

# RENFREWSHIRE



## COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING FUND

**RENFREWSHIRE - LOCAL PLAN**

**DECEMBER 2021**



## 1. Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund

Engage Renfrewshire has received funding from the Scottish Government to be distributed locally. The intended outcome of this Fund is to:

***“...develop a culture of mental wellbeing and prevention within local communities and across Scotland with improved awareness of how we can all stay well and help ourselves and others”.***

The overarching aim of the Fund is to support community based initiatives that promote and develop good mental health and wellbeing and/or mitigate and protect against the impact of distress and mental ill health within the adult population, with a particular focus in 2021/22 on:

1. Tackling priority issues within the Transition and Recovery Plan such as suicide prevention, social isolation and loneliness, prevention, and early intervention
2. Addressing the mental health inequalities exacerbated by the pandemic and the needs of a range of ‘at risk’ groups locally
3. Supporting small ‘grass roots’ community groups and organisations to deliver such activities
4. Providing opportunities for people to connect with each other, build trusted relationships and revitalise communities
5. Supporting recovery and creativity locally by building on what is already there, what was achieved through the pandemic, and by investing in creative solutions

The Community Mental Health & Wellbeing fund is an opportunity for all of us in Renfrewshire to further develop how the HSCP works in partnership with the third sector, partners, and providers, particularly by building on the positive developments achieved during the local response to the COVID pandemic. The efficient utilisation of this important resource will contribute to improving local wellbeing outcomes through the development of new and creative practice for early interventions around mental health in a wide range of community settings. Where possible we will encourage coproduction in service design to ensure Renfrewshire’s resources are structured around supporting people in the most meaningful way to them. We will also work to promote sustainable projects that are considerate of and respond to the unpredictable landscape created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

## 2. Renfrewshire’s Health & Social Care Partnership (HSCP)



Renfrewshire’s Health & Social Care Partnership (HSCP) works collaboratively with a wide range of third sector and public sector partners to deliver a range of services to support adults, families, and carers in relation to mental health and wellbeing. In the HSCP’s Strategic Plan - **‘Shaping Our Future’** – there is commitment identified that requires all of us connected to the local health agenda are required to work collaboratively. As partners we aim to make sure all of Renfrewshire’s resources are used to have the greatest impact on health, reduce inequalities and improve health and wellbeing through early action and prevention.

Renfrewshire's Strategic Plan 2022-25 quotes Karen McIntyre (Engage Renfrewshire's Communities & Partnerships Manager and Co-chair of the Strategic Planning Group), regards the local approach:

*'In many ways, the crisis has brought Strategic Planning Group members closer than ever; the relationships formed and developed during 2020 are strong. A recognition perhaps, that only in working together can we possibly tackle the aftermath of the pandemic, because we need one another.'*

### **3. Connecting the Fund to the work of HSCP.**

On the 19<sup>th</sup> November 2021 the Head of Strategic Planning and Health Improvement for Renfrewshire presented a paper called '**Strategic Plan 2022-25: Update on Approach and Progress**' (Item 7) to Renfrewshire's Integrated Joint Board for Health which noted:

*'The attached Plan reflects the importance of partnership working in delivering person-centred support to the people of Renfrewshire and recognises that the health and care system is far broader than the HSCP itself. It is representative of the increasingly strong emphasis placed on collaborative working between the HSCP, our partners (NHS GGC and Renfrewshire Council), third sector and independent providers over the last three years, which has brought a number of successes and enhanced relationships and has been further strengthened through our collaborative response to the pandemic. **The commitments set out in the Plan provide further opportunity to build on these successes and bring partners together, through joint approaches such as the recently launched Community Mental Health & Wellbeing fund, which will improve outcomes for our local citizens.'***

The full community consultation for HSCP's Strategic Plan is now live and is being widely promoted by partners including Engage Renfrewshire. See link here:

<https://www.renfrewshire.hscp.scot/strategicplanconsultation>

### **4. Wider Engagement with Health Partners – Strategic Planning Group**

Relationships with the voluntary sector members of the SPG (Strategic Planning Group) enabled Engage to circulate information swiftly to key players, plus discuss it in a voluntary sector SPG meeting and again at the full SPG in December 2021.

