

## Delivering Equally Safe Fund Update

### Scottish Government, COSLA and Inspiring Scotland Joint Statement

On the 24th March 2021, the Scottish Government and COSLA issued a joint statement on the Delivering Equally Safe fund. The statement outlines a number of important changes to the fund which have come in with immediate effect. We understand that those who are intending to apply may have questions and we are working closely with the Scottish Government to ensure that all the documents associated with the fund including the Information and Application Guidance Notes are updated within the next few days. We will endeavor to have the updated documents available and distributed to everyone who has registered interest as soon as possible.

Over the past year the sector has played a vital role in supporting those most at need during the crisis. Recognising this, Scottish Government has already provided £5.75m additional funding to the sector and it has responded with agility and creativity to the challenges faced. We continue to recognise the importance and value of this essential service.

#### UPDATE

**The following changes will be put into effect immediately, and guidance updated over the next few days:**

- An additional £5m has been allocated to this fund annually taking the total funding available to £18m.
- Within this, funding will be secured for frontline specialist services to support their ongoing work, with a minimum of £14m to ensure that these vital services are protected and maintained.
- The fund will now run in 2021/22 and 2022/23 with a replacement fund launching in 2023 following a joint strategic review of sustainability funding for frontline services.
- Local Authority applicants can now act as lead applicant on a partnership application, according to local preferences.

In recognition of these changes, we are also extending **the deadline for applications to Friday 28 May 2021.**

**The fund start date remains as before, October 2021 with announcements expected in July 2021.**

Please contact Inspiring Scotland using the mailbox [DESenquiries@inspiringscotland.org.uk](mailto:DESenquiries@inspiringscotland.org.uk) if you have any questions in relation to any of these updates.

We would also like to take this opportunity to respond to some of the queries raised about this fund.

#### **WHAT SHOULD YOU APPLY FOR?**

**Please apply for the level of funding your organisation and/or partnership needs to be able to deliver the activity you are applying for.**

**If you are applying for new work that is in addition to existing activities, please make it clear in your application what funding is required for your existing activities and what funding is required for the additional activity.**

The decision-making process will review all applications and will take account of what is required for your organisation. The fund is intended for work beyond October 2021 which your application should take into consideration.

Evidence of successful ongoing service provision is beneficial for those applying for continuation of services; however, we understand that new services/projects may lack this evidence base and this will be taken into account when assessing applications.

We understand that success of many of the applications will be linked to external factors, we encourage you to highlight the importance of these dependencies in your application. There is also a possibility that applications can be part funded and you will be contacted by Inspiring Scotland to discuss the impact of this if your application is recommended for partial funding.

### **PARTNERSHIP APPLICATIONS**

The fund has been developed to enable partnership applications to be made. Partnership working is a key part of the sector and the Equally Safe Strategy. Some of you have raised with us the concern that by applying for a partnership, an organisation is then risking the funding for their organisation's main activities.

The decision-making process will take account of what an organisation has applied for, both as a single applicant and as part of a partnership. If a partnership application is received where one/both organisations have clearly detailed that the partnership work can only take place if core costs are met via their application as a single organisation, this will be taken into account to ensure that an organisation is not funded solely for a partnership project which it is unable to deliver if core costs are not met. If you are making multiple applications, please include reference to this on both your single and partnership application forms highlighting the links between the two.

As stated above, in recognition of the vital role of local partnerships, we are pleased to confirm that a local authority is now able to apply as the lead applicant for a partnership application.

### **DEVELOPING YOUR APPLICATION**

As you develop your application form, we recognize how challenging and time-consuming this can be. This is further exacerbated by restrictions relating to the pandemic and the increased stresses it places on activities and the staff working to deliver them. There are a variety of support tools available, please visit the Inspiring Scotland website at <https://www.inspiringscotland.org.uk/what-we-do/our-funds/delivering-equally-safe/> where you can to access the support or email Inspiring Scotland using [Desenquiries@inspiringscotland.org.uk](mailto:Desenquiries@inspiringscotland.org.uk).

We look forward to receiving your applications. The deadline for applications is Midday on the 28 May 2021.

## **BACKGROUND**

Delivering Equally Safe is the name of the Scottish Government funding programme to support third sector organisations and public bodies contribute to the objectives, priorities, and outcomes of the Equally Safe strategy. Details of the fund objectives and priorities can be found in the Information and Application Guidance notes. It consolidates funding streams, including the Equally Safe (Violence against Women and Girls) and Rape Crisis Specific fund. The funding provided to the Caledonian project is part of a separate review.

The Delivering Equally Safe Fund was developed with input from stakeholders, following a review of the funding from the Equality and Human Rights Division. Key recommendations from this, such as investing in supporting partnerships to build their capacity prior to commencing delivery, have been built into the structure of the DES Fund.

The fund has been designed to create a simpler and cohesive method for organisations to access funding. There is now one application process for organisations to use to tell the Scottish Government what is needed to enable you to deliver your vital services.

The changes to the application process also make a move towards a needs-based assessment allowing us to establish a better picture of the funding required to support these services. The Equally Safe Strategy remains at the heart of this process with the delivery of key frontline services remaining a priority and we expect a significant portion of the fund to be allocated to this type of work.

Changes were made to the fund to allow greater transparency to the funding process and giving the opportunity to state the level of funding required to run services which are responsive to local need, rather than assigning funding at predetermined levels.