



Big thinking

Big proposals for Northern Ireland

BIG
LOTTERY
FUND



what you told us

Stock code: BIG-SFNI

Our equality principles

Promoting accessibility; valuing cultural diversity; promoting participation; promoting equality of opportunity; promoting inclusive communities; reducing disadvantage and exclusion. Please visit our website for more information.

Our mission

We are committed to bringing real improvements to communities and the lives of people most in need.

Our values

We have identified seven values that underpin our work: fairness; accessibility; strategic focus; involving people; innovation; enabling; additional to government.

The Big Lottery Fund is committed to valuing diversity and promoting equality of opportunity, both as a grantmaker and employer. The Big Lottery Fund will aim to adopt an inclusive approach to ensure grant applicants and recipients, stakeholders, job applicants and employees are treated fairly.

Accessibility

Please contact us to discuss any specific communications needs you may have.

We care about the environment

The Big Lottery Fund seeks to minimise its negative environmental impact and only uses proper sustainable resources.

Photography Keith Morris

Further copies available from:

Email general.enquiries@biglotteryfund.org.uk

Phone 0845 4 10 20 30

Textphone 0845 6 02 16 59

Our website www.biglotteryfund.org.uk

© Big Lottery Fund, May 2010

 Awarding funds from
The National Lottery[®]

Contents

Foreword	4
The story so far	5
What you told us: Older people at risk	6
What you told us: Space and place	7
What you told us: Younger people at risk	8
What you told us: Alcohol-related harm	10
Final summary questions	11
Next steps: Big Proposal programmes	12
Next steps: Other developments	13
More information	14

Foreword



For several years now, we have been saying that BIG is an intelligent funder. Being an intelligent funder is not just about making good grants based on good assessments; it is about becoming a more effective and efficient funder. A crucial tool in this work is consultation.

On of the first events I attended, as Chair, was a consultation on our Big Proposals. I was impressed by the level of discussion and it was very helpful to see the enthusiastic support for BIG and to hear the ideas, suggestions and opinions shared.

Consultation gives us the opportunity to engage with our stakeholders. Sharing what we know has worked and asking for ideas on how to work better. How to reach more effectively those most in need. How to design programmes that will meet the needs of Northern Ireland. And how to work in a way that builds upon the strengths that already exist, not just at BIG but throughout our society.

This publication tells you about the results of our latest consultation – Big Proposals; how we consulted and what the response was. The ideas and suggestions received, and discussions entered into, have been vital in helping us shape our work and plan for the programmes we now intend to delivery.

We have refined and adjusted our new programmes in light of the consultation findings, set out in this publication. We will start to launch those programmes commencing in June 2010, through to the end of the year.

Being an intelligent funder is about more than consultation. Along with your views, our work is underpinned by six principles:

- ▶ Outcome funder
- ▶ Capacity building
- ▶ Engagement
- ▶ Working together
- ▶ Innovation
- ▶ Lasting impact.

The programmes we design and deliver and the way we work with projects, applicants, and stakeholders is all informed by these principles.

We very much hope you will continue to be involved with our work. We continue to welcome your views as we deliver our new funding opportunities.

Frank Hewitt

Chair, Northern Ireland Committee

Big Northern Ireland

Introduction to Big proposals

Big Proposals for Northern Ireland was developed through a series of discussions with the general public, key stakeholders and our Northern Ireland Committee. A year and a half ago, we carried out a UK-wide consultation called *Big Thinking*. We launched *Big Thinking* on 17 November 2008 at an open meeting of Big Lottery Fund's Board. This consultation closed on 27 February. Findings from this consultation were published in June 2009 as *What You Told Us*.

We analysed the Northern Ireland findings in *What You Told Us*, and published – *Big Proposals for Northern Ireland; a consultation*, which was launched on 8 October at Malone House, closing for submissions on 15 January 2010. During this period we facilitated 6 events with 218 stakeholders attending. Representatives from a range of organisations supported the *Big Proposals* events, including small community groups and large voluntary organisations; the statutory sector including local councils, education authorities and government departments.

We also received 80 formal responses to *Big Thinking*. 66 were submitted via the website and 14 were sent to us either in hard copy or via an email. We are grateful to everyone that took the time to attend an event and thanks also those that made written submissions. Your views, ideas and suggestions have been of great help to us.



The story so far...

- ▶ Over £485 million to more than 11,000 projects in Northern Ireland.
- ▶ An outcomes funder: Everything we do is geared to achieving outcomes that make life better for people and communities.
- ▶ A learning organisation: committed to becoming more effective and sharing our learning more widely for others to benefit.

