

Title of Report:	Ending Violence Against Women and Girls – Local Change Fund (2026-2028)
Committee Report Submitted To:	Leisure & Development Committee
Date of Meeting:	17 February 2026
For Decision or For Information	For Information
To be discussed in Committee	NO

Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)	
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; Community Development Manager

Estimated Timescale for Completion	
Date to be Completed	31 st March 2028

Legal Considerations	
Input of Legal Services Required	YES/NO
Legal Opinion Obtained	YES/NO

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	N/A 100% external funding
Included in Current Year Estimates	n/a however in business plan
Capital/Revenue	Revenue
Code	1061
Staffing Costs	n/a

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	No	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	No	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	No	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	No	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	No	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	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 and the subsequent bid submitted as a result.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The Executive Office (TEO) has written to councils advising that it is developing the next Delivery Plan to support the *Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG) Strategic Framework*. This new delivery plan will cover the two-year period from April 2026 to March 2028.
- 2.2 Council have been in receipt of funding from TEO’s first delivery plan Programme from December 2024, with current activities and grants operational to the 31st March 2026. Further details are enclosed in **Annex A** of this report.
- 2.3 Subject to the necessary approvals and confirmation of budget availability, Ministers have indicated their intention to extend the EVAWG Local Change Fund for the duration of the new Delivery Plan.
- 2.4 Councils were therefore invited to submit a further bid to the Local Change Fund to support:
- 2.5 Momentum activities aimed at building local capacity, raising awareness and strengthening partnerships; and
- 2.6 The continued delivery of an associated Local Change Fund small grants programme up to March 2028.
- 2.7 As the Department’s final budget has not yet been agreed, Councils were requested to develop an Action Plan that is scalable, allowing it to be adjusted once the confirmed budget position is known.
- 2.8 In response, and in line with both TEO guidance and local needs identified through Council’s work to date, a funding submission has been prepared and submitted.

3.0 Programme Parameters

- 3.1 The core elements of the Local Change Fund will remain broadly consistent with the current programme. TEO has advised that future plans should include the following key components:
 - 3.1.1 Facilitating collaboration between expert organisations, Tier 3 grant recipients and local community groups to build confidence and capacity for local action.
 - 3.1.2 Delivering showcase and shared learning events for funded projects to raise awareness, demonstrate good practice and inform future departmental investment.
 - 3.1.3 Providing awareness raising and capacity building activities to support the 2026/27 call and future Local Change Fund rounds.
 - 3.1.4 Engaging local expert organisations to deliver EVAWG training for council staff, elected members and community workers.
 - 3.1.5 Supporting regional EVAWG awareness-raising campaigns.

4.0 Local Change Fund – Grant Programme Assumptions

The following planning assumptions have been applied to the proposed grant programme:

4.1 Overall Purpose

To equip community groups to contribute to the prevention of violence against women and girls.

4.2 **Period of Support**

Funding will enable Councils to make awards in both the 2026/27 and 2027/28 financial years, with a separate call for applications in each year. Multiyear funding may be considered for Tier 2 and Tier 3 projects, subject to positive interim evaluation.

4.3 **Eligible Applicants**

Constituted community and voluntary sector organisations that are legally able to operate in Northern Ireland and whose primary operations and/or beneficiaries are within the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council area.

4.4 **Strategic Focus**

Projects must contribute to the Prevention outcomes of the EVAWG Strategic Framework:

4.4.1 **Outcome 1 – Changed Attitudes, Behaviours and Culture**

Everyone understands violence against women and girls, including its root causes, and plays an active role in preventing it.

4.4.2 **Outcome 2 – Healthy, Respectful Relationships**

Everyone is equipped and empowered to enjoy healthy, respectful relationships.

4.4.3 **Outcome 3 – Women and Girls are Safe and Feel Safe Everywhere**

Prevention is embedded across organisations and institutions, so women and girls are safe and feel safe.

4.5 All projects must address **Outcome 1**, with the option to also contribute to Outcomes 2 and/or 3.

4.6 **Levels of Support**

Three funding tiers will be available:

- Tier 1: £1,000 – £5,000
- Tier 2: £5,001 – £15,000
- Tier 3: £15,001 – £25,000

Application requirements will be proportionate to the level of funding requested.

