

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL REPORT

To: POLICY & RESOURCES (FINANCE & CUSTOMER SERVICE)	Subject: SCOTTISH WELFARE FUND FIRST THREE QUARTERS OF 2016/17 PERFORMANCE REPORT
From: HEAD OF REVENUE & E-GOVERNMENT SOLUTIONS	
Date: 03/02/2017	Ref: BC/SD

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to:
- Provide an update on Scottish Welfare Fund performance for the third quarter of 2016/17
 - Provide an update on the budget, spend and priority level of the fund

2. Background

- 2.1 SWF is now governed by the Welfare Funds (Scotland) Act, The Welfare Funds (Scotland) Regulations and The Scottish Welfare Fund Statutory Guidance. The Scottish Welfare Fund (SWF) delivers Community Care Grants and Crisis Grants

3. Scottish Welfare Fund Performance – Quarters 1-3 2016/17

- 3.1 The performance for the first three quarters of **2016/17** for Crisis Grants and Community Care Grants are outlined in table 1 below;

table 1

Period	CCG		Crisis		Total	Total	Total
	Awards	Refusals	Awards	Refusals	Awards	Refusals	Decisions
Apr-16	294	99	1,041	455	1,335	554	1,889
May-16	316	108	1,115	401	1,431	509	1,940
Jun-16	242	136	1,094	486	1,336	622	1,958
July-16	361	239	986	456	1,347	695	2,042
Aug-16	244	153	1,098	618	1,342	771	2,113
Sept-16	346	211	999	539	1,345	750	2,095
Oct - 16	292	159	787	504	1,079	663	1,742
Nov - 16	284	158	958	456	1,242	614	1,856
Dec - 16	189	139	819	420	1,008	559	1,567
Totals	2,568	1,402	8,897	4,335	11,465	5,737	17,202

- 3.2 For comparison, the first three quarters performance of **2015/16** is outlined in table 2 below;

table 2

Period	CCG		Crisis		Total	Total	Total
	Awards	Refusals	Awards	Refusals	Awards	Refusals	Decisions
Apr-15	256	194	931	514	1,187	708	1,895
May-15	290	183	886	381	1,176	564	1,740

Jun-15	231	135	1,032	455	1,263	590	1,853
July-15	264	144	970	442	1,234	586	1,820
Aug-15	301	145	964	398	1,265	543	1,808
Sept-15	366	81	913	453	1,279	534	1,813
Oct - 15	245	123	933	366	1,178	489	1,667
Nov - 15	222	153	962	371	1,184	524	1,708
Dec - 15	197	103	903	405	1,100	508	1,608
Totals	2,372	1,261	8,494	3,785	10,866	5,046	15,912

- 3.3 The total number of applications to the fund is up 8% in the first three quarters of 2016 compared to the same period in 2015.
- 3.4 Community Care Grant award rates had been impacted by both budget and demand, leading to a fall in award rate of 10% in the second quarter of 2016/17 to 61% compared to 71% in the first Quarter of 2016/17. This has risen slightly to 62% in quarter three.
- 3.5 The rate of award for Crisis Grants has fallen by 5% in the second quarter of 2016/17 to 66% compared to 71% for the first quarter of 2016/17 this figure has risen again in quarter three back to 71%.
- 3.6 All Crisis applications were adjudicated within 24 hours of receipt with 98% of those applications adjudicated within 4 hours.

4. Budget, Spend and Priority Setting of the Fund

- 4.1 The SWF has an annual budget of £2.9m of which the pro-rata for the first three quarters would be £2.173m as shown in the table below.
- 4.2 A spend analysis of the first half of the year is shown in table 3.

table 3

Month	Monthly budget CCGs	Monthly Budget Crisis	Total Monthly Budget	CCG Spend	Crisis Spend	Total Spend	% of monthly budget
Apr-16	£173,812	£67,594	£241,406	£208,788	£77,790	£286,578	119%
May-16	£173,812	£67,594	£241,406	£220,804	£84,331	£305,135	126%
Jun-16	£173,812	£67,594	£241,406	£168,432	£81,673	£250,105	104%
July-16	£173,812	£67,594	£241,406	£268,703	£77,797	£346,500	143%
Aug-16	£173,812	£67,594	£241,406	£189,777	£88,280	£278,057	115%
Sept-16	£173,812	£67,594	£241,406	£224,028	£75,559	£299,587	124%
Oct-16	£173,812	£67,594	£241,406	£201,884	£54,609	£256,493	106%
Nov-16	£173,812	£67,594	£241,406	£177,135	£69,187	£246,322	102%
Dec-16	£173,812	£67,594	£241,406	£120,391	£58,886	£179,277	74%
Spend to date			£2,172,654			£2,488,054	115%

- 4.3 Crisis Grant spending is reflective of need within the local authority area.
- 4.4 Community Care Grant is also reflective of need within the local authority area and is subject to additional financial pressure outlined in section 5 below.

- 4.5 The priority setting of the fund remains at 'HIGH' and is restricted to the most compelling cases. Over the next three months the support to Crisis Grants will continue to be met, within the Community Care Grant the priority for the SWF will be managed to provide awards within the remaining budget resources.

5. Spend with North Lanarkshire Industries (NLI)

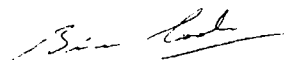
- 5.1 As part of the support given to applicants the SWF engages with NLI, a social enterprise company, for the provision of goods including sofas and bed bases.
- 5.2 Table 4 shows the NLI subsidy for the current financial year (2016/17) to date inherent in the cost in comparison to the national contacts available.

table 4

Month	CCG Spend	North Lanarkshire Industries Spend	North Lanarkshire Industries Subsidy
Apr-16	£208,788	£37,476.94	£15,039.25
May-16	£220,804	£79,323.85	£28,966.97
Jun-16	£168,432	£49,199.73	£16,233.14
Jul-16	£268,703	£51,024.66	£16,866.86
Aug-16	£189,777	£49,905.84	£19,451.39
Sep-16	£224,028	£46,186.43	£18,379.37
Oct-16	£201,884	£54,902.99	£17,945.87
Nov-16	£177,135	£48,172.82	£15,267.38
Dec-16	£120,391	£33,904.27	£17,741.44
Year to date	£1,280,532	£313,117	£165,892
Additional cost of curtain track charged by NLI which took effect from August 2016 onwards. This will be a recurring additional cost.			£1,367
Subsidy to North Lanarkshire Industries (YTD)			£167,259

6. Recommendations

- 6.1 It is recommended that committee:-
- Note the report



Head of Revenue & E-Government Solutions