What you told us

Older people at risk

Questions 1 to 5 of BIG Proposals concerned our outline of a programme for Older People at Risk. We proposed the outcome:

More older people at risk are supported to live independent lives and to contribute to their community through projects that promote inclusion and tackle isolation.

This outcome was overwhelmingly endorsed, with 89 per cent of respondents agreeing.

For a delivery model we proposed:

- ▶ Providing funding for up to four years.
- ▶ Users should be involved in all phases of the project.
- ▶ Grants would be targeted at those most at risk.
- ▶ Grants would be between £30,000–£50,000 to fund revenue activities.

Nearly half the respondents disagreed with the question on whether our grant size was appropriate (48 per cent said no). In general, those that disagreed wanted the grant size to increase to allow for projects to be delivered by larger-scale organisations over larger areas, particularly on a Northern Ireland-wide scale.

Another suggestion was to ring-fence some money for smaller groups e.g. £5 million for smaller; and £3 million funding for larger organisations. By tiering the awards, respondents felt that the programme would be more inclusive and would acknowledge the range of groups likely to be interested in applying for funding.



The clear majority of responses (84 per cent) felt our grant length was appropriate (though both five-year funding and two-year funding was suggested as alternatives).

When asked how we could involve those in residential care and engage with private sector providers, it was suggested that we should use: targeted promotion and fund co-ordinator posts; that we should insist on partnerships; and, that this is something we should examine during the assessment process.

When we asked how we can ensure and promote quality standards with our funding, we were told that BIG is already good at ensuring quality, that we should use and enhance the existing standards and that we should develop fora and advocates.

What you told us

Space and Place

Questions 6 to 9 concerned our proposals for Space and Place. For this programme, we proposed the following outcome:

More people and communities are connected by making use of underused or difficult spaces.

Again, the vast majority of responses endorsed our outcome for this programme (89 per cent). Attendees at events added that BIG funding could help bring about a range of benefits across health and well-being, building a lasting legacy.

For Space and Place we proposed a budget of £15 million to support projects across Northern Ireland through an indicative allocation to each of the new 11 council areas. We proposed that area partnerships be established to identify and prioritise need. Allocation of funding would be weighted based on deprivation and population (proposed 70:30). Space and Place would be delivered through a two-stage programme with development funding to prepare a second stage application.

A clear majority (80 per cent) of responses felt our indicative allocation was appropriate. Those that disagreed wanted us to keep in mind the uncertainty around the Review of Public Administration and the particular needs of rural communities.

The difficulties generated by the reduction in council areas, to 11, were also discussed at events. There was concern, especially as the geography and timing of these changes was not yet certain. Concerns could be addressed, it was suggested, by making sure there was a “multitude of people” involved in the partnerships. If funding is allocated to Councils, it was recommended that community groups should take the lead on delivery of local projects.

When we asked who needed to be included in a partnership approach, we were encouraged to involve local community groups and councils and to make sure the voices of marginalised groups, like young people and the disabled, are included.

“Community engagement at all stages in the project cycle is essential.”

Organisations that were suggested as possible project partners included local authorities (e.g. community planning, government departments, Housing Executive, Police Service NI, Health and Social Care Trust, and Education and Library Boards), other funders and politicians/policy makers. One response recommended that BIG should not be overly prescriptive regarding the partnership working as different models will be useful in different areas.

Finally, we asked how BIG might ensure that projects promoted community ownership and are maintained longer. Respondents asked us to ensure community engagement and user involvement with project planning and delivery.

We were directed to involve existing community and voluntary bodies. Event attendees advised that in order to gain community ownership, the people living in local communities must be asked their opinions.

It was also suggested that advantage be taken of the resources within Local Councils to work with communities as they know those communities.

What you told us

Younger people at risk

Questions 10 to 15 concerned our proposals for Young People at Risk. Here we proposed the outcome:

More young people at risk have the necessary support structures, capacity, improved personal development and improved skills to help them negotiate the transitions in their life.

Again, the majority of responses (84 per cent) agreed with our outcome. There was also general agreement that the list of potential groups of children and young people within *Big Proposals* was a positive start.

However, other possible groups of young people at risk were also suggested – those experiencing mental ill health issues; those at risk from suicide; those experiencing relationship difficulties; ethnic minorities; those with disability; those experiencing bullying; those who are obese; those affected by stress and isolation as a result of the troubles in Northern Ireland; and early years children.

