

Report to:	Grants Advisory Committee	1 December 2023
Lead Cabinet Member:	Councillor John Williams Lead Cabinet Member for Resources	
Lead Officer:	Gareth Bell, Communications and Communities Service Manager	
Key Decision:	No	

Grants to the Voluntary Sector – Service Support Grants: 6-month progress report

Executive Summary

1. To examine the delivery of grant programmes funded by the Council for 2023-26.
2. Six-monthly reports have been requested from organisations in receipt of sums greater than £10,000 per annum unless specifically requested by the Council.
3. The reports provide a review of activity for Q1-Q2 only.

Recommendations

4. The Grants Advisory Committee is asked to review the report and make recommendations to the Lead Cabinet Member for Resources to inform his decision making in respect of service support grants to the voluntary sector.

Details

5. Service Support Grants help to support Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations in South Cambridgeshire from 2023-2026 which fall under the following themes:
 - Mental Health and Wellbeing
 - Advice Services
 - Independent Living
 - Support for the voluntary and community sector
6. Q1 and Q2 requested reports have been received from:
 - Cambridge Council for Voluntary Service (CCVS) (awarded £11,400 per annum)
 - Citizens Advice (awarded £100,000 per annum)

- Home-Start Royston, Buntingford & South Cambridgeshire and Home-Start Cambridgeshire (awarded £13,711 per annum)
7. A summary report of progress during quarters one and two for these organisations is provided in **Appendix A**. The summary also gives an officer opinion on the status against targets agreed within the grant agreements. Full organisational reports can be made available on request.
 8. Funding through the Service Support Grants programme is for three years, with an annual funding agreement for each organisation. Funding is given, subject to satisfactory performance at annual review, and subject to the confirmation of Council budgets in February, ahead of each new financial year. This report covers the first two quarters for funding agreements for 2023-2024.
 9. Monitoring grants takes place at six monthly intervals for organisations in receipt of funding sums of £10,000 or greater per annum. Monitoring takes place annually for organisations in receipt of funding sums less than £10,000 per annum unless specifically requested by the Committee Members.

Reasons for Recommendations

10. All organisations in receipt of funding are on track to deliver the agreed outputs on time and to budget, achieving the objectives of individual grant agreements.

Options

11. The Grants Advisory Committee could:
 - a) Note the progress of funded projects within the scope of this report, including officer summaries, as presented and/or
 - b) Highlight any concerns for further investigation or action.

Implications

12. There are no significant implications.

Legal

13. Arrangements are in place with grant recipients, which should be followed if a variation or discontinuation of funding is agreed.

Alignment with Council Priority Areas

A modern and Caring Council

14. South Cambridgeshire District Council will provide their customers with high-quality services, strive to reduce costs, build on what they are good at to generate their own income and make decisions in a transparent, open and inclusive way. The ongoing objectives into 2023-24 include continuing to work with public sector partners and a network of parish councils and voluntary groups to support the most vulnerable people in the district. The Council is committed to creating and

supporting local community groups and organisations to deliver services for South Cambridgeshire residents. The Service Support Grant funding scheme to the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) has been designed as a contribution to meeting this commitment.

Background Papers

None

Appendices

Appendix A: Service Support Grants to the Voluntary Sector 2023-2026 Q1 & Q2 update

Report Author:

Emma Dyer –Development Officer
email: emma.dyer@scambs.gov.uk
Telephone: (01954) 713344