**CashBack for Communities funding information webinar:**Shortened auto-generated transcript

 **Sam Linton** 0:00
Good morning and welcome to the second of three information webinars covering the launch of Phase 7 of the CashBack for Communities programme.
My name is Sam Linton and I'm a fund manager at Inspiring Scotland.
Along with my colleagues Ben Thompson and Tommy Seymour, we are the delivery partner supporting Scottish Government in managing the CashBack for Communities programme.
I also want to introduce from the Safer Communities team within Scottish Government's Justice Directorate, Graham Dodds, who we will be hearing from today.
The session is being recorded and may be shared online for others to view who could not attend live as well as you should you wish to revisit for further information.
The session is going to last an hour.
The first half will involve 2 presentations.
Firstly, Scottish Government will cover the programme strategic overview and changes to the current phase of CashBack. Then my colleague Tommy Seymour will provide detail behind the application process and time scales.
Please hold your questions until after the presentations during the Q&A, which will follow but do feel free.

 **Watt Neil@Educ & Comm** 1:21
OK.

 **Sam Linton** 1:23
To input to the chat as we go.
We'll try to take some of these questions in the Q&A and when we reach the Q&A stage, we'll ask you to use the hands up function if you are able.
As we're recording, we would also ask you to keep your microphone muted through the duration of the webinar, unless you're asking a question. Also, can I ask you to disable any AI note takers please?
We had issues with this yesterday and it blocks the chat so it makes it difficult for us to see the
questions that are coming through.
So if you could block any AI note taker facility that you have.
So without further ado, I'll pass you over to our Scottish Government colleague Graham Dodds for the Phase 7 strategic overview.

 **Graham Dodds** 2:16
Thanks Sam.
Just want to move to the first slide.
On the 6th of May, the First Minister John Swinney announced that another phase of the CashBack for Communities programme would be included in the upcoming Programme for Government.
This marks the seventh phase of the programme, which will run from April 2026 to March 2029.
Phase 7 will have an increase in funding of up to £26,000,000 over the three-year period.
Next slide please.
For the members on today's call are not familiar with the programme.
The CashBack for Communities programme is a Scottish Government early intervention programme aimed at young people between the ages of 10 and 25.
The programme has been delivered in three-year funding cycles since it commenced in 2008.
The activities within the programme are designed to support young people to make informed decisions about their future and offer opportunities to move into employment, education or volunteering, however
the programme is not limited to positive destinations.
Current CashBack delivery partners provide a spectrum of interventions for young people which promote safe spaces, trusted adults and a range of positive diversity and support activity.
Phase 6 of the programme included 29 partners working across Scotland and it is due to conclude in March 2026.
So how did we get here? To support us to develop how CashBack Phase 7 will operate and to provide sound governance of the programme, the Scottish Government team put in place an Advisory Board back in August 2024.
The Advisory Board included key internal stakeholders from across different governmental policy areas, which included youth, justice, child poverty and the whole family well-being fund.
Fund external stakeholders included Young Scot, YMCA and COSLA.
The board was chaired by our Deputy Director for Safe Communities
Mo Rooney.
We wanted to ensure that while CashBack for Communities programme is not here to solve all the issues facing young people, the programme supports established governmental programs such as the Vision for Justice. As a prevention programme, CashBack contributes to the public sector reform agenda and we
have been building these cross-government links over the last 12 months.
We undertook stakeholder consultation, exercise, commissioned research from CYCJ Children and Young People Centre for Justice.
We considered the views of children and young people and engage with Bean Research, our Phase 6 evaluation partner.
CashBack is unique.

 **Ben Thompson** 4:53
Graham, can I? Sorry. Can I just interrupt one sec. We've had the same issue that we had yesterday where there's one person sitting in the chat that they can't hear anything.

