

Minister visits community project in Dumbiedykes



The Scottish Government has announced more than £690,000 of funding for projects in Edinburgh which tackle poverty and inequalities. This is almost an over used phrase these days, so to find out what one of the charities given some of the funding is actually doing, the Minister for Community Empowerment visited Edinburgh charity Comas.

The government aims to fund projects which promote healthy eating, IT skills and household budgeting.

The 20 More project, run by Comas will receive £37,000 through the People and Communities Fund (PCF) to empower local people and help households save £20 a week, through training opportunities which will allow them to gain skills and qualifications in community development, and benefits and energy advice, at the project's community shop.



Speaking on a visit to the [20 More Community Shop](#) and Serenity Café which is also operated by Comas, Community Empowerment Minister Marco Biagi said:

“Every community in Scotland has different challenges and aspirations and there is no one-size fits all approach to tackling poverty.

“That’s why our People and Communities Fund is giving communities in Edinburgh the power and confidence to shape their own futures.

“With household budgets under pressure, it’s great to see a project like 20 More looking for ways to save 600 of the

area's most vulnerable families at least £20 a week and helping to ease some of the stress of paying their bills."

Ruth Campbell, Chief Executive of Comas said:

"We are so pleased that the Scottish Government is focusing on empowering communities, as sustainable change must be community-led and start from the grassroots. This grant enables us to put local people in the driving seat and builds their capacity for community-led action.

"Training local people in benefits advice and energy saving will directly impact on wellbeing in this community. It will also help some residents gain employment in these growing sectors, so the grant will have a strong ripple effect."



14 projects have secured a share of the Scottish Government's People and Communities Fund (PCF) to change disadvantaged communities by providing advice, training or voluntary opportunities.

These include Port of Leith Housing Association's Canny Budgeting which will receive £35,000 to offer advice to residents on tackling fuel poverty, more than £10,000 for Dunedin Canmore Housing Ltd's Digital Skills for All for IT workshops and £23,000 for Broomhouse Health Strategy's healthy eating classes.

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