

Social Isolation and Loneliness Fund 2016-17

Earlier this year, the SIAL Fund invited applications from community-based projects working to tackle social isolation across Scotland.

About the SIAL Fund

36 organisations received an offer of grant at the end of June 2016, totaling £500,000. Further details can be found on our website and are contained within the SIALF project directory. Activities will run until June 2017 and will benefit a broad range of individuals disadvantaged by social isolation including but not limited to: older people; young people; people living rurally; LGBT people; women from BME communities and individuals with additional support needs.

Engagement activities include: befriending; breakfasts for “champions”; lunch clubs; community cafes; music; media; social outings; support groups; walking groups; volunteering opportunities; and adventure play, to name but a few.

Applicants had to demonstrate that their project would meet a minimum of one and a maximum of two of the fund outcomes.

The fund outcomes are:

1. An increase in social connectedness of individuals experiencing disadvantage; and
2. A reduction in the effects of social isolation for individuals experiencing disadvantage.



Fund principles are:

Projects were also required to demonstrate a commitment to:

- Work in a strength/asset-based way with people;
- Ensure services are provided for people when they need it;
- Tap into existing community resources;
- Link with other provision (ie referrals in and referrals on); and/or
- Link to local befriending services or similar existing provision.

Who could apply?

This was an open and competitive fund open to:

- Third sector organisations (voluntary organisation or community group) whose Board of Trustees or Management Committee are predominantly volunteers;
- Working in Scotland with an annual income of below £250,000 in their last financial year;
- Organisations with a bank account in their own name;
- Projects that will finish by 30 June 2017;
- Projects must be small and community-based.

How much could organisations apply for?

Organisations could apply for between £2,500 and £20,000.

If you have any queries about the Fund in general or want to know more about any specific project we have funded. Please contact Voluntary Action Fund using the details below.

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About Voluntary Action Fund

Voluntary Action Fund (www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk) is a long-established, independent grant maker in Scotland. VAF distributes over £17 million annually to over 500 organisations in Scotland: from grassroots community groups with limited income to national organisations with income in excess of £5 million per annum.

Voluntary Action Fund manages the Social Isolation and Loneliness Fund on behalf of the Scottish Government, which funds it.

Voluntary Action Fund distributes funding on behalf of the Scottish Government. www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk

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