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## **£15 million funding for year two of the Adult Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund 2022/23**

In February this year I wrote to inform you that in the light of the overwhelming response to the £15 million Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund for adults, launched in October 2021, I would be providing an additional £6 million funding in 2021/22. This meant a total of £21 million was made available in 2021/22. I am pleased to inform you that I will be announcing a further £15 million funding for a second year of the Fund for 2022/23.

The Fund supports grass roots community groups in tackling social isolation, loneliness and mental health inequalities made worse by the pandemic. A wide range of community mental health projects have been funded in 2021/22, including projects focused on sport and exercise, nature, social spaces, art, and therapeutic approaches, with a strong emphasis on the key themes of prevention and early intervention. End of year reports are currently being processed and will be considered by the Fund's National Oversight Group in order to help inform guidance for year two of the Fund.

Year two funding will make a big difference to communities across Scotland, enabling them to build on the examples of good practice supported so far and providing them with further opportunities to re-connect, revitalise and promote good mental health and early intervention for those in distress.

I would be grateful if you could bring the additional £15 million funding to the attention of the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee.



Yours sincerely,

**KEVIN STEWART**

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