

Lossie 2-3 Group

Background: The Lossie 2-3 Group is a community charity founded over 10 years ago, registered as SCIO in 2019. The board members have a wide range of relevant experience to carry out this project. The services provided is in very limited space availability at the local community centre & so far included affordable childcare provision for low in-come families (5 x 2 hours sessions for 10 to 12 children), additional support with parenting skills, assistance with children with special needs, mentoring of volunteers/parents with low confidence, signposting and referrals to other agencies etc.

The organisation regularly engages with parents and volunteers and seek their views on service delivery & collaboration with the families they support to create their vision for a local community hub.

What this project will actually deliver

The proposal is to renovate a permanently closed Warehouse Theatre building in Lossiemouth (25 year lease & planning permission in place). On completion of the capital works it will create a community hub with a wraparound service for the most disadvantaged people in Lossiemouth in four main areas of work. It includes

- **Childcare** - all day new affordable childcare provision, nursey provision for 15 children, expanding to include before and after school care for up to 15 years old (up to 20 children). It is planned to also expand to affordable Holiday provision.
- **Parenting** – support for parenting skills including baby classes for 300 families / individuals per year.
- **Mental health & Isolation** - access to services including addiction, counselling services, literacies help and additional support.
- **Income & Hardship** - consumer advice, energy costs, debt & money advice, pantry model for estimated 750 beneficiaries.

Brief outline of why this project is being undertaken and how it has evolved & demonstration of how the project is part of wider regeneration ambitions and supports the 'Place Principle'- Various consultations have been carried out with parents, volunteers and the community at large. It includes the 2021 Lossiemouth Community Development Trust's new 5 Year Plan designed in collaboration with Moray Council, local groups including the Lossie 2-3 Group, the Lossiemouth Community Council and the Lossiemouth Business Association. The findings from the survey concluded that health & wellbeing support was a top priority for the community of Lossiemouth with all highlighting the fact that there is little provision for nursery spaces, parental support, group facilities & out of school provision.

Timescales, objectives, target groups, geographical coverage, partnership, community involvement.

If the RCGF application is successful, work would commence in April 2023 & completed no later than financial year 2023/ 2024. It would enable the organisation with its partnership such as Moray Food Bank, Lossiemouth Community Council, Moray School bank, TSI Moray, MC youth Workers, Local NHS bodies, Re-volution for good to create a community hub with a comprehensive service for the most disadvantaged people in Lossiemouth.

Economic, social and physical regeneration outcomes.

A derelict empty building will be brought back into use. The organisations frontline COVID work unearthed previously unknown /new cases of financial hardship, social isolation, mental/physical health struggles, addiction and domestic abuse, across all ages amongst individuals, couples & families. This work re-affirmed the need for a health & wellbeing Hub. In addition, many struggle to afford to travel to the main sources of support in Elgin or even further afield. The new childcare provision will enable more parents to seek employment and the organisations members of staff will increase from 2 to 10.

Any other financial contributions and the potential for wider regional impact

£50,000 Match Funding from the Beatrice wind farm fund towards the total indicative project cost of £350,000 is in place. If this proposal is successful, it is anticipated that it can be replicated in other areas.

Demonstration of how this project will benefit disadvantaged communities.

It is estimated that Lossiemouth & surrounding area has 17.6% of children living in poverty. Relative Poverty in Moray is increasing and this will only be exacerbated by the COVID Pandemic. One area of Lossiemouth is in the 10% most deprived areas of Scotland for Educational Attainment (SIMD).

Demonstrate consideration and contribution towards achieving the target of net-zero carbon emissions by 2045.

For the renovation of the building 'repair over replace' approach will be taken to current infrastructure where possible, helping to conserve embodied energy and reduce resources. Careful selection of robust & durable natural materials and where practical, use of recycled materials will be specified and sourced locally to support local businesses and reduce the carbon footprint from supply transport.