12th May 2025

**What Matters to You launches next phase of Make it Happen Fund for Dundee communities**

Following a successful roll-out in Dundee’s Lochee ward that saw over £22,000 of funding allocated to local community projects, a new round of the Make it Happen Fund from What Matters to You has launched today (12th May), this time in the city’s Strathmartine ward.

The Make it Happen Fund is a community-led initiative to bring positive change to communities in Dundee and is run by local communities for local people and will enable families and community groups to set the fund’s priorities and design the funding proposal process for their area.

Launching today, the fund is encouraging applications from community groups in the Strathmartine ward.

A group of parents in the area going by the name of ‘Strathmartine Makes It Happen’ has united to develop the funding initiative for projects in the Strathmartine ward and is calling for parents, families and community groups with an idea to come forward. Projects that benefit the community directly will be considered and could range from a one-off event to a series of ongoing activities, with support available to for costs like materials, catering, room hire, equipment, transportation, utilities and volunteer support.

With a total of £30,000 available, the Make it Happen Fund aims to support and encourage local groups by supporting projects and initiatives that create positive change within the Strathmartine ward, which includes communities such as Ardler, Kirkton and St Mary’s, while furthering What Matters to You’s goal of reimagining public services by learning from communities and aligning services to better fit their needs.

What Matters to You is supported through an investment from The Hunter Foundation and BBC Children In Need. The Make It Happen Fund is a vital part of the What Matters to You approach and has secured additional funding from The Northwood Charitable Trust, The Robertson Trust, NHS Tayside Charitable Foundation and William Grant Foundation

**Geoff Leask, Dundee Coordinator at What Matters to You, said;**

*"The Make It Happen Fund is an opportunity to reimagine how funds are distributed to deliver meaningful change for Dundee’s communities. Following a successful launch and distribution of £22,000 in Lochee, this grassroots initiative will empower children, young people, and families in the Strathmartine ward to have a voice in their community and strengthen the connections that make their neighbourhood thrive. I encourage anyone with an idea to attend an information session and explore how this fund can help bring their ideas to life."*

Community groups and individuals or those involved with planning and delivery of activities in Strathmartine, where eligible groups must have an annual income under £100,000, are invited to attend an information session to find out more. Information sessions will be held on Tuesday 20th May from 1pm to 2pm at St Mary’s Community Centre and Tuesday 27th May from 1pm to 2pm at Ardler Complex.

**Kelly Barnes, a member of the Strathmartine Makes It Happen Group, said:**

*“Being a part of the panel at in Strathmartine has been a fantastic experience so far. I’ve learned so much about the power of working together in the community and have gained some valuable skills too. Doing my part to decide where funds are allocated has shown me that you can really make a difference when you work together as a community. I’m looking forward to reading the applications and supporting some important local projects.”*

Applications for the Make it Happen Fund close at 5pm on Friday 13th June. For more information, about the fund, visit the [What Matters to You website](https://wm2u.co.uk/strathmartine-make-it-happen-fund).

**Ends**

For media enquiries, contact wm2u@mucklemedia.co.uk

**Make it Happen Fund**
To find out more about the Make it Happen Fund visit: <https://wm2u.co.uk/make-it-happen-fund>

Information sessions are taking place on:

* Tuesday 20th May from 1pm to 2pm at St Mary's Community Centre, St Kilda Rd, Dundee DD3 9NH
* Tuesday 27th May from 1pm to 2pm at Ardler Complex, Turnberry Ave, Dundee DD2 3TP

**What Matters to You**
What Matters to You (WM2U) is an initiative focused on community-based systems change, collaborating with families in Dundee and Clackmannanshire.

System change involves altering the conditions that perpetuate problems, with a core focus on amplifying the voices of those with lived experiences. WM2U’s works by getting to know families in local communities to explore ways to address what truly matters to them.

By focusing on relationships in communities, WM2U aims to support a culture of trust and families truly feeling supported at the right time.

BBC Children in Need along with The Hunter Foundation are currently funding the What Matters to You (WM2U) approach in two areas in Dundee and Clackmannanshire until June 2026.

To find out more about the What Matters to You, visit: <https://wm2u.co.uk/>