

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund Case Study: Midlothian TSI

Introduction

The outcomes of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund fitted well with activities in Midlothian, and there were a number of identified gaps where it was obvious that UKSPF would be a good fit. There is a history of strong collaborative work in Midlothian between the third sector and statutory partners which meant the area was well placed to draft an Investment Plan that met everyone's needs.



Implementing UKSPF

The TSI in Midlothian was heavily involved in the development of the Investment Plan, with the TSI writing the first draft of the Communities and Place theme, and the Council writing the other two.

Timescales were very tight for consultation on the Plan, but despite this the third sector was involved as follows:

- An online event was held so the third sector could comment on the key priorities for the local area that were to be submitted as part of Midlothian's Investment Plan.
- The Plan was discussed at Local Employability Partnership on multiple occasions. The LEP has a strong showing of third sector

Strong third sector involvement in local community planning meant we were able to use these structures to collaborate on the Investment Plan.

Midlothian TSI Chief Officer

organisations.

- A Midlothian Federation of Community Councils meeting was attended to talk about the Plan.
- There was an update on the relevant strands at the Midlothian Third Sector Children's Services Network and the Midlothian Financial Inclusion Network meeting and feedback was sought.
- Access to Industry consulted their clients on the proposed Plan, allowing the voice of people with experience of employability services to be heard.
- The TSI third sector briefing included updates on the Plan which was circulated weekly to over 600 individuals and organisations.

The TSI was involved in drafting guidance and application forms for a grants round of UKSPF funding. They hosted a August event outlining how the third sector could apply for funding. Finally, the TSI were part of the Grants Panel which allocated the funding.

Conclusion

The timescales for consulting on the plan were tight, but due to the existing strong community planning partnership structures Midlothian Council and the TSI were able to ensure that the third sector were able to shape the development of the Plan, and benefit from UKSPF funding.



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/>