 **Graham Dodds** 4:56
Yes.

 **Ben Thompson** 5:02
This happened yesterday, but it just turned out to be just them.
So if you can't hear Graham speaking at the moment, can we suggest that you leave the meeting and rejoin?
Because that solved the problem for those yesterday who couldn't hear.
Hopefully that works.
Sorry, Graham, sorry to interrupt and please continue. Thanks.

 **Graham Dodds** 5:20
Yeah, no worries.
So CashBack is unique within the Scottish Government. The programme is fully funded from the proceeds of crime and not from core governmental budgets. We have taken time to understand how income from the proceeds of crime has changed over the last five years and reflected on what might
happen between 2026 and 2029. The income fluctuation year to year depending on the type of court cases and the length of time recoveries take. So future funding is not guaranteed. We also look at the wider financial environment and reflected on
how costs are changing for the third sector partners.
And parallel with programme build we have also been looking at our processes to make sure they are fit for purpose and look as slick as possible.
The work is ongoing and Ben will reference some of these changes when we come to the application progress. Next slide please.
So what will be different about Phase 7?
Phase 7 will be closely aligned with the Scottish Government justice priorities.
It's been a long time since there was an in depth review of CashBack.
It was important for us to undertake this review now, as it helps define and secure CashBack's long term future.
The programme is one of the biggest financial commitments across the justice portfolio, so it's important that it links and contributes to strategic aims.
Over time, new Scottish Government strategies have been lost and we want to ensure CashBack
does not duplicate policy work or funding.
To support this, the fund will be split into three separate strands to reflect the public health approach.
Many justice initiatives are aligning with public health approaches, so it's right that CashBack follow suit. Creating three strands creates a fairer experience for applicants, as we will be comparing similar types of interventions in each strand. On the next slide I will give some examples of the different strands.
Next slide please.
How CashBack approaches funding in local communities has been an issue for a long time.
We have taken a lot of guidance on what matters and how we can put Community back into the CashBack for Communities programme. The research provided by CYCJ highlighted the want of young people to have a stake within their communities and as such local organisations can play a
key role in making this connection. For the first time, Phase 7 will have a stranded funds local community organisations
at a similar level to other large funders.
We hope this will increase our reach and diversity.
Next slide please.
Sorry if you just go back once.
The attached slide shows the definitions of public health tiers we will be using for Phase 7. The fund will be divided into 3 strands with the Universal Stream being split between national and local providers.
The aim is to ensure we compare apples and apples, which should provide a more equitable application and decision making process for all potential applicants.
Examples across the three tiers include Specialist, where we would expect to work with the most vulnerable children and young people, for example, projects that would deal with child criminal exploitation.
We also have Targeted. Phase 6 saw CashBack expand into more intense work with children and families and young people who are in conflict with the law already. Here, we expect to see more intense interventions with children and young people and this may involve an element of family
support or one-to-one work.
And then finally, we have Universal. We expect to see Universal diversionary work such as sport, youth work or arts. Phase 7 will fund more local organisations who can work with and for young people to address local priorities.
There will be a greater emphasis on strategic interventions, for example, funding in cold spots or where there are specific issues that need additional resource.
As a result, we expect to fund fewer national delivery partners.
This restriction only applies in the Universal strand.
And then Targeted and Specialist strands, we will expect to see a mix of national and local partners and will fund the most impactful work.
Next slide please.
The CashBack logic model provides a brief visual that highlights the relationship between the programme's resources, activities, outputs, and desired outcomes to help implement and evaluate the programme's effectiveness.
The outcomes of the programme are important to note, as applicants will select 2 of the 4 outcomes to deliver if successful.
This is to enable flexibility across the portfolio while ensuring that all partners across the different strands are working towards the overarching aims of the program, which is to strengthen communities by supporting
young people aged 10 to 25 who may be at risk of becoming involved in antisocial behaviour, offending or reoffending. Outcomes will form part of the evaluation process with partners and discussions will be had during the onboard process for successful applicants as to how they can collect relevant
data which supports success of delivery. I will now hand you back over to Tommy for the rest of the presentation.

