

Government commits more funding for mental health

The Scottish Government has announced monies for two funds to help mental health projects for children and young people as well as adults.

The Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund for Adults, and the Children and Young People's Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Supports, have been awarded £15 million each for 2024-25.

This type of fund is for community groups working locally to help deal with social isolation and loneliness. There are projects focused on sport and outdoor activities as well as the arts.

First Minister Humza Yousaf, who today visited Edinburgh Community Performing Arts *Re-connect* project for older people, said: "On becoming First Minister I reiterated my personal commitment to supporting those living with mental health challenges. We know how important it is for our society to have access to mental health and wellbeing support. That is why my government is committed to ensuring we fund vital services in our health service and in community settings to ensure we try, as much as possible, to provide a national network of community support for adults, children and young people.

"This further £30 million will fund community based projects which are focused on prevention and early intervention, and

this is a significant step forward in supporting people's mental health and wellbeing by making sure they can easily access the help they need, when and where they need it.

“Since 2020 the Scottish Government has invested over £100 million in community-based mental health support. An independent evaluation published last year shows that projects for adults have lowered social isolation thereby alleviating some of the negative mental and physical health impacts from the pandemic, as well as providing support and self-help for individuals with ill mental health issues.

“More than 300 children and young people's supports and services are in now in place across the country, and evaluation published by the Scottish Youth Parliament found that nearly three-quarters of young people agreed or strongly agreed that they received support when they needed it.”

All photos courtesy of The Scottish Government













