

# Glasgow's Sistema Scotland outpost gets £1.325m boost

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**The Scottish Government has announced a £1.325m funding package for Sistema Scotland, with a further £250,000 application still under consideration. Sistema Scotland will use the money to support its second Big Noise project, which will take place in the Govanhill area of Glasgow from spring 2013, following success in its launch project in Raploch, Stirling.**

The funding is being supplied from four different areas of government spending: children and young people, culture, education, and health and social care. Sistema Scotland director and chief executive Nicola Killean commented: 'We are pleased that streams have come from a number of ministers and portfolios, recognising that this is more than a music programme – that the orchestra and music have the power to effect change in a number of ways.'

Sistema Scotland will still need to raise additional revenues from trusts

and individuals for both projects, but the government funding will underwrite much of the organisation's work in Govanhill over the next four years. 'We believe in a partnership approach to funding,' said Ms Killean, 'with contributions from national and local government, and the private and third sectors. The Scottish government funding allows us to pursue the long-term vision that transformation and regeneration requires.'

Govanhill is one of the most deprived areas in Glasgow. 'It has historically been at the front line of every wave of immigration in the city,' said Sistema Scotland's communications manager George Anderson. 'It's also the most ethnically diverse area in Scotland: there is a single block where 53 different languages are spoken.' It is hoped that by 2015, more than 700 Govanhill children will be playing in a Big Noise orchestra.

The funding announcement follows an independent report on Big Noise Raploch commissioned by the Scottish government,

which found that the project was meeting its short- and medium-term outcomes in children's personal and social development, and was on track to achieve its longer-term objectives in health and well-being, employability and active citizenship. 'Evaluation of Raploch continues in a self-assessment framework,' said Anderson, 'and we also have an evaluation specific to Govanhill – we're working with stakeholders on what they want from this project.'

Ms Killean recognises the importance of the new close relationship between Sistema Scotland and the Scottish government. 'I would describe them as being curious and interested, then supportive, and now committed to the programme and seeing its benefits. The funding feels like recognition and confidence in the work we've been doing.' Founded in 2008, Sistema Scotland is now looking into the possibility of expanding its Big Noise projects into areas including the Borders, Aberdeen, Dundee and Fife.