 **Tommy Seymour** 10:33
Thank you very much, Graham.
I'm Tommy Seymour, one of the Fund Managers here at Inspiring Scotland.
Inspiring Scotland is a charity whose vision is for Scotland, where everyone lives a happy and healthy life, free from poverty or disadvantage.
We are delighted to support CashBack for Communities as Fund Managers on behalf of the Scottish Government. We've done this for the last 13 years since Phase 2 of the programme.
The core Inspiring Scotland CashBack team is made-up of three Fund Managers, Ben, Sam and myself, along with communications support. We also have support from Erica Judge, the Director of Funds covering CashBack for Communities and our IT colleagues who are on hand to support with the application
process and any technical issues or queries that come in.
We work as a critical friend to CashBack partners, supporting them to deliver to their grant conditions.
And we're really passionate about the great work of CashBack and take every opportunity we can to be ambassadors of the programme and the partner organisations.
For the launch of Phase 7, we will keep potential applicants up to date with all the information, resources and timings they need to assess their appropriateness and apply to the programme.
We will update the CashBack for Communities website and socials with all this information. Along with these information webinars
we've drafted a guidance pack to support the application process.
Questions and answers from the information webinars will be added to the frequently asked questions document on our website, along with enquiries that we receive directly. So once you've attended one of the three information webinars and review the guidance pack and any FAQ's, we hope you'll have a
really clear picture of your organisation's suitability to Phase 7.
You can then start to consider your application in more detail.
Should you have any further queries or challenges, the Inspiring Scotland team will be happy to support as best as we can.
As I mentioned in the previous slides, Inspiring Scotland's general support will continue beyond the webinars through to the live application period.
You can e-mail CBEnquiries@InspiringScotland.org.uk with any specific questions you may have around the application process or to arrange a follow-up conversation.
We will continue to update the FAQ's hosted on the website, so please check there in the first instance as we may have already posted
an answer to your potential question.
Please plan to have your application form fully drafted ahead of the 31st of July as from that point will be unable to respond to any queries. You can still get Technical Support around uploading your online application which will be available through Enquiries@InspiringScotland.org.uk
For the remaining week of the application process.
Application period. Sorry.
On the next slide, you can find all of the resources mentioned on screen at CashBackforCommunities.org/funding
So hopefully you've had a chance to review, at least in part, the guidance pack which we issued on the 22nd of May. This is your guiding document for the application process and will aid in your understanding of Phase 7 criteria.
As well as assessing your eligibility and drafting your application response.
We suggest that you use this pre-application period to review and consider the resources shared and importantly to assess your suitability and eligibility to the program.
CashBack for Communities is a long-standing multi-year program and is likely to be competitive and oversubscribed.
The logic model which Graham mentioned and the accompanying accessible version should be close at hand during the application process. It details what CashBack for Communities Phase 7 will do;
the programme outcomes, the needs, resources and activities which make up the phase; the cohort of participants and policy areas which CashBack for Communities
Phase 7 will support.
It's a useful resource to extract the key information from the guidance pack when considering potential project design.
And engaging with child and young participants.
I've mentioned our regularly updated FAQ's which will be hosted on the website link above.
This is one of three webinars and delivery for Scottish Government and Inspiring Scotland is scripted. That's to ensure consistency, meaning there's no need to attend the other information webinars. In addition to this one, we'll share the recording and the transcript on the CashBack website.
Q&A, of course will be different at each webinar and we will include questions and answers raised in the FAQ's document.
We may not be able to answer all questions live, so this is where we'll publish those offline.

