

Promoting Equality and Cohesion Fund



Final Progress Update
January 2021 - October 2021

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Section 1: Promoting Equality and Cohesion (PEC) Fund - Overview

The Promoting Equality and Cohesion (PEC) Fund 2017 -21 is a Scottish Government programme that aims to make a difference for people and communities, with a focus on the protected characteristics covered by the Equality Act 2010.

Over the course of the first three years 2017 – 2020 £7.5 million was distributed to 61 projects across Scotland supporting 136, 257 people. Due to the COVID-19 crisis, an additional 15 months of funding was agreed in July 2020 to extend the PEC Fund until October 2021. Inspiring Scotland took over fund management of the PEC Fund in November 2020.

PEC Fund July 2020 – October 2021 (Year 4)

In April 2020, the Fund was extended for a period of 15 months to October 2021. A further £3.18m was granted through 61 grants to 55 organisations. This extension year is referred to as Year 4.

In February 2021 Inspiring Scotland launched the Scottish Government's Equality and Human Rights Fund (EHRF), a new funding programme which is an evolution of previous Scottish Government funding streams, including PECF and Scottish Government funding for national partners.

Section 2: January- October 2021 progress update

This report provides an overview of the progress of funded projects during the period July to December 2020. It is based on reports funded projects submitted in November 2021.

