**THE NATIONAL LOTTERY COMMUNITY FUND**

**UK FUNDING COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Tuesday 1st June 2021 10:00 – 12:00**

**Online via Teams**

**MINUTES**

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| **PRESENT:** |  |
| Blondel Cluff  Aaliya Seyal  Eileen Mullan  Sian Callaghan | Chair  Scotland Committee Member  Northern Ireland Committee Member  Wales Committee Member |
| **IN ATTENDANCE:** |  |
| John Rose  Cassie Robinson  Emma Ackerman  John Knights  Hannah Paterson  Helena Wilkinson  Catherine Roberts  Dominic Newlyn | Interim Chief Executive Officer  Deputy Director, Funding Strategy  Funding Strategy Director  Senior Portfolio Manager  Senior Portfolio Manager  Portfolio Manager (Item 8)  Head of Governance (Minutes)  Governance Officer (Minutes) |
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1. **CHAIR'S WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**
   1. The Committee welcomed Blondel Cluff as the new Chair, as was conventional for the Chair of the Board. Following a rotation policy of Board members across key roles at the Fund, Tony Burton and Elizabeth Passey had stepped down from the Committee, and Board member Danielle Walker-Palmour had been appointed as a Committee Member.
   2. The Chair gave a brief introduction and welcomed all members and attendees, underlining the importance of having visibility of UK-wide issues at a Board level.
2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** 
   1. Apologies were received from Danielle Walker-Palmour and Kevin Bone.
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** 
   1. There were none.
4. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – UKFC(21)M01**
   1. The Minutes were approved as seen.
   2. It was confirmed with the Chair and Committee members that all recommended decisions from the previous meetings had since been ratified.
5. **ACTIONS ARISING**
   1. The Committee noted the two actions closed from the last meeting. There were no open actions.
6. **UK PORTFOLIO DISCUSSION**
   1. The Committee were provided with a detailed overview and history of the portfolio, discussing the following key points;

***Bringing the UK Together***

* 1. The Committee discussed the extent to which the portfolio represented and brought together the four countries. In terms of decision-making processes, the UK Panel and UK Committee had representation from all four nations. In addition, in terms of funding distribution it was noted that data suggests funding is well proportioned across the UK.
  2. The Committee discussed the portfolio’s current approach to fund projects under the criteria that they covered more than one nation, rather than requiring coverage across all four nations. Previously the team had focused on funding projects that were pan-UK, however this often skewed the approach and theme of applications, to the detriment of the quality and diversity of the portfolio. The current practice had been a pragmatic solution to this
  3. The Committee agreed that more emphasis should be put on applicants to develop ideas and identify partnerships that would provide a pan-UK approach, rather than leaving the extrapolation of ideas to the UK portfolio team only.
  4. The Committee noted the increasing emergence of digital projects, where impact and beneficiaries were not limited to distinct geographies. The digital reach would be considered when discussing the reach and impact of the portfolio.

***Value Added by the UK Portfolio***

* 1. The Committee focused on how the UK Portfolio could better add value and promote cohesion across the UK. Thematic work such as social prescribing illustrated the key role the UK team can play in aligning and connecting approaches across the UK, sharing learning and experiences across communities.
  2. The portfolio was in a unique and fortunate position to have visibility of common themes and issues on the horizon for the whole of the UK, and can identify these for the wider Fund and sector.
  3. The Committee noted the portfolio’s continued focus on innovation and developing policy to shape grant-making across the Fund. A key part of this was the development of an innovation lab, through which the practise and expertise within the team helped shape policy making in all of the countries.

1. **UK PORTFOLIO UPDATE**
   1. The Committee noted the update. The team were focusing on building the pipeline for Growing Great Ideas and Bringing People Together, whilst refining the messaging to applicants and ensuring these programmes were reaching the right groups and communities.
   2. A brief financial update was provided. It was noted that the budget was there to award the proposal later in the meeting should the Committee deem fit. There may be an impact on cashflow and some budget would potentially need to be pulled forward.
   3. The Committee noted the activity around horizon scanning, civil society, shared sector infrastructure, and the corporate partnerships including the commencement of the partnership with IKEA.
   4. The Committee discussed the notion the that a high number of Growing Great Ideas applications were not meeting the standards set by the Fund, and whether this could be addressed. It was noted that Cassie Robinson and the team were considering a webinar for potential applicants, to support them prior to drafting their applications.
   5. In addition, the programme wording and its interpretation across different countries and communities was being reviewed. It was noted that this was a delicate process, as the wording needed to reflect the need and expectation for new ideas rather than prompting familiar ideas.
   6. The Committee requested an updated visual of the portfolio activity.

**ACTION: Cassie Robinson**

1. **UK FUNDING DECISIONS**

**Bogside and Brandywell Health Forum**

* 1. The Committee received the proposal for continuation of funding for Bogside and Brandywell SPRING, covering years 4 and 5 of the project.
  2. The Committee noted the success and impact of the social prescribing project so far, with key improvements reported such as increases in personal health and reductions in GP appointments. The Committee noted that the primary audience for this project had been NI & Scotland, and was designed to pioneer a social prescribing model with a strong preventative focus. This had been the catalyst for a significant piece of work from the Knowledge and Learning team on social prescribing.
  3. There was a slight challenge associated with the working relationship with BBHF and a staff conduct issue. The Committee noted the organisation had been open and transparent regarding this, and the risks had been adequately mitigated; the project had continued to operate as expected, and should anything further develop then staff would be replaced without implications on operational capacity.
  4. The Committee discussed the sustainability of the project and the Fund’s involvement moving forwards. It was noted that the project had always been a test and learn model, and based on the learnings so far some areas of SPRING funding would not be supported beyond the five year model. The Committee recognised this, encouraging the team to ensure that everything was done to strengthen those in less favourable positions before the funding came to an end.
  5. The Committee noted the work of the project and the strong relationships formed with key stakeholders, particularly the NHS. Members underlined the importance of leaders across the project sharing learning and best practice from the projects, not just the Fund sharing within the sector.
  6. **The Committee approved the Funding**

1. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
   1. The Committee discussed potential Fund activities and approach for the Queen’s Jubilee celebrations in 2022, and the role the UK portfolio could play. It was noted that this was a sensitive topic in some areas of the UK and the portfolio’s focus should be on bringing people together to create a powerful and meaningful event that transcended all countries and regions. Various suggestions for activity were discussed, including utilising the Chair’s relationship with the Royal Mint to boost Fund reach, party boxes to engage and connect those who aren’t able to get involved directly, and exploring options with other Lottery funders, National Parks and the Commonwealth Games.
   2. The Committee agreed the Bringing People Together programme should form the basis of the Fund’s Jubilee celebrations approach. The programme has the ability to flag existing activity with communities, generate interest, and already has the foundations for collaboration with other funders and match funding.

**THE MEETING ENDED AT 12:00.**

**MINUTES AGREED DATE**

**BLONDEL CLUFF**

**UK FUNDING COMMITTEE CHAIR**