

UK Shared Prosperity Fund Edinburgh Newsletter

August 2023

WHAT IS THE UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND?

UK Shared Prosperity funding (UKSPF) is distributed by UK Government through local authorities. It from runs 2022 - 2025 and consists of core UKSPF funds and Multiply funds – the latter of which are designed to help adults improve their numeracy skills. Core UKSPF funds are focused on 3 strategic priorities: Communities and Place, People and Skills, and Supporting Local Business. In Edinburgh, 31 projects were commissioned across the 3 themes. Twenty of these began delivery in 2022 -2023 (Year 1 of the programme) while the rest began delivery in April 2023 (Year 2).

For Communities and Place, several garden projects are underway. This includes the renovation of a community centre garden in Southside which is a haven for mental health support groups. Elsewhere, Edible Estates are working to establish 3 new community gardens in council estates across the city. A new depot for the Bike Station has also been constructed in Gorgie, offering affordable transport solutions to individuals through equipment and training.

Projects for the Supporting Local Business priority include additional Business Gateway provision and the Chamber of Commerce Net Zero project, which has met with 33 businesses to understand the support they need on the journey to net zero.

Under People and Skills, there are a range of employability projects tailored to specific needs including a project for prison leavers. Apex are developing a new 'Stride' programme which will expand the opportunities for training for prison leavers into new sectors, particularly targeting those struggling to fill vacancies. Making Work Work is running programmes for women returning to the workplace.

This newsletter showcases just some of the great work already being delivered through UKSPF Edinburgh - we plan to share more as the programme develops.



Artwork outside Fresh Start, Edinburgh

UKSPF EDINBURGH PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

UKSPF funds are distributed from UK Government to local authorities. In Edinburgh, the programme management office for UKSPF is based at Capital City Partnership, an arms-length external organisation with expertise in grant funding and working with Edinburgh's third sector. The programme management team works closely with City of Edinburgh Council colleagues to oversee UKSPF delivery and report to UK Government as required. UKSPF Edinburgh also reports to the Council's Committee for Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work, as well as the Edinburgh Partnership.

A new website will be launched this summer with project information and regular updates from the delivery organisations. If you would like to get in touch you can contact the team via ukspf@capitalcitypartnership.org.

- Georgina Bowyer UKSPF Manager
- Zoe Brownlee UKSPF Programme Officer
- Jessie Colligan UKSPF Programme Administrator

VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME AND GARDEN REGENERATION

Written by Emily Gifford, Fundraising Manager, Empty Kitchens Full Hearts

Empty Kitchens Full Hearts is based in Granton, Edinburgh, and turns surplus food into meals delivered to people in need across the city. Since April 2020, our community of volunteers has cooked, packed, and delivered more than 1.8 million meals. UKSPF is supporting our Kitchen Assistant Programme, garden area development, hot food service, and a newly created Volunteer Coordinator role.

Our Kitchen Assistant Programme combines taking an accredited course at Edinburgh College and volunteering in our kitchen to develop practical skills supported by our team of experienced chefs. We aim to create a welcoming and supportive environment where they can flourish and build on the skills and knowledge gained through participating in the college course.

In developing our garden space, we aim to create a social space for our staff and volunteers and others from the local community - including via our weekly hot food service - as well as a productive space growing herbs and vegetables that can be used in the meals made for our service users.

As an organisation supported by a wonderful community of volunteers, the volunteer experience is an important part of what we do. Our Volunteer Coordinator will ensure volunteers feel welcomed and supported throughout their journey with us.

EMPTY KITCHENS
FULL HEARTS



Empty Kitchens Full Hearts Community Garden
Polytunnel



Empty Kitchens Full Hearts Community Garden
Vegetable Patch

NET ZERO EDINBURGH

Written by Mayan Grace, Director of Projects, Edinburgh Chambers of Commerce

The Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce launched the Net Zero Edinburgh project in January. The project aims to assist SMEs in Edinburgh to actively participate in the transition towards a net-zero carbon economy. It focuses on supporting and promoting innovative de-carbonisation and circular economy initiatives within the city. Businesses participating in the project will benefit from a comprehensive range of free support services.



Net Zero Edinburgh Event

(Continued...)These include consultancy support to help calculate their baseline emissions, informative events, workshops, one-on-one, and group mentoring sessions, and access to toolkits and resources. Additionally, a cohort of companies will receive tailored assistance in crafting their net-zero plans and reducing their carbon emissions. The Net Zero Edinburgh team has already engaged with over 50 businesses, several of which have expressed interest in joining the cohort. Notable participants include a local brewery, an event management company, and a hospitality venue.

The project was launched with a successful net-zero conference on 31 March. The conference garnered significant interest, with over 100 delegates in attendance. The event explored innovative solutions driving the net-zero agenda and provided insights into new business opportunities. Attendees had the opportunity to participate in various sessions focusing on innovation, the just transition, and green skills. Keynote speakers included the Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, who shared his sustainability vision and highlighted ongoing initiatives in Manchester.

VINTAGE VIBES

Written by Gemma Wright, Communications & Fundraising, Vintage Vibes

UKSPF supports Vintage Vibes' mission to tackle loneliness and isolation in Edinburgh's over 60s. Vintage Vibes is an award-winning charitable partnership project tackling isolation and loneliness in older people (VIPs) in Edinburgh. With a vibrant, innovative approach, Vintage Vibes is changing perceptions as well as lives by tackling the issues and creating a robust volunteer network through its friendship matches and inclusive programme of groups and events.

"When I get back from the Vocal Vibes group, I always feel I am somebody in my own right. It makes me feel I am not on my own." Ruby.

In a 2022 study by Age UK, 1 in 3 older people said they felt more anxious than before Covid and less motivated to do the things they enjoy. With a focus on getting VIPs out and having fun, Vintage Vibes' friendship matches have banked more than 20,000 volunteering hours, a figure set to grow exponentially over the coming years. Isolated older people are more likely to experience depression, anxiety, or lack of mobility, putting added pressure on health and support services.

VINTAGE VIBES

GOOD COMPANY NEVER GETS OLD

In fact, loneliness has the same impact on an older person's health as smoking 15 cigarettes a day.

Vintage Vibes' 2023 annual survey showed that 75% of their VIPs felt that being involved in the project had improved their mental health and 95% reported feeling happier and having a better quality of life. Vintage Vibes understands the impact meaningful interaction has on the well-being of older people, helping them to live independently for longer and to enjoy their lives. We think Betty said it best "You make my life worthwhile."



Vintage Vibes Afternoon tea

For more information contact ukspf@capitalcitypartnership.org