4.7 **Supported Activities**

Indicative activities include:

- Tier 1: Awareness-raising events or small-scale initiatives.
- Tier 2: Longer-term projects, educational courses or structured workshops.
- Tier 3: Significant programmes involving collaboration with, or mentoring of, other community organisations.

Funding will support programme costs, proportionate administration costs, and staffing directly related to delivery, where appropriate.

4.8 **Assessment and Monitoring**

Applications will be assessed against EVAWG prevention outcomes and Council-specific criteria. Monitoring and evaluation will be undertaken using an Outcomes-

Based Accountability (OBA) approach, with scorecards developed for each successful project.

5.0 **Council Submission**

5.1 In line with programme criteria and Council's needs assessment, a submission has been made for the following amounts:

- **£259,325 for 2026/27**
- **£262,707 for 2027/28**

5.2 **Capacity building, networking and awareness programme**

Activity	EVAWG Outcomes	Beneficiaries
EVAWG capacity building for organisations across the Borough	1, 2, 3	All residents
Corporate and high-level specialist training	1, 2, 3, 4	Elected Members, Council staff, key stakeholders
Borough-wide marketing campaigns (2 per year)	1, 2, 3	Residents and visitors
Networking, showcase and shared learning events	1, 2, 3	Statutory, community and voluntary sectors
Partnership development to reduce duplication and identify gaps	1, 2, 3	Internal and external partners
Improving accessibility for excluded or disadvantaged groups	1, 2, 3, 4	Targeted groups
Staffing and overheads (programme coordination, development support, grants admin etc)		
Total Programme Costs	1, 2, 3, 4	Programme delivery
2026/27: £84,325		
2027/28: £87,707		

5.3 **Local Change Fund – Indicative Grants Allocation**

2026/27

Tier	Approach	Allocation	Launch	Delivery
Tier 1 (£1k–£5k)	Increased support for underrepresented areas	£115,000	April 2026	June 2026
Tier 2 (£5k–£15k)	Build on existing initiatives	£40,000	April 2026	June 2026
Tier 3 (£15k–£25k)	Support best-practice larger projects	£25,000	April 2026	June 2026
Total		£180,000		

2027/28

Tier	Approach	Allocation	Launch	Delivery
Tier 1 (£1k–£5k)	Support additional underrepresented areas/groups	£115,000	April 2027	June 2027
Tier 2 (£5k–£15k)	Build on existing initiatives	£40,000	April 2027	June 2027
Tier 3 (£15k–£25k)	Support best-practice larger projects	£25,000	April 2027	June 2027
Total		£180,000		

5.4 Any amendments arising from application demand will be subject to prior agreement with TEO.

6.0 Recommendation

Council is asked to note the contents of this report and the funding submission made to The Executive Office in respect of the continuation of the EVAWG Local Change Fund to March 2028.

Annex A

The Executive Office Ending Violence Against Women & Girls

Delivery Outputs December 2024 – March 2026

Momentum Funding - £97,250

The following activities have been delivered through the Momentum Funding:

- Practical toolkit was developed to promote best practice and encourage appropriate interventions for potential project promoters
- Training and guidance was provided to potential applicant groups;
- Shared learning event for 9 project promoters linking with PSNI and Womens Aid
- Bystander training for Council staff;
- Partnership with Autism NI to deliver Healthy Relationship training for parents/ carers, community workers and teachers;
- Mapping & Gap Analysis of violence against women and girls provision in general frontline services accessible primarily at a local level.
- Messaging campaign on 20 Council bin lorries currently being installed
- Trauma informed creative arts programme delivered with 2 Childrens Homes;
- Creative art workshops in community group settings planned for the next few months.
- Creative messaging campaign to design and deliver a range of locally targeted messages, images and promotional materials in association with local stakeholders – currently being developed.
- This also included an allocation for grant administration for the Funding Unit and developmental support and co-ordination by the Community Development team.

Local Change Fund grants - £110,925

Initially £89,849 was awarded in grants to 9 local organisations to 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.

An additional £21,076 was released from The Executive Office to fully fund the 9 projects, which were initially reduced due to the fund being oversubscribed.

The organisations that received funding were:

Big Telly Theatre Company
Destined Feeny
Dry Arch Family Centre
Feeny Community Association
Limavady Hens Shed
Magilligan Community Association
Roe Valley Residents Association
Zachary Geddis Trust
Zanshin NI