We are running a two-stage application process.
This is to ensure suitability, eligibility and to minimise resource allocated to unsuccessful applications.
All of the declaration points, along with questions in the application form, are included in the guidance pack, which is currently available once reviewed. If you're confident that your project is appropriate for CashBack, a link to the online declaration will be made available on the website on Thursday
the 12th June.
You'll be held to account for this declaration and checks will be made ahead of any grants being offered to successful applicants.
A link will be emailed to the full online application form.
This will come to the contact
details provided once they have positively acknowledged the declaration and submitted it.
You'll be able to access the link to the budget template through the online application form, and once your final application form is submitted, you'll be sent e-mail confirmation of the application which we've received.
Although you are able to save your progress on the application form and return to it later, we suggest that you draft your response in a word processing program and then paste your answers into the online application form ahead of submitting it.
OK.
So now we're going to jump over to screen share to let you view the online forms that I've mentioned so far.
So firstly we have the declaration, the points you're positively acknowledging here are all included in that guidance pack I mentioned.
So there should be no surprises. And as noted on the first line, all need to be confirmed for you to be potentially successful in receiving funding for Phase 7.
With both forms, all relevant guidance is included in the guidance pack.
The online forms are really the last stages in the process as we ask that you review the guidance pack in detail to ensure your suitability.
You'll see within the governance section that there are a number of exclusions which we wanted to highlight upfront. So the following are not eligible to apply to be a CashBack partner, that includes: sole traders, unincorporated organisations, local authorities or local authority arm's length companies, educational establishments
that receive statutory funding so that includes universities, schools and colleges.
Also, prison service or statutory secure estate.
Health boards and NHS facilities, research organisations and Scottish Government agencies.
CashBack for Communities funding cannot be used in place of statutory funding, so residential care organisations will also usually not be eligible.
It's also worth noting that only one declaration and the latter application form can be uploaded per organisation. That includes if you're applying in partnership with other organisations.
And lastly, to reiterate that this declaration and eligibility checks will be confirmed and evidenced ahead of any grant offer being made. So once you complete all the fields and click submit, you'll receive a link via e-mail to the online application form.

 **Debs Allan** 18:52
Fine, fine, fine, fine.

 **Tommy Seymour** 19:04
So secondly the application form.
You'll spot the save my progress and resume later function at the top as well as the resume a previously saved form link, so clicking on that former will request some credentials as shown, and clicking the latter will take you away from the blank form to a login page.
To enter the credentials we just saw there.
Again, there should be no surprises as the online form mirrors what is detailed in the guidance pack.
Graham described Phase 7's public health approach and the four strands of project types, as well as the two of four CashBack outcomes your project will select. As such, there are dependency questions within the online form.
Which means if you select a certain strand or outcome that will determine which additional questions are visible to you.
These dependencies are listed in the guidance pack, so don't panic if you load up the application form and seem to be missing certain questions.
Just select your proposed strand and outcomes and your full form will be visible.
Thirdly, we have the budget template.
You can download this from the hyperlink in question 31 of the application form.
This is formatted in the style to be included in potential Grant offers and we ask that you complete it in pounds, so rounding to avoid including pennies.
There is detailed finance information in the guidance pack as well as the exclusions, so please review that carefully.
We have also built a validation checker into the template, so please make sure your completed budget template is displaying 5 green passes.
To ensure eligibility criteria is met.
While the form shows annual budget limits, the grant limits like 10% capital expenditure and 10% management and marketing expenditure, for example.
These apply to your three-year totals, not your annual.
Once you've completed and saved your budget template, you can then upload through the choose file button also on question 31 of the application form.
So lastly, when you're ready to upload your final application, please acknowledge the statement of Acceptance, complete the authorised person details, checking against the guidance, detail any confidentiality considerations. But please note the Scottish Government's limitations regarding statutory obligations and review the privacy notes and the opt-in checkbox
regarding future opportunities.
So hopefully all being well, you can now press submit.
Which prompts a confirmation and copy of your final application being emailed to you.
Should you have any technical issues at this point or any stage you can press the contact information link at the bottom of the page to be reminded of the Enquiries@InspiringScotland.org.uk support e-mail.
OK.
So that wraps up the presentation element and the run through of the online forms. I'm now going to hand over to my colleague Ben Thompson to take us into the Q&A.

stopped transcription