

# **Community groups in East Lothian urged to apply for grants from annual fund**

**Community groups in East Lothian are being urged to apply for grants from an annual fund which has given out up to £1 million in the past.**

East Lothian Council's One Council Partnership Fund has opened for applications from groups who work in local communities helping address poverty, inequality as well as those helping young people, the most vulnerable and climate change.

The annual grants will be awarded in the next financial year and councillors have still to agree the amount available as part of their budget, however last year the fund handed out more than £1 million to community projects.

Among groups who received grants were Midlothian Young People's Advice Service (MYPAS) for its weekly one-to-one support for LGBT+ young people in East Lothian, Pennypit Community Development Trust's school holiday lunch clubs and the New Beginnings Club which provides social and leisure events for their members with physical and learning difficulties to promote positive mental health.

Councillor Colin McGinn, council spokesperson for community wellbeing, said: "Over the years the One Council Partnership Fund has been able to support groups to run projects that have made a real difference in people's lives.

"Despite the pressures on our council budgets, we are pleased

to be able to continue with these awards. It recognises the huge value that partners offer to local communities and the importance of their work, particularly for some of our most vulnerable residents.

“It remains a challenging climate for many and the support that is provided by community-based groups, volunteers and the third sector across East Lothian is vital to our residents.

“We are very fortunate to have so many dedicated organisations and groups committed to supporting those in need within our area.”

Applicants have until December 2 to submit their bids to East Lothian Council with full details of the requirements and how to apply available via [www.eastlothian.gov.uk/one-council-fund](http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/one-council-fund)

By Marie Sharp Local Democracy Reporter