

WHAT MATTERS TO YOU (WM2U – MAKE IT HAPPEN FUND (MIHF) UPDATE REPORT SEPT 2025

We are delighted to share the latest Make It Happen Fund briefing. We are grateful to every funder for their ongoing support: BBC Children in Need, The Hunter Foundation, The Robertson Trust, William Grant Foundation, The Northwood Foundation, and the NHS Tayside Charitable Foundation. We continue to communicate with other appropriate funders to grow the WM2U MIHF to deepen impact.

This latest update provides an overview of progress to date of the MIHF in Dundee as we make strong progress with the continued roll-out in the city.

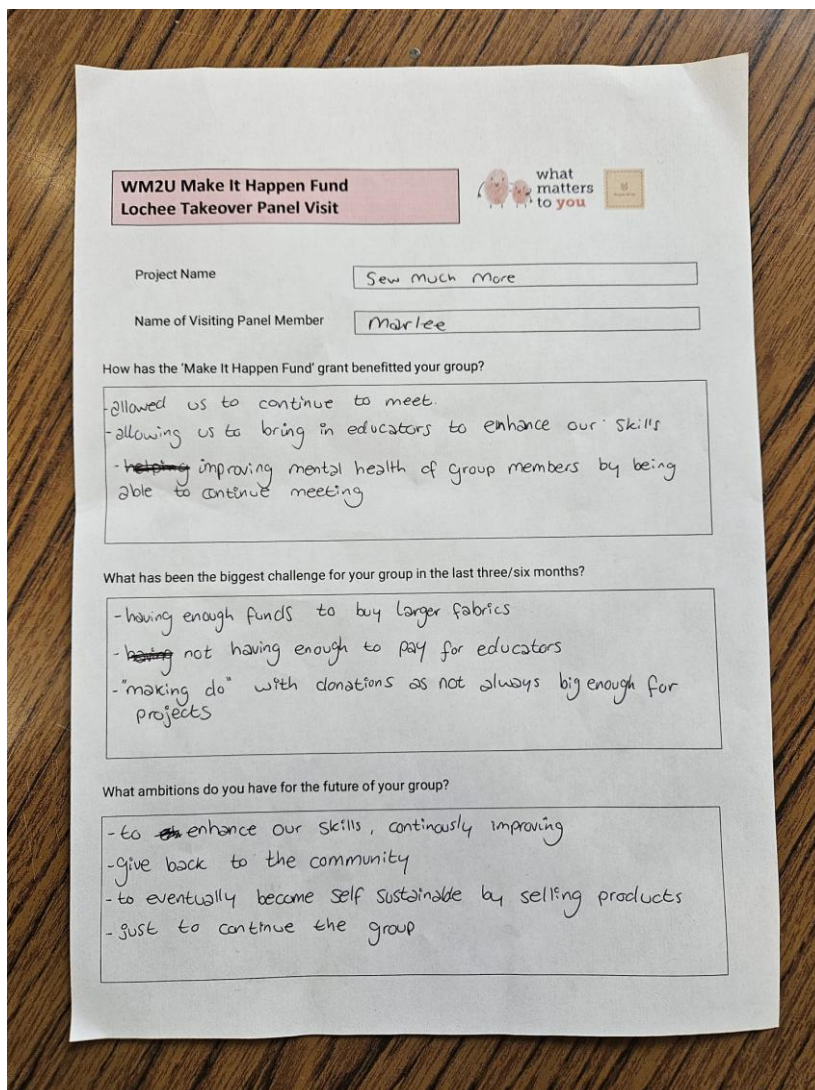
Our thanks to Debbie Kaney from Corra for her support and expertise in delivering training to the panels and being alongside the panels at every step in support of their work.

Our thanks also to the CLD staff team in Dundee for supporting this work. Most of all to the volunteers who have stepped up to form the decision-making panels. It is a privilege to work alongside them.