### **5. Local Engagement**

Following Scottish Government's announcement of the fund, officers from Engage agreed to undertake a range of engagement sessions with interested parties and third sector members. Attendees represented a range of organisations from unconstituted groups to small/medium registered charities. These sessions were informal, held virtually and took place on:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021 2.00pm - 3.30pm
- 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021 5.30pm - 7.00pm
- 8<sup>th</sup> November 2021 2.00pm - 3.30pm
- 18<sup>th</sup> November 2021 2.00pm - 3.30pm
- 19<sup>th</sup> November 2021 5.30pm - 7.00pm
- 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2021 2.00pm - 3.30pm

### **Member Engagement Sessions Total attendees - 83**

Similar sessions also took place at all seven meetings of **Renfrewshire's Local Partnerships**. Local Partnerships provide the community with the opportunity to have their say on local issues and make

a difference to their local area. They have an informal and inclusive approach as part of a drive to ensure community voices are heard on local issues. Each Local Partnerships aim to make connections and networks between community groups and the wider community as well as identifying, setting and sharing local community priorities – these priorities include promoting community wellbeing and tackling isolation and loneliness. All meetings take place 6-8pm and are open to the public to attend even if they are not a member of the partnership.

Partnership Area	Date	No. Attendees
Erskine Inchinnan, Bishopton and Langbank	10 <sup>th</sup> November 2021	14
Gleniffer	23 <sup>rd</sup> November 2021	12
Paisley East	18 <sup>th</sup> November 2021	23
Paisley North West and Central	1 <sup>st</sup> December 2021	21
Renfrew	11 <sup>th</sup> November 2021	13
The Villages	25 <sup>th</sup> November 2021	30
Johnstone and Linwood	17 <sup>th</sup> November 2021	24


### Local Partnership Engagement Sessions Total Attendance - 137


The FAQ's emerging from the Engagement Sessions are noted as part of the guidance for applicants from Renfrewshire.

### 6. Renfrewshire Community & Mental Health & Wellbeing 'Social' Stats

The fund was given prominent posting on Engage Renfrewshire's social media platforms as well as the organisation's daily 'e-alert' which has a circulation of almost 800 contacts. One of the benefits of using social media is that local people can view, comment, ask questions, and get direct answers about the fund if required.

### Example - Twitter (Impressions/ Engagements/ Engagement rate %) – total impressions 3,315

 <p><b>Engage Renfrewshire</b> @EngageNews1 · Dec 3</p> <p>There's a month to go for community groups to apply for wellbeing funding. Just over half a million pounds has been made available by Scottish Government to support community based mental health support in Renfrewshire. Find out more and apply here <a href="https://bit.ly/3lh4ooy">bit.ly/3lh4ooy</a> Pls RT <a href="https://pic.twitter.com/hWFCSp0JMz">pic.twitter.com/hWFCSp0JMz</a></p> <p><a href="#">View Tweet activity</a></p>	766	28	3.7%
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 <p><b>Engage Renfrewshire</b> @EngageNews1 · Dec 1</p> <p>The Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund is now open, see our dedicated website page for more information <a href="https://engagerenfrewshire.org/engage-support...">engagerenfrewshire.org/engage-support...</a> <a href="https://pic.twitter.com/QCw0ixZvz8">pic.twitter.com/QCw0ixZvz8</a></p> <p><a href="#">View Tweet activity</a></p>	2,300	61	2.7%
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**Engage Renfrewshire** @EngageNews1 · Nov 25  
Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund. The ambition of this Fund is to support initiatives which promote mental health and wellbeing at a small scale, grass roots, community level. Find out more and apply [bit.ly/3cRsJmk](https://bit.ly/3cRsJmk) [pic.twitter.com/IX9qLtZdE1](https://pic.twitter.com/IX9qLtZdE1)

249

23

9.2%

[View Tweet activity](#)

### Example - Facebook Total reach – 719 people

Engage Renfrewshire  
Published by Kate Grant · 3 December at 15:40 · 🌐

There's a month to go for community groups to apply for wellbeing funding. Get your application started or contact [info@engagerenfrewshire.com](mailto:info@engagerenfrewshire.com) for more info.

Just over half a million pounds has been made available by Scottish Government to support community based mental health support in Renfrewshire.

The funding is to tackle the impact of social isolation, loneliness and the mental health inequalities made worse by the pandemic. Grants will be made by us, at Engage Renfr... See more

**RENFREWSHIRE**

**COMMUNITY  
MENTAL HEALTH &  
WELLBEING FUND**

384 People reached · 23 Engagements · - Distribution score

Boost post

9 likes · 4 shares

## 7. Application Process & Guidance

On creating the application approach, it was agreed the application form should be clear and simple – reflective of approaches championed during the early months of the pandemic response, as well as funders such as Tudor House, Robertson Trust etc.

The final posted version of the form is 'quick & easy' to complete, with word limits for each section, and seeks basic information about the organisation, the proposal and budget. There is a note that should further information be required it will be requested.

In order ensure that the fund is open to all the application form is available as a 'Word' document not as a PDF which would require editing software or an online platform. Both the guidance and the examples of projects are posted as fixed PDF documents.

