

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL
EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORT COMMITTEE
17 January 2008

Agenda Item	
Report No	

Healthy Living Centres Funding Update

Report by Director of Education, Culture and Sport

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to update members on the funding position of the three Healthy Living Centre Projects in the Council's area and to suggest options for the future.

1. Background

- 1.1 There are three Healthy Living Centres [HLC's] in the Highlands, Janny's Hoose, located next to Merkinch Primary School, Healthways which has six discrete centres of operation across Ross and Cromarty and Health and Happiness, a Highland wide project for people with learning difficulties.
- 1.2 Each began five years ago with substantial awards from the Big Lottery. The council has been supportive of the work of all three projects. Each deals with different subject matters and each has successfully demonstrated real health impacts for their local communities. Indeed, about a year ago the Council committed £100k, to be matched with other funding, to expand Healthy Living activity to other areas of the Highlands not currently served by the three. That funding has so far been retained until it is clear if the local and national work to achieve sustainability funding for the existing projects can be successful.

2. Current Funding Position and Funding Work Ongoing

- 2.1 The current approximate annual costs of each HLC is Janny's Hoose, £90k, Healthways, £220k and Health and Happiness £180k. The Council's main input to the projects has been the provision of staff time and in the case of Janny's Hoose, the use of the building. The Janny's Hoose and Healthways have each received £10k per year from NHS Highland whilst the Enterprise network and other funders have assisted with specific smaller sub-projects.
- 2.2 All three HLCs are due to finish their five years Big Lottery funding in March 2008. Big Lottery assumed [as did all HLC projects – 46 across Scotland] that over the 5 year funding period, each would be able to persuade the local NHS Boards of their worth and that would be followed with ongoing support. The first element has been achieved – with Healthways winning a COSLA award [and a Council Quality Award] and all being recognised in publications and health impact

studies. Sadly however, to date it has not been possible for sustainability funding to be identified.

3. Current Funding Investigations

- 3.1 The lottery provided support for HLCs under a time-limited programme and it was made clear that continuation funding could not be made available thereafter. The Health and Happiness project, however, has recently been awarded further four years funding for a project which is able to meet the criteria of new lottery funding programmes. In light of this, the Council has asked a local community health consultant to work with firstly the Janny's Hoose and then Healthways in order to learn from this experience and to urgently submit funding applications on behalf of the two projects. These applications will need to focus on the new criteria for lottery funding.
- 3.2 As the Janny's Hoose is in an area of multiple deprivation, investigations are underway to see if Regeneration Outcome Agreement funding, administered through the Wellbeing Alliance, might be available to assist in the longer term.
- 3.3 A ministerial review of Community Health Partnerships has begun and will report in May 2008. A national grouping of HLCs has been formed to lobby for a national solution, designed to allow time for HLCs to take part in the national review and to take the results of the review to their respective NHS Boards to discuss what role HLCs could have in delivering their outcomes – with a view to establishing formal Service Level Agreements and associated funding arrangements. The Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Health Secretary Nicola Sturgeon, has recently agreed to meet representatives of the national group on the 10th January, 2008. The Chairman of the ECS committee has written to the Minister asking her to consider the two year transitional funding as a solution to the local and national issue. A verbal update on the results of the national meeting will be available to members at Committee.
- 3.4 Elected members and the public have shown a generally high level of support for the continuation of the projects.

4 Options for the Future

- 4.1 Clearly, if the national transitional fund is possible, all three local HLCs will be able to continue to operate and take part meaningfully in the national review and the establishing of priorities after that.
- 4.2 In tandem with the national campaign, Big Lottery Fund applications for the Janny's Hoose and Healthways will be submitted early in the new year and prior to March 2008. Regeneration partnership [Wellbeing Alliance] funding is also being pursued for the Janny's Hoose. In either case, a proportion of the council's reserved £100k will be required as match funding.

- 4.3 To align with the new funding criteria and to help achieve the Council's goal of spreading HLC activity to a wider geography, lottery applications for the Janny's Hoose and Healthways will need to have a different focus.
- 4.4 The application for the Janny's Hoose will seek to retain the facility but extend activity to other targeted areas for regeneration (based on SIMD 06 statistics) in Inverness. These include parts of Hilton, Raigmore, Dalneigh, Central & Longman.
- 4.5 The application for the Healthways will include provision for activity in both the North council area and the Mid area.
- 4.6 Should the above options fail because the funding options are not possible, it is inevitable that the two unfunded projects will need to be wound up. In which case, a further report will be submitted to the March 2008 committee proposing which elements of the projects might be maintained using only the council's allocated £100k.

<p>5 Recommendation</p> <p>5.1 The Committee is invited to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. note the funding position of the three Healthy Living Centres operating in the Council's area and the work currently ongoing at a national and local level to sustain their work.ii. agree the options as detailed in paragraph four of this report andiii. agree to the submission of Big Lottery Fund applications on behalf of the Jannie's Hoose and Healthwaysiv. delegate to the Director of ECS to decide on the necessary split of the council's £100k as it's match funding for the purposes of the two Big Lottery applications.v. note that should the options for future funding prove impossible, a further report will be submitted to the March 2008 ECS Committee.

Signature:

Designation: Director of Education, Culture and Sport

Date: 17 December 2007

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Background papers: