

Nicola Sturgeon MSP
First Minister
The Scottish Government
St. Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

Cc Kate Forbes MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Finance; Jeane Freeman MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport; Aileen Campbell MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government; Shirley-Anne Somerville MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Social Security and Older People

19 June 2020

Third Sector Recovery and Renewal Fund

Dear First Minister,

As you will be aware, the COVID-19 pandemic is having a stark impact on the financial security of third sector health and social care organisations in Scotland.

Loss of income severely affects the ability of organisations to plan and deliver future services, and in some cases poses a threat to their very survival. Research¹ indicates that around half of charities think they will run out of funds in six months, and a third of organisations have less than three months' worth of their funding in reserves.

This severe downturn comes at a time when many third sector health and social care organisations face unprecedented levels of demand for their services.

The sustainability of many third sector organisations is of particular concern over the coming months, when essential and welcome sources of emergency funding and the furlough scheme draw to a close, and reserve funding is used up. However, this is not just a short-term crisis; the longer term survival of third sector health and social care organisations is at stake, and the unique services and support they deliver will remain just as vital – if not more so – as we continue through COVID-19 recovery into the post-pandemic period.

¹ <https://scvo.org.uk/policy/evidence-library/2020-coronavirus-and-its-impact-on-the-scottish-voluntary-sector-what-do-we-know-so-far-may-2020>

We urge the Scottish Government to continue supporting the role of the third sector in the delivery of COVID-19 and post-pandemic response to health and social care. To achieve this, the undersigned organisations call on the Scottish Government to establish a **Third Sector Recovery and Renewal Fund for national third sector health and care organisations**, to invest in progressing a sustainable model of integrated care for the future.

We would welcome the opportunity to engage further with the Scottish Government both in discussing how the sector can be supported to continue providing services as part of this response and encouraging the role of the sector as part of an integrated response to re-mobilising health and social care.

Yours sincerely

Professor Ian Welsh OBE, Chief Executive, Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (the ALLIANCE)

Teri Devine, Director – Scotland, Action on Hearing Loss Scotland

Brian Sloan, Chief Executive, Age Scotland

Henry Simmons, Chief Executive, Alzheimer Scotland

Joseph Carter, Head of Devolved Nations, Asthma UK and British Lung Foundation Partnership

Rob Murray, Chief Executive Officer, Cancer Support Scotland

Simon Hodgson, Director, Carers Scotland

Paul Traynor, Policy and External Affairs Manager, Carers Trust Scotland

Rami Okasha, Chief Executive, CHAS

Jane-Claire Judson, Chief Executive Officer, Chest Heart & Stroke Scotland

Annie Gunner Logan, Director, Coalition of Care and Support Providers in Scotland (CCPS)

Ruth Wakeman, Director of Information & Support Services, Crohn's and Colitis UK

Janis McDonald, Chief Officer, deafscotland

Isabella Goldie, Chief Executive, Deafblind Scotland

Angela Mitchell, National Director, Diabetes Scotland

Eddie McConnell, Chief Executive, Down's Syndrome Scotland

Shirley Maxwell, Executive Director, Epilepsy Connections

Michelle Carruthers MBE, CEO, Food Train

Angie Platten, Director of Hearing Loss Services, Hearing Dogs for Deaf People and Hearing Link

Nathan Sparling, Chief Executive, HIV Scotland

Janice Preston, Head of Partnerships - Scotland and Northern Ireland, Macmillan Cancer Support

Richard Meade, Head of Policy and Public Affairs – Scotland, Marie Curie

Lee Knifton, Director, Mental Health Foundation Scotland

Craig Stockton, Chief Executive, MND Scotland

Morna Simpkins, Director for Scotland, Multiple Sclerosis Society Scotland

Nick Ward, Director, National Autistic Society Scotland

Nigel Henderson, Chief Executive, Penumbra

James Adams, Director, RNIB Scotland

Mark O'Donnell, Chief Executive, Royal Blind and Scottish War Blinded

Charlie McMillan, Chief Executive, Scottish Commission for Learning Disability (SCLD)

Shaben Begum, Director, Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance (SIAA)

Andrea Cail, Director, Stroke Association Scotland

Angela Donaldson-Bruce, Scotland Director, Versus Arthritis

Grant Sugden, Chief Executive, Waverley Care