

TUESDAY, 17 JANUARY, 2012

**EMBARGOED UNTIL PHOTO OPPORTUNITY: 1.30PM, THURSDAY, 19 JANUARY, LARGE MEETING ROOM, WHITFIELD COMMUNITY CENTRE, DUNDEE**

## NHS Tayside launches groundbreaking fund – cash4communities – in Dundee

**NHS Tayside has today (Thursday, 19 January) launched a pioneering £2million fund in Dundee to benefit communities across the Tayside area. The cash4communities project will see members of the public able to apply for a share of the fund to take forward their own ideas to tackle some of the main challenges faced by people living in communities today.**

The cash4communities project is funded by the NHS Tayside Innovation Fund which was set up by NHS Tayside's Board of Trustees. The Trustees approved £2m to be designated from Tayside NHS Board Endowment Fund Unrestricted Funds to establish the Innovation Fund.

It was decided to set up the fund to try to help change communities for the better with the communities themselves coming forward with ideas on what they believe will make the greatest difference to their own health and wellbeing and the lives of their families.

NHS Tayside has been asking local people what they would like to change about their lives and where they live. The responses showed that people were not only concerned with their health but rather with problems on the streets where they live, with their housing, vandalism, feeling safe and having no clean, safe outdoor spaces where they could go with their families.

However, it is well evidenced that all of these things can have a negative effect on people's health and the way they feel. That is why NHS Tayside is making these funds available for communities to enhance their environments, promote community spirit and inspire pride in neighbourhoods.

Groups are invited to apply for a share of the funds between £500 and £35,000 on an annual basis to establish projects or take action to tackle issues which affect the everyday lives of people living in communities. The fund is particularly looking for new and inventive ways of helping communities.

Anyone interested in applying should go to [www.cash4communities.scot.nhs.uk](http://www.cash4communities.scot.nhs.uk) to find an application form and guidance notes on who can apply, what they can apply for and how to fill in the form.

# Media Information



## Press Release

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Launching the new fund at Whitfield Community Centre in Dundee, Dr Drew Walker, NHS Tayside Director of Public Health said, “We are delighted to be launching such an innovative project which can really go to the heart of a community to make a difference.

“We know that people and their families often have problems with the environment in which they live with issues like vandalism, no safe places for their children to play and the impact of drugs on their street or community.

“All of these issues occur more frequently in more disadvantaged communities and that is why we believe the cash4communities project will play a vital role in supporting local people to make decisions on the changes they want to see and help them improve the health, wellbeing and resilience of their own communities.”

The Dundee launch was held at a Dundee Healthy Living Initiative ‘Health Issues in the Community’ session. The group of local residents who attend meet weekly to learn from a Dundee City Council adult learning worker about community involvement in health, and the community development approach to tackling health inequalities.

The group is co-delivered by Community Health Worker Christine Dallas and Adult Learning Worker Alan Fraser.

The course helps equip local people for the real challenges that they face in developing community responses to health issues and becoming more active citizens.

Members of the group are also part of a community collaborative to assist with addressing teenage pregnancies in Whitfield.

Gerry Marr, NHS Tayside Chief Executive also attended the launch, and added, “We know that many people are actively working to improve things in local communities. NHS Tayside wants to put its resources behind helping communities make changes for themselves.

“This cash4communities fund is looking to support sustainable projects which will work in partnership with residents and communities in disadvantaged areas, promoting quality of life, overall health and wellbeing and creating a stronger sense of community and social relationships.”

**For more information about cash4communities and the Innovation Fund go to [www.cash4communities.scot.nhs.uk](http://www.cash4communities.scot.nhs.uk)**

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