Dundee

Dundee Ward	Status Update	Training Dates	CLD Staff Lead	Budget Allocation	Budget Spend	Balance
Lochee	Panel Recruited, training undertaken, fund launched, Panel meeting held and presentation event arranged held with funds under distribution. Group decision taken on 28th April for Phase 2 launch on 7th July for disbursement of fund balance which closed on 15th August and has had two applications to be assessed	N/A	Elsbeth Burns-Chater	£30,000	£22,105	£7,895
Strathmartine	Panel recruited, Trained and fund launched on 12th May with closure on 13th June. 21 applications received and considered by the Panel meeting on 23/06/2025 where all have been approved. Announcement of funding is arranged at Downfield Junior FC for Friday 22nd August.	N/A	Hazel Fielder	£30,000	£27,550	£2,450
North East	Panel members have been recruited and trained alongside parents from East End ward. Grant Criteria and Grant process are agreed and Application form will be ready mid July 2025 for North East Fund Opening on 01/09/25 until 26/09/2025. The announcement/celebration event is arranged for 08/11/2025	May/June	Sarah Barham	£30,000	£0	£30,000
East End	Panel members have been recruited and trained alongside parents from North East ward. Grant Criteria and Grant process are agreed and Application forms have been finalised. The Grant will opening on 01/09/25 until 03/10/2025. The announcement/celebration event is conformed for 07/11/2025	May/June	Hayley Tunstall	£30,000	£0	£30,000
Maryfield	Planning for the Maryfield MIHF launch has now been undertaken and invitations to those who have shown interest to date to commence training for the Maryfield MIHF starting on Friday 29th August. This will be done in conjunction with the MIHF for Coldside	August/September	Val Kane	£30,000	£0	£30,000
Coldside	Planning for the Coldside MIHF launch has now been undertaken with the Community Empowerment worker now recruiting Panel Members. The training for the Coldside MIHF is due to start start on Friday 29th August. This will be done in conjunction with the MIHF for Maryfield.	August/September	Kirsten Brownlie	£30,000	£0	£30,000
The Ferry	Not a target area given demographics			£0	£0	£0
West End	Not a target area given demographics			£0	£0	£0
				£180,000	£49,655	£130,345

1. Lochee Ward



WM2U Make It Happen Fund
Lochee Takeover Panel Visit

Project Name: Sew Much More

Name of Visiting Panel Member: Marlee

How has the 'Make It Happen Fund' grant benefitted your group?

- allowed us to continue to meet.
- allowing us to bring in educators to enhance our skills
- ~~helping~~ improving mental health of group members by being able to continue meeting

What has been the biggest challenge for your group in the last three/six months?

- having enough funds to buy larger fabrics
- ~~being~~ not having enough to pay for educators
- "making do" with donations as not always big enough for projects

What ambitions do you have for the future of your group?

- to ~~enhance~~ enhance our skills, continuously improving
- give back to the community
- to eventually become self sustainable by selling products
- just to continue the group

The administration for Round One of the Lochee MIHF has been completed by Corra Foundation between April and June and all the thirteen grants have been drawn down successfully from Corra.

The '**visit programme**' where each of the projects are to be visited by the Lochee MIHF panel has commenced and three of the visits have been completed. Here the panel will check in on progress and ask three simple questions which will be fed back to the WM2U Learning Partners and Funders in due course:

- How has the 'Make It Happen Fund' grant benefitted your group?
- What has been the biggest challenge for your group in the last three/six months?
- What ambitions do you have for the future of your group?

Following the success of the Lochee MIHF round one of grant applications, the group met in June and agreed to retain the same grant criteria and grant process except for the maximum grant amount which will be reduced to £1,000 from £3,000 based on the smaller availability of funding.

Whilst the online promotion of the Lochee MIHF and the Information session opportunities have been similar to round one there has been a lower uptake with only four applications submitted, one of which was ineligible as a successful applicant in round one.

The lessons learned are that:

1. The competing demands of family life during summer school holidays makes face to face promotion difficult for a volunteer panel.
2. There are a limited number of groups in the Lochee ward that meet the criteria.

Strathmartine Ward



Following a successful panel recruitment campaign a total of 8 community members working alongside the local CLD Community Empowerment Team undertook 4 training support sessions within Ardler Complex supported by WM2U & Corra.

While there are many similarities to the final grant criteria and grant process agreed for Strathmartine ward there were several distinct differences. The key differences in criteria are that the maximum grant amount is smaller at £2,000 and the size of organisation that is eligible to apply has been increased to those with an income level of up to £100k whereas in Lochee it was set at £3,000 and £20,000 respectively.

The '**Strathmartine Makes It Happen**' group set the following as the aims of the fund:

- To benefit and include the people of Strathmartine through:
 - Creating a safer and better environment.
 - Improving lives.
 - Enhanced and affordable opportunities.

The Fund opened to applications on Monday 12th May and closed to applications on Friday 13th June and received a total of 21 applications. This is a 50% rise on the number of applications received in Lochee and likely can be attributed to:

- greater awareness information sessions, supported by the local posters, communications through social media,
- direct targeting of potential groups that could apply by the Community Empowerment Team worker and the Panel members themselves.
- The higher level of maximum income an organisation could have. Strathmartine set the upper limit at £100k compared to that of £20k in Lochee.



The Funding Panel, including two young people from St Pauls Academy supported by CLD Youth Work, met on 23rd June to consider all 21 applications.

Where a member of the Panel was unable to attend the meeting, they were met individually to ensure that their views on each of the applications was included at the Panel meeting.

After following up with three of the applications with further questions, all were supported, and awards were presented at a community ceremony at Downfield Juniors Football Club on 22nd August attended by over 50 people.

