you do not need to take any action to mitigate or support the impact of your proposals.**

It is expected that organisations supported by this fund will mitigate or support potential impacts on protected characteristics within their project delivery. As part of the governance process, organisations must submit monitoring and evaluation returns to evidence how they are having an impact on their target audience.

**Are actions being reported to Members?**

No

**If yes when and how ?**

**SECTION EIGHT: ASSESSMENT OUTCOME**

Only one of following statements best matches your assessment of this proposal / policy / project. Please select one and provide your reasons.

No major change required	Yes	This fund aims to develop community-based services and projects that minimise health and social inequalities. To meet approval criteria, projects must not have a negative impact on protected characteristics.
The proposal has to be adjusted to reduce impact on protected characteristic groups	No	
Continue with the proposal but it is not possible to remove all the risk to protected characteristic groups	No	
Stop the proposal as it is potentially in breach of equality legislation	No	

**SECTION NINE: LEAD OFFICER SIGN OFF**

Lead Officer:

Signature:	<i>Jennifer Faichney</i>	Date:	23/05/2022
------------	--------------------------	-------	------------

**SECTION TEN: EPIA TASK GROUP ONLY**

<b>OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF EPIA:</b> Has the EPIA demonstrated the use of data, appropriate engagement, identified mitigating actions as well as ownership and appropriate review of actions to confidently demonstrate compliance with the general and public sector equality duties?	Yes / No
--	----------

<b>ASSESSMENT FINDINGS</b>		
If YES, use this box to highlight evidence in support of the assessment of the EPIA		
If NO, use this box to highlight actions needed to improve the EPIA		

<b>Where adverse impact on diverse communities has been identified and it is intended to continue with the proposal / policy / project, has justification for continuing <u>without making changes been made</u>?</b>	Yes / No	If YES, please describe:
---	----------	--------------------------

**LEVEL OF IMPACT: The EPIA Task Group has agreed the following level of impact on the protected characteristic groups highlighted within the EPIA**

LEVEL	Yes / No	COMMENTS
HIGH	Yes / No	
MEDIUM	Yes / No	
LOW	Yes / No	

**SECTION ELEVEN: CHIEF OFFICER SIGN OFF**

<b>Director / Head of Service:</b>			
<b>Signature:</b>	<i>Suzanne Thomson</i>	<b>Date:</b>	02/06/2023