

South and south west of the city is being short changed

A report coming before the council today reveals that a higher percentage of funding is being awarded to the north of the city than anywhere else, according to community groups in the south of the city.

There are thirteen deputations to the Education, Children and Families Committee later on the Grants to Third Parties Programme alone, including representatives of Craigmillar Books for Babies, Goodtrees Neighbourhood Centre, Valley Park Community Centre, Gilmerton Community Centre and Gilmerton & Inch Community Council.

In Liberton/Gilmerton ward Goodtrees Community Centre has launched a petition to 'send the council a clear message' to the council that the people of south Edinburgh will not stand for being disproportionately funded by the council.

Cllr Ashley Graczyk, is an Independent councillor for the Sighthill-Gorgie ward. She has done her own calculations and she has concluded that there is disproportionate funding for her part of the city. Local charities in the area have also looked at the report and the figures. Cllr Graczyk explains that out of over £2.5 million for funding priority 1 the allocation is as follows:

- North East: £569,622
- South East (includes City Centre): £1,010,766
- North West: £617,745

▪ South West: £442,776

Citywide total (bulk of the organisations are based in SE/CC or NE): £2,580,687



Cllr Ashley Graczyk

Cllr Graczyk explained: “The local charities have analysed the report and said a very low percentage of funding is coming into Edinburgh South West, an extraordinary situation relative to the amount allocated to other localities or to city wide organisations, and even those with London and Glasgow postcodes. They said there is a concern from this list of decisions that CEC appears to be disinvesting in services in Edinburgh South West and there is no spend from Gorgie and Dalry, to Calders and Broomhouse – missing out on whole communities.

“These examples raise the wider issues related to over-centralised resource allocation in Edinburgh. Unfortunately, Edinburgh South West has also been under-resourced in other areas related to cultural resources and cycle infrastructure.

“Two years ago, I asked Edinburgh Council to investigate the distribution of public budgets by locality. I became aware that not all budgets are proportionately allocated across the city and feel that we have a duty to ensure that resources are fairly and equitably distributed. It also does not seem equitable to constituents in my community who feel overlooked.

“My ward, Sighthill-Gorgie, based in Edinburgh South West locality, has the highest percentage (5.6%) of those who reported having bad or very bad health, has a significantly higher number of individuals (17.7%) who reported that their daily activities are limited, and has the highest number of individuals who reported that they do no exercise (45.6%). Sighthill-Gorgie also has the highest poverty level (30%) and child poverty level (39%) in Edinburgh.

“But, if according to the Communities and Families Grants report their objective is: “to improve the overall health and wellbeing of young people and their families”, then why are we to receive the least funding out of all the four localities in Edinburgh?

“Once again, I was dismayed to discover that there has been a very heavy bias towards funding large institutions headquartered in the city centre at the expense of organisations working within our communities.

“I believe public resources, including Communities and Children Grants, should be equitably distributed to benefit all citizens and all communities across the city. I will be pushing for a review of the current allocations, and I hope that we may still be able to restore some balance to the resource allocation process.”

Cllr Graczyk said that she has taken action to try and avoid the funding round taking place this week. She said: “I have written to the Convenor and Vice-Convenor to request they defer report for a review to analyse these grants by postcode of the recipient organisation, and by value, to get a better picture of the funding distribution (as the majority are ‘citywide’ but obviously based in a particular location) and to consider a minimum cap on funding for each of the four localities along with a maximum cap, to ensure a fairer distribution of funding between the four localities for all residents in our capital city.”

Liberton/Gilmerton

Meanwhile in Liberton, Moredun,

Gilmerton, Gracemount & Inch there is a petition to send a message to the council that the young people who live in these areas should not be forgotten.



Cllr Lesley Macinnes Convener of Transport and Environment
PHOTO The Edinburgh Reporter

Local councillor Lesley Macinnes (we asked all local councillors for comment) said to us: "I share the community's concerns about the future of our local much needed organisations supporting the young people of Liberton and Gilmerton following the publication of Council proposals on grant funding.

"Loss of funding to our local area, which already suffers from a long term lack of investment, is very significant. I am already in discussion inside the Council about halting this

process until we can dig into the decision-making that led to this situation.

“It is vital that the young people of Liberton Gilmerton get the level of support and facilities they deserve and need and I am working hard to try to achieve this.”



Ian Murray MP has written to the Director in charge of Communities and Families PHOTO The Edinburgh Reporter

Local MP Ian Murray has written to the Executive Director of Communities and Families, Alistair Gaw, about the lack of funding for the area which forms part of his constituency. He points out that local organisations play a vital role in getting anti-social behaviour off our streets, and calls it a ‘real slap in the face for the local community’. You can read his letter in full below.



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Alistair Gaw
Executive Director of Communities and Families
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March 2020

Dear Mr Gaw,

Communities and Families Grants to Third Parties Programme

I have been contacted by many local groups across South Edinburgh about the 2020/2023 Communities and Families Grants to Third Parties Programme to be debated at Committee tomorrow.

I have noted that not a single 'non-city wide' organisation has received funding in the Liberton Gilmerton ward. Organisations such as Goodtrees Neighbourhood Centre, Valley Park and Inch Community Centre do life changing work with children and young people in the area, which is one of the most deprived in the city. Indeed, almost three quarters of the grants are going to projects in the two North Edinburgh localities. I do not for one second deny the important work these organisations do but organisations in the South, particularly in Liberton/Gilmerton rightly feel they are being overlooked in this process.

After the widely reported youth anti-social behaviour in Moredun last year local organisations played a pivotal role in getting young people off the street and into productive activities. A short cursory glance at the Facebook page of Goodtrees Neighbourhood Centre is all you would require to see the impact it is having in the local area. People across the South of the city will be rightly dismayed that these services, which were working well, are now being defunded. This is on top of the withdrawal of council funding for community Police officers at last week's budget. The community was promised additional police and community resources when the issues with younger people were prevalent last year. This has not only been another broken promise but the decision not to provide adequate and proportionate funding this time is a real slap in the face for the local community.

IAN MURRAY MP

Labour Member of Parliament for Edinburgh South

Getting Things Done for Edinburgh South



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I care passionately about the outcomes these services are providing for local people and I implore the Council and the Committee to at least have the courtesy of visiting and seeing for themselves the work that is being done before considerable damage is done to the communities of South Edinburgh.

I fully appreciate that the Scottish Government has continued to devastate the Council's funding but that is of no consequence to the young and old alike that use and rely on these brilliant services. I hope the Council are making overtures to the Scottish Government that the way they have treated the Council and the slashing of funding is unsustainable, unfair, and politically motivated.

A review into how this process works and how funds can be more equitably allocated across the city is required before these grants can be signed off. South Edinburgh deserves better than this and we are all determined to fight for a fairer share of the funding cake.

Yours sincerely,

Ian Murray MP
Member of Parliament for Edinburgh South

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IAN MURRAY MP
Labour Member of Parliament for Edinburgh South

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The meeting convenes at 10.00am and we expect that as usual all the deputations will be heard first. The papers are [here](#) and of course you can watch proceedings [online](#).