

<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>Ending Violence Against Women &amp; Girls Local Change Fund</b>
<b>Committee Report Submitted To:</b>	Leisure & Development Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	17 <sup>th</sup> December 2024
<b>For Decision or For Information</b>	For Information
<b>To be discussed In Committee</b>	<b>NO</b>

<b>Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)</b>	
Strategic Theme	Healthy, Active & Engaged Communities
Outcome	The Borough comprises cohesive and stable communities which work collaboratively with a range of stakeholders to address issues and deliver on opportunities
Lead Officer	Head of Community & Culture

<b>Estimated Timescale for Completion</b>	
Date to be Completed	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2025

<b>Budgetary Considerations</b>	
Cost of Proposal	n/a 100% external funding
Included in Current Year Estimates	<b>NO</b>
Capital/Revenue	Revenue
Code	
Staffing Costs	TBC

<b>Legal Considerations</b>	
Input of Legal Services Required	<b>NO</b>
Legal Opinion Obtained	<b>NO</b>

<b>Screening Requirements</b>	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	Yes/No	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:

## **1.0 Purpose of Report**

**The purpose of this report is to update Council on the provision of the ‘Local Change Fund’ as part of the NI Executive’s Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Strategic Framework.**

## **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 The Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG) Strategic Framework was launched by the Executive in September 2024. It intends to bring together a whole of society and whole of government response to address this issue which impacts the lives of far too many women and girls across our society. The focus of this strategy is on prevention. This recognises that tackling the underlying causes of violence, abuse and harm towards women and girls and stopping it before it starts is vital.
- 2.2 The Strategy includes a first Delivery Plan (2024-26) and will support those organisations working to prevent and challenge the attitudes, behaviours and culture that can lead to violence against women and girls. It will deliver real change for those who suffer harm and abuse across our society every day.

## **3.0 Objective and Scope of Funds**

- 3.1 Strand 1 of the Change Fund will be delivered in partnership with all 11 local councils within Northern Ireland. Funding from the Executive Office (TEO) will enable each council to support community groups in their respective local government district. The Change Fund will help to mobilise grassroots action, support innovative delivery and maximise the impact of community-led initiatives contributing to the Prevention outcomes of the EVAWG Strategic Framework.
- 3.2 All projects supported by Strand 1 of the Change Fund must include a focus on Outcome 1 ‘Changed attitudes, behaviour and culture’ and specifically demonstrate how project proposals will increase awareness and understanding of what violence against women and girls is, including its root causes.
- 3.3 Initial guidance in relation to the grant scheme has been provided to councils, who will work with the Executive Office to agree proformas/grant processes to enable the launch of the Programme in the spring of 2025.
- 3.4 Councils will be provided with resources via a Letter of Offer to each local council which will issue in December. This will cover Momentum support for 2024/25 up to £50,000 and £105,000 for the 2025/26 allocation for the Change Fund (funding programme). With such a short lead in time, TEO have acknowledged that preparation and lead in time is necessary to launch local Change Funds and subsequent awards supporting delivery by local groups from April 2025 and onwards. This Momentum funding is for use by each local council to implement emergency responses it feels necessary to March 2025, including raising awareness and building on-the-ground momentum for the Local Change Fund with support ranging from, councils organising EVAWG events, awareness raising initiatives, and supporting relevant training for frontline staff and the community and voluntary sector.

## **4.0 Proposal**

- 4.1 Councils are required to submit a proposal in terms of how Momentum funding can realistically be utilised prior to the end of March 2025 that bests prepare local community organisations to make applications to the Fund for the 25/26 period.
- 4.2 Officers have submitted an outline of activities which can be delivered using the Momentum Funding resource of up to £50,000 per council which is to be utilised prior to the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025. Actions will include:
  - a) Mapping and gap analysis of violence against women and girls (VAWG) provision in general frontline services accessible both locally and regionally to help inform types

of service delivery most appropriate to the needs of women and girls within the Causeway Coast & Glens Borough.

- b) A review of best practice perpetrator prevention to help inform the most appropriate responses and inform a framework for local initiatives.
- c) Develop practical toolkits to promote best practice and encourage appropriate interventions for potential project promoters/delivery organisations considering applications to the 'Local Change Fund' within CC&G Borough.
- d) Deliver training and guidance to potential applicant groups utilising toolkits to better inform appropriate proposals for projects within the Change Fund.
- e) Provision of training and awareness raising to both Council staff
- f) Promotion campaign to launch the Fund and raise awareness, including roadshows /information events
- g) Preparation costs to implement the Funding programme.

## **5.0 Next Steps**

- 5.1 Officers will bring a report back in January 2025 with further details in relation to the Local Change Fund with the view to launching the programme following the provision of support and guidance as detailed above to support potential applicant groups.