

TEMPLATE FOR CONSULTATION RESPONSES

Details of the Consultation

Document being consulted on:

PROPOSED NEW BIG LOTTERY FUND POLICY DIRECTIONS FOR CONSULTATION

Closing date:

Midnight on Friday 18th November 2011.

Responses to be sent to:

biglotteryfundconsultation@cabinet-office.gsi.gov.uk

Queries to:

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Your Details

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Consultation Questions

Question 1: Is there anything set out in these directions that the Big Lottery Fund should not be doing? If your answer is yes, please tell us what it is and why they shouldn't be doing it. (a maximum of **200 words**)

1. The specific involvement of, and engagement with, intended beneficiaries (and those who help or advocate for them) are desirable. We would encourage a more robust inclusion of children and young people in all relevant Big Lottery Fund activities (from planning through to evaluation and information sharing).

2. While new and innovative approaches are frequently valuable, the Big Lottery Fund should not regard 'newness or innovation' as primary criteria for funding. What matters is supporting and embedding work that actually makes a positive and lasting difference in children's lives and life chances.

Scotland is world class at creating, funding and operating excellent projects – but not nearly as good at building upon what is learned in a *strategic* manner to create better systems. Good ideas are given a chance to be tested but too often neither sustained locally, nor replicated/adapted elsewhere, even when the innovation was successful. The Big Lottery Fund could, and should, devote increasing levels of attention and resources to issues of sustainability at the original sites and effective adaptation/replication to other places and

populations that seem likely to benefit. As a key partner in the Scottish Funders Forum, the Lottery could lead in making this needed transition.

Question 2: Is there anything the Big Lottery Fund should be doing in addition to these directions? If your answer is yes, please tell us what they should be doing and why. (a maximum of **200 words**)

Funders should support effective *system* reform. The crucial challenges facing Scotland's children and families cannot be solved solely by a succession of short-term projects. Service delivery should be supplemented by broader policy, training and information sharing efforts. The Lottery could help greatly by encouraging more *strategic* efforts addressing fundamental national/nationwide concerns.

For example, Scotland needs to move boldly toward implementing the European Commission's *Communication on Early Childhood Education and Care*. Such a unifying strategy for system change is the most likely way to transform Scotland's currently fragmented and inadequate *system* of early years provision. Leadership from the Lottery (and Scottish Funders Forum) could be a crucial catalyst. Doing so would include funding significant efforts to improve the workforce and influence the policy landscape.

Children in Scotland (and some of its members) have had discouraging experiences with the Big Lottery Fund. For instance, proposed projects to improve parenting of vulnerable children have been rejected on the grounds that they are not directly serving children. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss these experiences and explore how the Lottery could move toward an approach that supports not only service delivery, but also changes the systems/forces creating the need for such services.