

**The Chairman and Members of
North West Area Committee.**

Meeting: 20th September 2022

Item No: 7

Ballymun Social Regeneration Fund 2022 Update

A sum of €1,725,000 was allocated to the Ballymun Social Regeneration Fund for 2022. This funding is to continue to support the process of social regeneration in the area. The social regeneration objectives for Ballymun are set out in Sustaining Regeneration – A Social Plan for Ballymun. Applications for the 2022 fund closed in December 2021 and 17 applications in total were received, reviewed and approved by the Assessment Panel in January 2022.

Following on from this, all groups received their Q1 funding during February and March and all programmes commenced as planned. 16 programmes continued on from 2021 and there was 1 completely new programme, a play therapy programme, run by Young Ballymun in the schools in the area. This programme has worked very well to date and there are now 4 play therapists working with 27 children across 7 schools in Ballymun.

On two dates in February and March, Social Impact Measurement workshops were facilitated in the Council Chamber by Dr. Francis McGeough of TU Dublin. Dr. McGeough gave a presentation to all of the groups as to how they could develop the power tools to measure not just the outputs from their programmes but also the impact and success. The workshops were very well attended by all groups and Dr. McGeough was available after each workshop to speak to groups on a one-to-one basis.

As part of the Ballymun Social Regeneration Fund 2022, 2 groups were offered the services of a mentor as part of a pilot project under extra support for funded groups. The groups were allocated 8 hours each, over a 6 week period, with the mentor, and had discussions around issues such as Finance, Reporting, HR and Marketing. Both groups found the process very helpful and supportive and said it was of great benefit to them to get constructive feedback and recommendations from the mentor. 2 more groups have now been offered this mentoring opportunity and are due to begin the process in the coming weeks. The mentor has also confirmed that he has further capacity to mentor more groups between now and the end of 2022.

A meeting of the Ballymun Social Regeneration Assessment panel took place on August 20th last. Various topics were discussed including an overview of Q1/Q2, underspends on 2021 funding, additional requests from groups for funding/meetings, a brief for a review of the Social Regeneration Fund, the business mentoring support service, plans for Q3/Q4 and in particular the criteria for 2023 funding. It was agreed that the panel would review the criteria.

A report to the Chairman and Members of the North West Area in October 2020, Item No. 10 on the Agenda, set out the Terms and Conditions for 2022 Ballymun Social Regeneration

funding, including specific criteria for applicants and also funding conditions as outlined below:

Funding can only be used for staff resources (75% maximum in 2022, to be reduced to 50% for 2023 applications) programming and general administration costs.

Having considered and discussed this criteria, The Assessment Panel are now of the view that it may not be in the best interests of the programmes/services that the groups provide in the Ballymun area, to proceed with a reduction to 50% for staff resources in 2023, for existing recipients of the fund. A comprehensive review of the fund is due to commence later in the year, and the Assessment Panel are recommending that the **maximum** amount of funding that can be used for staff resources, programming and general administration costs in 2023, remains at 75%. The Assessment Panel are also recommending that all new applicants to the Social Regeneration Fund in 2022 must allocate a **minimum** of 50% of funding to programmes (excluding salaries, wages and overheads) with the exception of specialised services. The criteria will remain under review at all times. The discretion of the Assessment Panel will be used on a case-by-case basis, and their decisions are final.

Therefore, I recommend that these amended terms and conditions are agreed and included in the application process for 2023.

Derek Kelly,
Director of Services,
North West Area