## 8. Launch of Fund

Following discussions with partners, directors of Engage Renfrewshire and staff it was agreed that the fund would launch locally on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2021. Prior to the launch a press release titled – ***‘Engage launch new fund to support communities tackling mental health’*** was circulated to local press and all partners. The press release confirmed that grass roots community groups and organisations would be able to benefit from the funds to deliver activities and programmes to people to re-connect and revitalise communities building on examples of good practice which have emerged throughout the pandemic.

Engage Renfrewshire’s Chief Executive, Alan McNiven, explained in the release that *“We’re delighted to be facilitating the Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund in Renfrewshire. It offers Engage a unique opportunity to support the incredible community responses that we’ve seen throughout the pandemic in terms of keeping people connected, providing solutions to mental health issues and promoting wellbeing. We want to support a Renfrewshire that has a strong network of community based wellbeing responses, and this funding will help us do exactly that.”*

Frances Burns, Head of Strategic Planning and Health Improvement for Renfrewshire Health & Social Care Partnership was also quoted in the release noting that *“Engage and many local voluntary sector organisations have been key partners for the HSCP throughout the pandemic. We’re currently working closely together to create a strategic plan for 2022-25, and we’ll continue that close collaborative approach for this funding. We want to maximise the benefits of the funding, to ensure that living in Renfrewshire means having access to the mental health and wellbeing support people need.”*

**The full press release is attached (Appendix 1).**

As part of launch process Engage Renfrewshire developed a webpage where potential applicants could seek the guidance notes for the fund, examples of projects and the ‘light touch’ application form. See link for more details:

<https://engagerenfrewshire.org/engage-support/community-mental-health-wellbeing-fund.html>

## 9. Grant Administration & Additional Processes

Part of the allocation from Scottish Government includes a grant for costs for administering the fund. The allocation was part utilised to employ a Community Mental Health & Wellbeing Officer who as well as supporting the funding bid system, will also work to develop a network of local mental health and wellbeing groups and act to support collaborative projects. The post holder will take up the role on Monday 10th January, 2022.

It is planned that all applicants to the fund will be offered an invitation to participate within a Communities Mental Health & Wellbeing forum which will be held regularly, and will include spotlight presentations, networking, and information sharing opportunities, both internally to fellow forum members and externally to the wider third sector via Engage Renfrewshire’s existing channels. Applicant will also receive a Communities Mental Health & Wellbeing pack which will contain signposting for emergency/severe Mental Health issues, RAMH Mental Health directory, and other useful resources at local and national level.

All applicants, whether successful or not will receive ‘after-care’ from Community & Voluntary Action Team officers at Engage. This will included contact to discuss general ongoing support for the group or organisation as well as confirming:

- Membership of Engage Renfrewshire
- Contact details for the MILO (Salesforce) database
- Subscription to daily e-alert
- Offer of Capacity building support or a 1:1 funding session
- 1:1 discussion regards group structure, organisational development and/or governance needs
- Volunteering support; opportunities onto Kinetic, invitation to join Volunteer Managers Forum, and a 1:1 discussion regards volunteering development
- Other offers such as Social Enterprise development, engagement with ethnically diverse communities, financial inclusion support (which links to Mental Health and dealing with financial stress).

## **10. Assessment Approach**

Grant awards will be carried out via assessment panels, with membership of the panels reflective of local partnership. Panel members will be drawn from Renfrewshire's Health & Social Care Partnership, Renfrewshire Council's Community Planning Partnership Team and Engage Renfrewshire. Panels will be chaired by Engage Renfrewshire staff members, and recorded utilising an assessment matrix. There is the potential to have two sitting panels with one dealing with awards under £10,000 and another dealing with higher awards; the expectation being that the smaller awards could potentially be released quickly for activities which are ready to be delivered.

Grants under £2,000, where appropriate, may be assessed by the Community Mental Health & Wellbeing Officer and approved by the Communities & Partnerships Manager.

Deadline for Applications is Friday 7th January 2022 - as the application form is 'light touch', there may be the need to occasionally seek further information from the applicant prior to making a funding decision. Engage Renfrewshire will act to confirm successful applications quickly and on a 'rolling' basis. All applicants will receive confirmation of the outcome of their application by 18<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

Where applicants are working to deliver activity before the end of 2021 or early in 2022, they are asked to clearly indicate this position in their application form. Successful applicants will receive all funding by 25<sup>th</sup> March 2022, but can utilise the funding beyond that date. All successful applicants will be required to abide by a set of standard 'Terms and Conditions'.

## **11. Monitoring**

All project activity and monitoring reports, as required to be produced by successful applicants, must be completed within 11 months of the funding award. Grantees should expect a light touch approach to monitoring proportionate to the size of the grants and/or requirements of the organisation.

Monitoring will include information about the number and types of people who benefited, as well as case studies and project stories. Where it is appropriate organisations will be encouraged to submit photographs or videos of the project, and officers from Engage Renfrewshire may visit the project and meet with the people involved. It is the intention that the monitoring process informs future policy and funding decisions' and with this in mind opportunities for great projects to showcase their work and the impact they have on citizens and communities will be developed where appropriate.