For the delivery model we proposed: We intend to run a £10 million open grant programme from 2010 to 2015.

This programme would provide funding for up to five years for challenging activities that give opportunities for young people to reconnect with school, employment, their families and their communities. Young people must be involved in the design, delivery and evaluation of the project and our grants will be targeted at those most at risk.

We foresee making grants (£50,000-£500,000) to fund revenue activities, which support this outcome. 78 per cent agreed with our grant sizes. 95 per cent

agreed that the grant length was appropriate.

When asked how to make sure that we involve young people who are most at risk, we were asked to work in partnership, particularly with statutory and community groups that were already targeting these young people.

When asked if there were particular groups of young people at risk we should target, many respondents said that there was no one particular group of young people “at risk”, but rather it should include all young people who potentially could be or are “at risk”.

Other responses told us to focus on: young people in the justice system, young people with a disability, and young people who were underachieving. The needs of young carers, ethnic minorities, young men, and rural young people were also mentioned.

Finally, we asked if respondents agreed with our definition of young people (aged 8-20). While nearly half of on-line respondents did agree, others did not. However, among those that disagreed no consensus emerged. Some wanted us to include younger people, others older, some wanted us to do both and others wanted us to narrow our focus (to either 13-18 or 8-18).

“Overall, a very good range of proposals that reflect changing and complex needs in Northern Ireland.”



What you told us

Alcohol-related harm

Questions 16 to 19 outlined our proposals for Alcohol-related harm. For this programme we proposed the outcome:

Reduce the harm to individuals, families and communities directly affected by alcohol misuse.

This outcome received the strongest endorsement with an agreement of over 93 per cent.

For a delivery model, we set out that we intended to run a £5 million strategic programme over a period of up to four years. The delivery of this programme would be through a two-stage model. This would result in an indicative allocation to the five Health and Social Care Trust (HSCT) areas. A cross-sectoral range of partners would then develop a portfolio of projects, for each Trust area, reflective of local need and meeting the programme outcomes.

BIG would set aside a proportion of the programme budget for Northern Ireland wide projects. Indicative allocations would be inclusive of development support, to enable the co-ordination, in each geographic area.

A majority (90 per cent) agreed with our proposed delivery model, and 97 per cent agreed with the proposed grant length.

Event attendees suggested that BIG build on partnerships and services already available when developing this programme e.g. look at the model of Drug and Alcohol Co-ordination Teams (DACT's) and regional forums.

It was clearly recognised that co-ordination will be needed and some said that the HSCT's need to be encouraged to work outside clinical services and

overcome reservations about working with the voluntary and community sector.

In response to our asking how we ensure projects target those most affected by alcohol misuse, pre- and post-natal harm was mentioned. We were told to make sure we funded a community approach and that statutory partners were a necessity.

Those attending events strongly suggested that we prioritise funding preventative projects rather than solely later intervention.

Responses showed a strong aspiration for a change in cultural factors/norms within society and families in addition to treatment.

“We suggest that this outcome should focus on Northern Ireland-wide services. This allows the development of services to specific groups and not defined by location.”

Final summary questions

Question 20 asked if respondents felt that our proposed programmes best reflected the needs of Northern Ireland. A clear majority of 85 per cent replied 'yes'. Gaps that were mentioned included: obesity, the environment, active citizenship, diabetes, sports and the needs of disabled people.

Question 21 asked how we could ensure that our programmes promote equality of opportunity and good relations. Through the on-line survey, comments were generally positive with some suggestions for improvements. Some areas for concern were also highlighted. Some of the suggestions are in line with current practice in BIG while others would be unworkable.

Several respondents felt there should be a focus on partnership working: between BIG and statutory

bodies; between grant holders; and between grant holders and local authorities. This would be in line with comments during the **Screening 5** consultation with BME groups. Respondents felt they could benefit from shared knowledge from other projects as well as pre-application support.

There was a general consensus that grant-holders should be subject to some form of an obligation that would require them to demonstrate a continued commitment to the equality of opportunity. While some suggestions would be in line with current thinking, as new equality measures are in development, others were not practical as they would place duties on grant holders that would be equivalent to requirements of legislation.



Next steps

Thank you to everyone that responded to *Big Proposals*, both written and at events and meetings. We have taken account of the submissions, ideas and suggestions in sharpening the focus of our new programmes in order to meet the needs of Northern Ireland. We have put our customers and our beneficiaries at the heart of all we do. Our programmes will be simpler, faster and better for the applicants and will help communities to tackle the issues that are most important to them.

