



Clare Haughey MSP
Minister for Children and Young People
By email

20 December 2022

Dear Ms Haughey

Children, Young People, Families and Adult Learning Third Sector Fund – Slippage in Decision-Making

We are writing on behalf of SCVO and TSI members who are impacted to raise our concerns about the delays in communicating decisions on applications to the Children, Young People, Families and Adult Learning Third Sector Fund (CYPFAL TSF).

Applicants were told they would have the decisions late 2022 to enable project spend to begin in April 2023. A letter sent to applicants yesterday states that it will not be possible to let them know before “early 2023,” with spend commencing in July 2023. This delay will have a significant impact on organisations and the people they support, whether for new or continuing work.

This is very poor practice and not in keeping with the commitments made by the DFM and others to fairer funding for the sector. Where applicants are looking to keep existing work going or develop it further, it means that redundancy notices will now be issued to staff, work will stop at the end of March and we know of at least one successful partnership with the private sector that will have to come to an end. This also flies in the face of the government's commitment to Fair Work.

The current cost of living crisis needs immediate attention and for applicants who were planning much needed new projects, this delay means that their work will not be up and running until July at the earliest. If applicants had been informed of the outcome in

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December as planned, the first three months of 2023 could have been spent on recruitment, planning and set-up but the late decision-making will delay organisations' urgently needed response for children, young people and families.

This isn't the first time there have been problems with this fund and that's seriously undermining the credibility of Scottish Government's message that Scotland is the best place for a child to grow up.

Therefore, we are calling on you to:

- Confirm whether starting funding from July is effectively a cut, given that removes the first quarter's allocatio
- Review this decision and allow all applicants to hear the outcome of their bids as soon as possible, and by the end of January 2023 at the latest
- If this is not possible, allow all continuation projects the additional funding to enable them to wind down their projects in a manner that is fair and respectful of the staff and beneficiaries involved, or to roll over projects until new funding starts in July
- Meet with representatives from the sector to discuss how Scottish Government funding decisions and payments are made and communicated in a timely manner, so that situations like this do not arise again in future.

Yours sincerely,



Anna Fowlie, SCVO



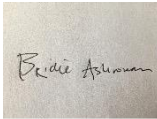
Lesley Kelly, Midlothian Voluntary Action



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Anthea Coulter, Clacks TSI



Bridie Ashrowan, EVOG

On behalf of SCVO and The Third Sector Interface Scotland Network



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