## 12. Tasks for the Partnership Approach

The table below outlines the roles and responsibilities of the different members of the partnership groups:

<b>Task / Role</b>	<b>ENGAGE RENFREWSHIRE</b>	<b>Integration Authorities (via HSCP Chief Officer or representative)</b>	<b>Other partners</b>	<b>Scottish Government</b>
<b>Planning</b> Assess local priorities within the scope of Fund criteria	Coordinate local plan and sharing of this with Scottish Government	Contribute - with specific input in terms of HSCP strategic plan and local mental health plans	Advisory – particularly equalities groups and those with living experience	Support, advise and share with National Oversight Group
<b>Seek fund applications</b>	Lead – action to promote the Fund	Contribute	Advisory	Promote Fund through existing networks
<b>Devise fund administration processes</b>	Lead	Contribute	Advisory - particularly equalities groups and those with living experience	Advise and support where needed
<b>Assess local funding applications</b>	Lead	Contribute	Advisory	No role – guidance provided sets out broad parameters of the Fund
<b>Capacity building with potential applicants</b>	Lead	Contribute	Advisory - particularly equalities groups and those with living experience	Support through Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Network and National Oversight Group
<b>Evaluation and Monitoring</b>	Lead - devise local monitoring and report to Scottish Government	Contribute - in line with existing reporting	Advisory - particularly equalities groups and those with living experience	Collate local partnership plans; coordinate national evaluation; devise reporting templates in line with this



<b>National Oversight Group</b>	Contribute	Contribute	Contribute	Establish and support
<b>Wider networking</b>	Contribute	Contribute	Contribute	Establish Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Network and support this

In terms of the 'Lead' role required, all tasks required to be carried out by Engage Renfrewshire are now either completed or underway.

## Appendix 1



### Press release

**Title:** Engage launch new fund to support communities tackling mental health

**Date:** Monday 15 Nov, 2021 – for immediate release

A new Renfrewshire fund will help tackle the impact of social isolation, loneliness and the mental health inequalities made worse by the pandemic.

Scottish Government's Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund has allocated £500,000 to Engage Renfrewshire - Renfrewshire Third Sector Interface. The local organisation will in turn award grants to support adult community-based initiatives in Renfrewshire.

Grass roots community groups and organisations will be able to benefit from the funds to deliver activities and programmes to people to re-connect and revitalise communities building on examples of good practice which have emerged throughout the pandemic.

Engage's chief executive Alan McNiven said "we're delighted to be facilitating the Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund in Renfrewshire.

"It offers Engage a unique opportunity to support the incredible community responses that we've seen throughout the pandemic in terms of keeping people connected, providing solutions to mental health issues and promoting wellbeing. We want to support a Renfrewshire that has a strong network of community based wellbeing responses, and this funding will help us do exactly that."

Frances Burns, Head of Strategic Planning and Health Improvement for Renfrewshire Health & Social Care Partnership said; "Engage and many local voluntary sector organisations have been key partners for the HSCP throughout the pandemic. We're currently working closely together to create a strategic plan for 2022-25, and we'll continue that close collaborative approach for this funding. We want to maximise the benefits of the funding, to ensure that living in Renfrewshire means having access to the mental health and wellbeing support people need."

Talking about the national approach, Mental Wellbeing Minister Kevin Stewart said: "This funding reflects the importance we place on promoting good mental health and early intervention for those in distress and will help develop a culture of mental wellbeing and prevention within local communities.

He added: "It is vital now, more than ever that we support the mental health and wellbeing of individuals. I am very keen that this benefits communities across all of Scotland."

Funding is for community based initiatives that promote and develop good mental health and wellbeing and/or mitigate and protect against the impact of distress and mental ill health within the adult population. While funding can support the expansion of existing activities, it is intended to provide additionality, not replacement funding.

If you'd like to know more about whether you're eligible to apply, contact

[info@engagerenfrewshire.com](mailto:info@engagerenfrewshire.com)

For more information on the fund, to download guidance notes and the application form visit

[www.engagerenfrewshire.org](http://www.engagerenfrewshire.org)

To book a place at a short information session on Nov 18 at 2pm, go to <https://tinyurl.com/kyreu6hd>

**Background:**

Engage Renfrewshire, the local third sector interfaces, will manage the fund in partnership with Renfrewshire Health & Social Care Partnership and other partnerships including Renfrewshire's Community Planning Partnership, Children's Services Partnership and local authority mental health leads.

The Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund is part of the wider £120 million Recovery and Renewal Fund announced in February 2021 to ensure delivery of the commitments set out in the Mental Health Transition and Recovery Plan in response to the mental health need arising from the pandemic.

- ENDS -

**Notes to editor**