Fund data

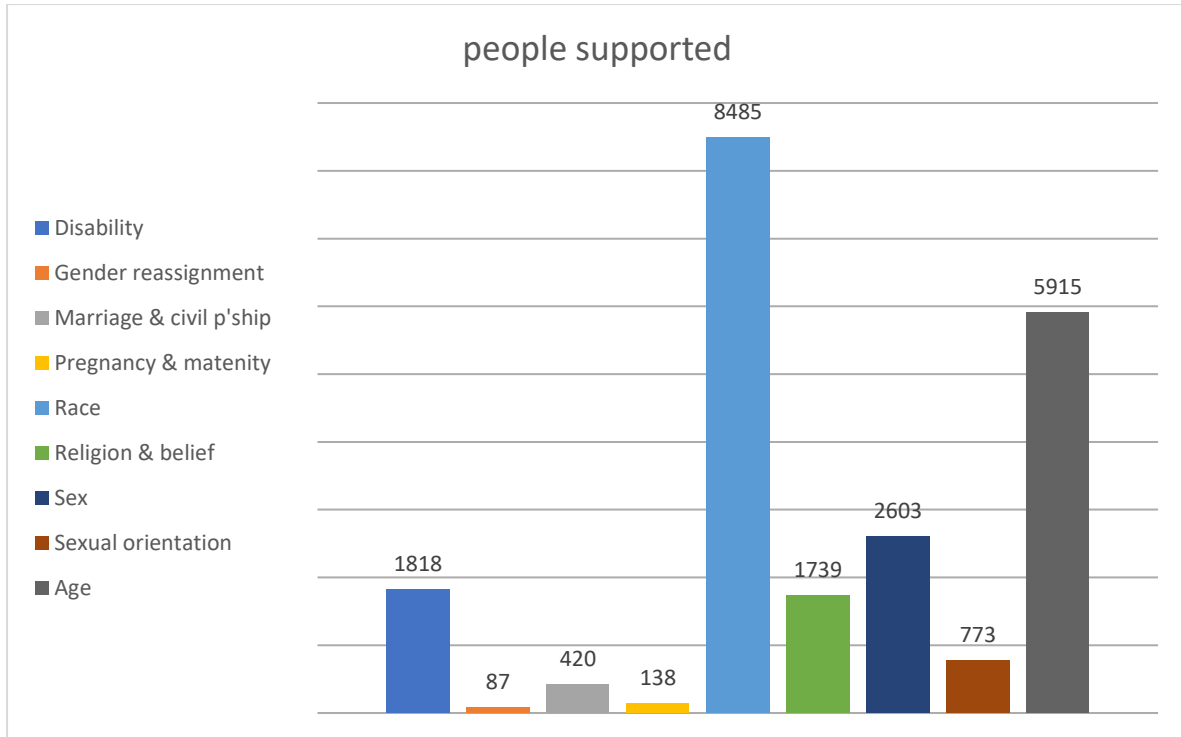


£1.8m granted in period January – October 2021

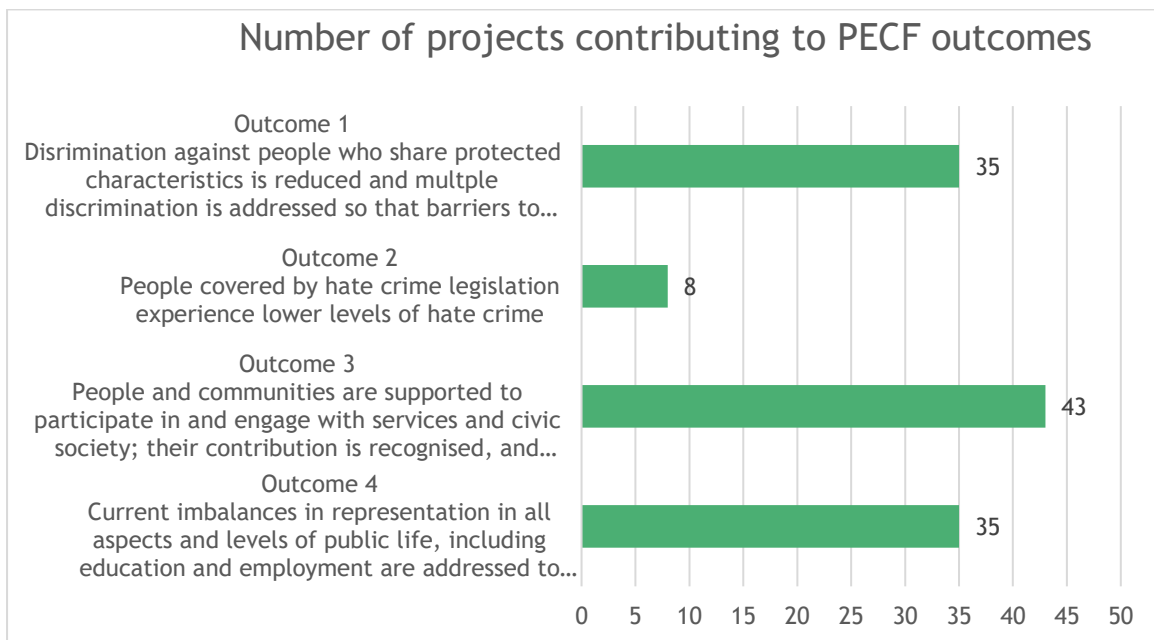


40,021 people supported

Projects were asked to tell us about people they worked with and the protected characteristics they shared. The graph below is based on their self-reporting. Some organisations were able to gather this information more easily than others. The majority of funded groups were focussed on reducing barriers to participation and inclusion with people from different racial and ethnic groups. This is reflected in reported data with race selected as the protected characteristic for the highest number of people supported.

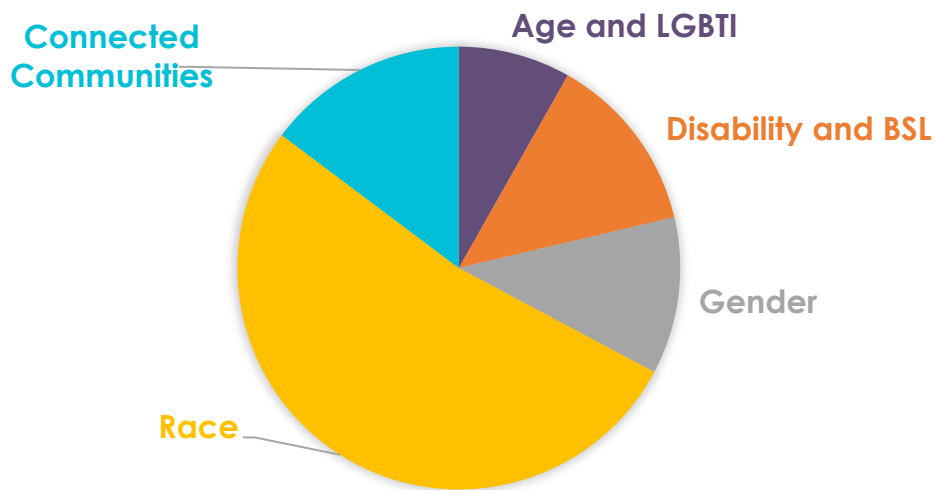


The graph below provides an overall picture of the PEC Fund outcomes selected by the funded groups. The majority selected two of the Fund outcomes, with Outcome Three, *people and communities are supported to participate in and engage with services and civic society; their contribution is recognised, and their community cohesion is increased* being the most common among all of the projects. Whilst there were relatively fewer organisations working towards outcome 2, *People covered by hate crime legislation experience lower levels of hate crime*, the reports provide strong examples of the support provided to victims of hate crime, and provide insight into the time and effort of all involved.



