

SE9. Following the Public Pound: Community Development

The committee considered a report by the Director of Children's Services which provided information under the Following the Public Pound arrangements for the period 1 April 2019 to 30 October 2020 for the Council's priorities with regard to community development. Community development underpinned the Council's priority of partnership as set out in its Corporate Plan.

Funding was provided by Children's Services to 3 external organisations to provide services which could not readily be provided by the Council. Corporate & Housing Services funded 1 organisation. As part of the Following the Public Pound arrangements, reporting statements were prepared by the relevant monitoring officer for consideration by the Scrutiny Committee (External).

The four organisations were:-

Organisation	Monitoring Service	Annual Funding (£)
Dennyloanhead Community Hall Ltd	Children's Services	11,330
Denny Community Support Project	Children's Services	23,620
Workers Education Association	Children's Services	22,280
CVS Falkirk and District	Corporate and Neighbourhood Services	102,076

Mark Meechan gave an overview of the report, highlighting that the reporting period was the financial year 2019/20 but information had been provided on the impact of the covid-19 pandemic on the organisations.

The committee then considered the monitoring officers' reports.

In regard to the Dennyloanhead Community Hall and Denny Community Support Project members noted that both had similar objectives and were situated only 1.8 miles apart. Accordingly members sought assurance that there was a reason to fund two organisations which, it appeared, provided the same service. Mark Meechan stated that both organisations had very different clientele and offered different supports. Broadly the socio-economic needs in Dennyloanhead were greater and the community there required particular supports, mainly in supporting older people whereas the Denny Community Support Project focussed more on the provision of food. Both served different demographics and the difference in the services provided was reflected in the different level of funding awarded. Denny Community Support Project had, since lockdown, completely changed its management and had had a change in direction in terms of support it provided. CLD had helped support the change in management and direction and the management had appointed a development worker. The building had been refurbished during lockdown at a cost of £40,000 with the upstairs completely refurbished. It now focussed on substance misuse and recovery and food delivery. Since lockdown Dennyloanhead had been very active in the provision of food to households and had offered much needed childcare

support (when the lockdown rules had allowed this). Officers from CLD had been working closely with the management to support it to reopen safely, in an incremental manner, its clientele continued to be older people.

Decision

The Committee approved the report and acknowledged progress by the external organisations in meeting Council priorities.