

SCOTCH WHISKY ACTION FUND

www.scotch-whisky.org.uk



The Scotch Whisky Action Fund was launched in December 2013 as part of the industry's continuing commitment to promote responsible drinking and tackle alcohol-related harm, providing £100,000 of funding annually.

The key aim of the Fund is to invest in groups and organisations that have innovative plans to reduce the impact of alcohol-related harm in Scotland's communities.

- The Fund is managed by an independent charity, Foundation Scotland, on behalf of the SWA. Applications are to be submitted by 2 July 2020. Applications for funding are assessed by an independent Awards Panel, chaired by Dame Joan Stringer. Decisions are communicated in early September. The maximum award that can be granted is £25,000. A project can be supported for a maximum of three years. Full details on the Fund's criteria and how to apply can be found on our webpage www.foundationscotland.org.uk/programmes/scotch-whisky-action-fund/
- To date the Fund has made awards to 48 projects across Scotland working with national (Barnardos, Waverley Care) and local charities and community groups. The projects supported come from across Scotland, from Orkney in the North, the Highlands, the central belt (including Edinburgh and Glasgow), Islay in the west to Dumfries and Galloway in the South.
- Projects have included those delivering alcohol education in schools and beyond the school setting, including diversionary activities, peer-to-peer education and through theatre and interactive workshops. In addition to the education projects working with U18s, the Fund has also been supporting projects working with carers, parents, supporting children and young people affected by problematic parental alcohol use, families where a parent is in recovery as well as alcohol awareness for older age groups.
- Following a review of the Fund in 2018 it is now focused on supporting new/innovative or pilot initiatives which deliver targeted interventions designed to tackle-alcohol related harms in Scotland's communities.
- Details of the projects currently being supported by the Fund can be found overleaf.
- We also hold annual learning events which gives members and other stakeholders the opportunity to hear directly from the funded projects. The aim of such events is to find out what works and to support development of best practice.
- The Association announced in 2018 this important initiative should continue and extended it to 2023. This amounts to £1 million of funding over 10 years.



**Foundation
Scotland**



- 1 U-evolve (Edinburgh) exists to provide direct support to young people aged 11 to 18 who are facing mental health challenges and are disengaged from education. Their project 'TALK' will work directly with young people who have experienced a family history of alcohol misuse or are at-risk of alcohol misuse.
- 2 Absafe (Aberdeen) exists to ensure that young people in the North East can lead a healthy life free from unintentional injury and harm. Absafe is building an extension to create a new classroom dedicated to the delivery of alcohol safety education in a bespoke and engaging interactive environment due to the local need identified by both Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City Community Planning teams.
- 3 Edinburgh Young Carers provide person-centred, individual and group work support to young carers (aged 9-14) who care for a family member with alcohol addiction issues. Edinburgh Young Carers will employ a professional in-house youth counsellor who will deliver a series of early intervention therapeutic group work counselling to young carers. The young people know this as SE+, (Social Education Plus) and it is a specific programme designed to meet the needs of young carers living with a parent who misuses alcohol.
- 4 Paisley YMCA is a digital youth organisation with the aim to support young people reach their full potential through digitally based cultural and educational projects. Paisley YMCA will through use of TouchCast technology provide digital based workshops to 700 young people aged 12-15 which will explore issues and themes around alcohol.
- 5 MENSELF + (Men Encouraging & Nurturing Self Efficacy to Live Life Fully) (Glasgow) provides health and wellbeing information sessions to young men and men, using innovative techniques such as 'MOT 4 MEN' health checks, enabling the group to reach out to men, which can be a harder health demographic to reach. Menself will run an inter-generational DRUMBEAT group to young men and men aged 14-45.
- 6 Govan Youth Information Project (GYIP) is a charitable organisation based in Govan, Glasgow. GYIP offers free support services for children, young people and community members. Govan Youth Information Project will run a series of diversionary activities for young people at risk of alcohol misuse. Diversionary activities will include training young people to deliver interactive diversionary workshops on the dangers of alcohol to their peers and other youth organisations; young people participating in the group's holiday programme; as well as within secondary schools during their health days.
- 7 Addictions Counselling Inverness Funding is operating a Family Project that provides a free counselling service to individuals who are affected by the misuse of alcohol of a close family member. Support is provided to improve their mental wellbeing, reduce levels of anxiety and depression, improve family life and relationships, increase self-confidence, reduce the sense of stigma and improve selfcare (Year 2 funding).
- 8 West Dunbartonshire Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) is supporting a Men's Befriending Group which aims to reduce isolation and alcohol misuse whilst also building resilience in older men. The ultimate aim is for the group to become a self-sufficient organisation (Year 2 funding).
- 9 Bright Light's (Edinburgh) project 'Families in Recovery' was created to provide counselling sessions for children and young people under 18 who are adjusting to living with a parent or guardian recovering from alcohol addiction (Year 3 funding).
- 10 Waverley Care's SX initiative provides a variety of sessions and campaigns across Scotland aimed at supporting alcohol awareness and harm reduction among gay and bisexual men. Sessions included alcohol education, counselling and group work, and peer-to-peer research and impact reports, with public-facing campaigns delivered via a variety of mediums (Year 3 funding).