Our proposed delivery models and outcomes set out in Big Proposals were strongly endorsed. People did express the view that programme budgets would need to be bigger in order to make the difference we were proposing.

We are determined that our funding will help make real improvements to communities and to the lives of people most in need. We will be clear about the outcomes we want each new programme to achieve. Everything we do; every decision to offer a grant, will be geared to achieving outcomes that make life better for people and communities.

“A key aim of any project should be continued independence of older people.”



Next steps

Big Proposal programmes

We will launch two open programmes in June 2010. One programme will fund voluntary and community-led projects that support more older people at risk to live independent lives and to contribute to their community through projects that promote inclusion and tackle isolation. There will be two grant sizes, with applicants for the large size grants being required to work in partnership. This partnership requirement is part of our intelligent funding commitment to working together and should help applicants and recipients to work with others where there is a clear benefit.

We will also launch a second programme that will fund voluntary and community-led projects that ensure more young people at risk have the necessary support structures, capacity, improved personal development and improved skills to help them negotiate the transitions in their life. This programme will have only one grant size. With this programme, we are particularly interested in sharing what we learn so that its benefits will extend much more widely than the individual funding recipient.

In the autumn of 2010, we plan to launch our Alcohol Related Harm Programme. This programme will help reduce the harm to individuals, families and communities directly affected by alcohol misuse. We will work in partnership with the health bodies to co-ordinate cross-sectoral partners to deliver a portfolio of projects reflective of local need. We will also be setting aside part of the budget to support Northern Ireland-wide projects. We will work in partnership to ensure that our funding programme fits well with other programmes and activities that are working in this area.

We also plan to launch our Space and Place Programme in autumn 2010. We are committed to ensuring more people and communities are connected by making use of underused or difficult spaces. This programme will be about capital and revenue funding. There will be a two-stage application process with development funding available to help prepare second stage applications. By investing in spaces and places that people can use, the benefits brought about by our funding will live on.

Other programmes

Energy Efficient Venues

In May 2010, we launched Energy Efficient Venues. This is a programme that aims to support the development of more energy efficient venues across Northern Ireland. This will be achieved by making available grants to voluntary and community organisations that want to make their venue more energy efficient. This will help organisations' capacity building by reducing their running costs and allowing them to use their building more effectively. This programme is likely to be open for applications for some two years.

Next steps

Awards for All

BIG is committed to continuing its support for our popular small grants scheme. We have made changes to this programme. From April 2010, Awards for All in Northern Ireland has become more flexible. The programme will continue to provide grants of between £500 and £10,000, however, organisations will now be able to reapply more quickly, with the total amount of funding (in any 12 month period) being up to £20,000.

BIG Awards for All supports a wide range of charitable, community, educational, environmental and health-related activities. We will give high priority to projects that are new or develop what you do now and we welcome applications for projects combining a range of community initiatives.

More examples of the type of projects Award for All supports can be found in the programme guidance notes on the Northern Ireland pages of our [website](http://www.awardsforall.org.uk) (www.awardsforall.org.uk). You can also download an application form and support materials from this site.



Healthy Minds

Healthy Minds Northern Ireland launched in March 2010, and is run in conjunction with BBC NI. The programme can fund project costs of between £500 and £10,000 and is open to voluntary, community and statutory organisations.

The outcome of the programme is: Improved mental health and well-being for people involved in funded projects.

Projects must meet one or more of these priorities:

- ▶ Supporting activities that promote mental health and well-being.
- ▶ Supporting projects from organisations that work directly with people with mental health and well-being issues.
- ▶ Raising awareness of mental health and well-being issues.

We want to fund projects under four main themes:

- Older people and isolation
- Adult mental health
- Alcohol and its effect on families
- Life changes and transitions.

Further information and application materials can be found on our [website](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk).

Big Lottery Fund is a UK-wide body and does run UK-wide programmes like our People's Millions and Heroes Return 2. Northern Ireland organisations are eligible and encouraged to apply for our UK programmes. To be kept updated on the latest information available on these and our Northern Ireland programmes, please sign up to our e-bulletin: www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/Northern_Ireland



More information

This leaflet sets out our consultation findings and it tells you about our programme developments in Northern Ireland. If you would like further details about our funding programmes please visit our website www.biglotteryfund.org.uk

or call our information team on 028 9055 1455 or textphone 028 9055 1431.

Alternative, you can email us at: enquiries.ni@biglotteryfund.org.uk

This publication is available on request in other formats.