North East & East End Wards

The '*passing of the baton*' to the Dundee City Council 'Community Empowerment Team' is continuing to work well in both the East End and the North East wards. There has been a greater ownership of the process by the Community Empowerment Team in this third phase of the MIHF in Dundee. From recruitment, chairing of discussions and writing up of the subsequent paperwork after training sessions with less reliance on the WM2U Coordinator.

Four training sessions for the North East Panel and the East End Panels were held jointly at The Finmill Centre in May and June. There are some very evident benefits from this new way of bringing together the training of groups from separate wards:

- It supports the development of the newly merged North East & East End Local Community Planning Partnership (LCPP) that is moving to a Café Conversation model.
- It created new relationships and understanding of the issues being faced by others in communities nearby.
- It helps cement the new Drumgeith Campus at the heart of both North east and East End wards which it has been built to serve.
- It has enabled the creation of the ideas of joint funding of projects where the beneficiaries of the grant are based in both wards.

The North East and East End Funds are now ready to launch on Monday 1st September with both funds having subtle yet distinct differences in grant criteria and process as decided by the local community panel to meet the needs that they see appropriate.

what matters to you

Make it Happen Fund

Where everyone matters

Are you part of a community group looking for funding in Dalclaverhouse, Mill O Mains, Emmock Woods, Whitfield, Fintry, or Ballumbie?

The North East Make it Happen Fund is open for applications from Monday 1 September. To learn more about the fund and receive support with your application, join us at our drop-in information session:

Tues 26 Aug • 6.30pm - 7.30pm
Finnill Centre, Findcastle Street, Dundee, DD4 9EW

Scan to find out more

[wm2u.co.uk/north-east-make-it-happen-fund](https://www.wm2u.co.uk/north-east-make-it-happen-fund)

what matters to you

Make it Happen Fund

Where everyone matters

Are you part of a community group looking for funding in Douglas, Craigie, Mid-Craigie and Linlathen?

The East End Make it Happen Fund is open for applications from Monday 1 September. To learn more about the fund and receive support with your application, join us at one of our drop-in information sessions:

Wed 3 Sept • 12 noon - 2pm Douglas Community Centre, Balmoral Avenue Dundee DD4 8SD	Mon 8 Sept • 5.30pm - 7.30pm Brooksbank Centre, Pitariel Road, Mid Craigie, Dundee DD4 8DG
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Scan to find out more

[wm2u.co.uk/east-end-make-it-happen-fund](https://www.wm2u.co.uk/east-end-make-it-happen-fund)

Coldside & Maryfield Wards

In the same way as the wards of North East and East End have been merged for LCPP purposes this is happening with the neighbouring wards of Coldside and Maryfield.

Become a panel member

Make it Happen Fund

The planning and preparation for the MIHF has taken place with the Community Officer for Coldside/Maryfield and the two appointed Community Workers and a recruitment campaign for Panel members is underway.

The training sessions have been arranged at an appropriate venue for both communities for the following dates at Clepington Gardens & Allotments Association, Arklay Street, Dundee, DD3 7PG:

- Friday 29th August from 0930 to 1200
- Friday 5th September from 0930 to 1200
- Friday 19th September from 0930 to 1200
- Friday 26th September from 0930 to 1200

The next steps:

- Launch of MIHF in Coldsides/Maryfield and work to integrate closer with the LCPP Café Conversation structure.
- Ongoing discussions with Dundee City Council to evaluate the findings of a '*learning*' meeting held at Dundee City Council Offices that included all Coomunity Empowerment Team workers involved in direct delivery, WM2U Team, Corra Foundation and Dartington Service Design Lab
- Roll out of 'Story Circles' with MIHF beneficiaries and 'Ripple Effect Mapping' with MIHF Panel members and CLD Staff by Dartington Service Design Lab. This evaluation seeks to understand the impact of the approach and how WM2U best achieves real change and benefit for communities, practitioners and decision makers.

For more information on the MIHF in Dundee, please contact Geoff Leask, Dundee WM2U Co-ordinator
Geoff@whatmatters2u.org.uk

The next funders' briefing will provide more detail on learning and independent evaluation.

One of the significant changes being implemented on feedback from the four local MIHF panels to date in Dundee (Lochee, Strathmartine, North East & East End) is to remove the following grant eligibility criterion:

- Grants for individuals to enable families to access the items, experiences or services that matter to them.

The key reasons for this decision are as follows:

1. The feeling of parents that there are adequate existing resources available to meet this need both from a statutory and third sector offering.
2. The difficulty of making individual decisions as quickly as might be required by applicants.
3. The unwillingness to be responsible for a decision that could negatively impact an individual within their community and fear of any subsequent Intimidatory action arising.

We are pleased to discuss this in more detail as required.