

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund Case Study: Clackmannanshire TSI

Introduction

Partners from across Clackmannanshire have worked closely together and used a collaborative approach to developing activities that align with the objectives, outcomes and outputs of the UK Government Shared Prosperity Fund. This collaborative approach started with the successful application to the Community Renewal Fund in 2021 for a Pre-employability in Clackmannanshire (PEC) project which was a consortium of third sector organisations lead by Clackmannanshire Third Sector Interface (CTSI) who had identified a need to tackle the health and wellbeing issues faced by economically inactive people locally who needed a different approach than was currently always provided.

Implementing UKSPF

When the Shared Prosperity Fund started in 2022, the existing ESF funded programme, based within the Council, Clacks Works was already working with PEC and this in turn has developed into a new combined service, Positive Moves, now operated by one of the consortium lead partners, the charity Clackmannanshire Economic Regeneration Trust (CERT) in partnership with the Council service, meeting the needs of all those who are out of work.

With this relationship now established, CERT was in an ideal position to integrate the Multiply programme along with literacy training and other early intervention lifeskills training offers to help the economically inactive cohort. This has been done through a wide range of different ways but most successfully is a 121 approach, with Key Worker support which leads on to other training provision.

I would recommend the Clackmannanshire model of involvement and collaboration to be used in other Local authority areas.

CTSI Chief Officer

Alongside this, businesses have been supported by another leading social enterprise, Ceteris who already deliver the local Business Gateway contract and are landlords for around 150 businesses in the area.

They were able to develop a new range of business training options that complemented their existing services and include an Unlocking Potential programme, expert help and a women's focused training programme – all identified need through our wider Local Outcome Improvement Plan. The decisions around this were again taken by a steering group made up of business, university and CTSI leads. In addition, some supporting business funding went to the not-for-profit, BID, Alloa First to attract in more people to the town centre with series of summer events and to the Forth Valley Social Enterprise Network to operate and expand their online directory.

The Council has also employed a business advisor who has helped support third sector groups prepare applications or has requested more information, to strengthen applications being put forward. This has helped with the distribution of the last section of funding, the capital funding.

The capital fund has been offered to the community and business community and again a steering panel was formed with leads from the college, council, business community and CTSI and that has focused on place and tourism. Seven community groups have received funding of £87K.

Conclusion

At every stage, CTSI has been involved in the steering groups and the third sector have received over half of the funds to deliver impact projects that involve and are shaped by need and reflect communities choice and are together meeting all the key outcomes of the UKSPF.

This case study is part of a wider set of research on the UKSPF. For more information see <https://tsi.scot/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-ukspf-tsi-experiences-of-engagement-nov-23/>