Section 3: January - October 2021 delivery by Scottish Government policy areas

The following sections provide more detail on the PECF projects by broken down by key Scottish Government policy area. While intersectionality was a feature with most projects supporting people with multiple protected characteristics, we have categorised by policy area based on the more dominant protected characteristics represented. The number of projects within each policy area, funding amounts, and numbers reached are shown below, with some activity highlights showing the breadth of support provided.



Age



5 projects



£197,951 granted



5,098 people reached

Disability and BSL



6 organisations with 7 projects



£231,154 granted



1,094 people reached

Gender



5 organisations with 7 projects



£198,750 granted



672 people reached

Race



26 organisations with 29 projects



£838,250 granted



7,128 people reached

Connected Communities



13 projects

*One of these projects also fits within Gender policy area.



£362,097 granted



4,807 people reached

Section 4: Contribution to PECF outcomes Jan – Sep 2021

The following sections provide more detail of the funded activity with each of the four PECF outcomes. Although the quality of the responses varied in terms of data and impact, there was some strong evidence of output.

Outcome 1: Discrimination against people who share protected characteristics is reduced and multiple discrimination is addressed so that barriers to participation are reduced.



35 projects reported delivering towards Outcome 1.

8 organisations reported provision of one-to-one support to over 1,205 people



15 organisations reported providing resources or information to over 2,850 people

10 organisations reported providing training to over 780 people



Outcome 2: People covered by hate crime legislation experience lower levels of hate crime.



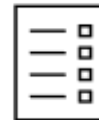
8 projects reported delivering towards Outcome 2

3 projects reported providing one-to-one support to 8 people



4 projects reported providing input to policy development

5 projects reported undertaking training and awareness raising to 344 people



Outcome 3: People and communities are supported to participate in and engage with services and civic society; their contribution is recognised, and community cohesion is increased.



43 projects are delivering towards Outcome 3.

6 projects reported delivering information and skills sharing with over 760 people



11 projects reported providing one-to-one support for over 1000 people

13 projects reported supporting 466 people to undertake training and gain qualifications



Outcome 4: Current imbalances in representation in all aspects and levels of public life, including education and employment are addressed to better reflect our communities



35 projects are delivering towards Outcome 4.

13 organisations reported provided training to 710 people



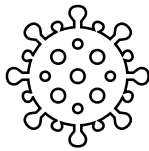
8 organisations reported creating new resources

10 organisations reported supporting over 243 people reach positive destinations including in education and employment.



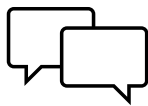
Section 5: Key Themes and Challenges

Organisations were asked to identify the key challenges encountered during the reporting period. Although this was an open question without a specific reference to COVID-19, the analysis showed that this remained a dominant theme throughout. This shows the disproportionate impact that the pandemic is having on people experiencing disadvantage, and the difficulty services face in reaching and supporting these groups.



Covid-19 and the associated restrictions are being disproportionately felt by those that already face disadvantage

Activities focused on participation and cohesion have been particularly challenging to run during lockdown because of the lack of face to face work and screen fatigue



Remote service delivery has been impacted by communication challenges particularly among BSL users and people with English as a new language

Digital exclusion due to lack of hardware, lack of WiFi or data, particularly among migrant communities and older people



Increase in demand for services for asylum and housing and income advice and change in entitlements among EU nationals post Brexit

Ongoing impact of COVID, lockdown, and associated poverty concerns have had an increasingly detrimental impact on peoples' mental wellbeing



Systemic language used around human rights is inaccessible to many, making it difficult for people to feed into getting their rights heard.

Some of the funded work has been impacted in a positive way such as increased reach and participation, made possible through digital working



Appendix 1: Number of PEC funded projects by local authority area

The PEC portfolio was made up of a mix of local and national organisations, although the majority of the activity was focused in specific local authority areas. Organisations were asked to report on where they delivered their activity during the last reporting period. The table below shows a fairly good representation of activity across Scotland's 32 Local Authorities.

