

**Written response to question / issue
raised at Council**

Meeting Date: 2nd March 2021

Public / Private*: Public

Minute Reference: C.54/21 – Portfolio Holder Reports

Written response to: Cllr Ms J Ellis-Williams

Written response from: Cllr S Higgs

Resolution / Question:

That the Culture, Heritage and Leisure Portfolio Holder provide Councillor Ms Ellis-Williams with details of the organisations, highlighting those specific to Carlisle, that had benefited from the Carlisle Sports Hardship Fund.

Response:

Carlisle City Council and Cumbria County Council have been working in partnership to support Carlisle community-based sports groups through this difficult period with the introduction of a joint Sports Hardship Fund, which was launched in January 2021. Grants are being administered by Active Cumbria and are being promoted through our social media channels and funding newsletter. Additionally Active Cumbria has sent an email direct to all the Carlisle-based clubs/organisations which are part of its activity finder. To date 1 group has been supported by the Carlisle Sports Hardship Fund, Harraby Catholic Club Youth Football (Under 9s). The group was awarded £500.

As part of the government's roadmap out of lockdown, organised outdoor sports will be able to restart from 29th March. As restrictions begin to lift and sports groups begin to start thinking about starting up activity again, the criteria for the Sports Hardship Fund have been reviewed and extended and the Fund has been relaunched. In a return to sporting activity, additional costs may be incurred to ensure that clubs are able to reopen in a COVID secure way, which may include:

- Additional sports equipment to minimise sharing and to deliver activities safely
- Providing sanitising products to keep equipment clean
- Extra facility hire costs to create more space for players and volunteers
- Appropriate training of club volunteers to ensure they meet current guidelines
- Marketing and communication materials to promote and reinforce safety protocols to members

The revised Carlisle Sports Hardship and Restart Fund will support local clubs to meet these costs, thus helping to ensure that a return to sporting activity is as safe as possible for volunteers and participants. The Carlisle Sports Hardship and Restart Fund will continue to prioritise financial support to not-for-profit sporting organisations which have reducing financial resources resulting in hardship and possible closure, because of the pandemic.

Please note that this is only a small grant pot and we may not be able to support all groups that apply. Clubs must demonstrate that the funding will be used to put in place policies and procedures which will support preparations for a safe return to play. Applicants should not have been in receipt of any recent Government grants.

Additional information for other sources of funding can be found on the Active Cumbria website <https://www.activecumbria.org/workforce/funding/> or by contacting Aileen Grant, Carlisle Locality Officer: aileen.grant@cumbria.gov.uk

Date: 19th March 2021