

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Scrutiny Committee 15th February 2007
AUTHOR/S: Executive Director / Community Development Manager

GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS 2007/08

Purpose

1. To make recommendations regarding the level of grants to voluntary organisations following the annual submission of requests.
2. Copies of all applications made in the report are available for inspection prior to the meeting in South Cambridgeshire Hall and will also be available at the meeting. Contact Tricia Pope for further information on Tel 01954 713290.

Budget Available

3. The budget estimate for 2007/08 is £51,070. This is subject to approval by Council on 22 February 07.

Grants to Voluntary Organisations

4. The grant applications have been categorised into the following sections:
 - (a) Disability
 - (b) Counselling
 - (c) Advice
 - (d) Community Transport

Disability

5. **Cambridge St Raphael Club**

Objectives of Organisation	To provide a better quality of life for the physically disabled, aiming for equality with the able-bodied. The charity is a self-help organisation enabling disabled people to help others with disabilities. The applicant operates 2 adapted minibuses in order to provide transport for members to and from the club and for various outings. The club promotes equal opportunities in all aspects of its work.
Size and Location	A local organisation and registered charity based in Sawston currently covering 12 villages within South Cambs. 3 part-time drivers 12 Volunteers
Benefits to South Cambridgeshire Residents	Of the 40 members, 28 live in South Cambs. The charity aims to give its members the chance to enjoy life, socialise and obtain new skills. Such activities would be impossible without the support provided by

the applicant. In addition it provides respite for carers.

The applicant has applied to the County Council to employ a person to work 1 day per week to organise transport and activities. Large increases in population and the subsequent demand for services will not be met if funding is not obtained.

Total Annual Costs	£27,000 expenditure in 2005/06 £28,000 expenditure in 2006/07 £29,500 projected for 2007/08
Other Sources of Funding (2005 accounts)	Cambridge City Council - £820 Cambridge County Council - £16,800 Fundraising - £3,700 Subscriptions and Donations- £2,000 Interest - £460
	Total Funding - £23,780
Amount Requested	£1,000.
Proposed Use of Grant	To cover transport costs which total over £22,000 per year.
History of SCDC Support	2000/1 – No application made 2001/2 - £988 2002/3 - £500 2003/4 - £530 2004/5 - £550 2005/6 - £1,000 2006/7 - £700
Officer suggestion	£800
Decision of PFH	£

6. **Cambridge Joint Playschemes**

Objectives of Organisation To provide holiday play schemes with activities and outings for children and young people aged 4-19 years with moderate to severe learning difficulties many of whom also have physical disabilities. There are five schemes held during school holidays aimed at separate client groups. Children have a flexible timetable of activities that are geared towards their individual needs and are able to maintain friendships through the schemes.

They provide the opportunity for children to see their friends and make new ones, and also to participate in activities and visit places that are taken for granted by mainstream children. The charity is the only organisation within South Cambridgeshire that provides these services.

Equal opportunities are incorporated in all areas of

the organisations work.

Size and Location	<p>A local organisation and registered charity based in Cambridge covering the City, South and East Cambridgeshire.</p> <p>50 Full-time staff during schemes, 2 part-time all year 4 volunteers during schemes, 1 office support plus 6 Trustees.</p>
Benefits to South Cambridgeshire Residents	<p>During the past 6 months 45 children, their parents and siblings have benefited from the playschemes. This makes up approximately 40% of the total membership. Low cost transport to the schemes is provided so children living in remote villages are not excluded. The special schools in South Cambridgeshire such as the Windmill School in Fulbourn and Green Hedges in Stapleford are utilised for activities.</p>
Total Annual Costs	<p>£141,347 expenditure in 2005/6 £149,479 expenditure in 2006/7 £171,815 projected for 2007/8</p>
Other Sources of Funding (projected for 2007)	<p>Cambridgeshire County Council SLA - £89,923 Statutory Agencies - £2,500 Other charities and national grant giving bodies - £22,500 Donations and other income - £1,900 Income from Service Users - £10,328 Other anticipated funds - £45,000</p>
Amount requested	<p>Total Funding – £172,151 £1,500</p>
Proposed Use of Grant	<p>To support home-to-scheme transport costs, which account for over 25% of the total playscheme costs. Approximately 80% of users require transport. All transport necessitates the use of specialist vehicles, staffed with escorts and is vital to South Cambs residents, as many children could not attend without it.</p>
History of SCDC Funding	<p>2000/1 - £2,050 2001/2 - £2,100 2002/3 - £2,650 2003/4 - £2,200 2004/5 - £1,200 2005/6 - £2,500 2006/7 - £1,500</p>
Officer Suggestion	<p>£1,500</p>
Decision of PFH	<p>£</p>

7. ***Disability Information Service Huntingdonshire (DISH)***

Objectives of Organisation	<p>The organisation exists to promote equal access for disabled people and their carers to rights, benefits and services which will contribute to improving their quality of life and integration in the wider community. This is achieved by providing information and advice on disability related issues and by working in partnership with local and national organisations to raise the profile of disability issues. The service is available to people with physical, sensory or learning disabilities, parents of children with disabilities, older people and people with mental health difficulties.</p> <p>A telephone helpline, email and drop-in service is available Monday – Thursday from 9.30am – 2.30pm. Appointments are made with clients at the office or in their homes.</p> <p>In the future DISH aims to extend the benefits service to deliver the full range of information currently available on the advice line to people who require home visits and extend the range of advice available through subscription to Citizens Advice resources.</p>
Size and Location	<p>A local organisation and registered charity based in Papworth Everard.</p> <p>4 part-time staff 1 part-time volunteer</p>
Benefits to South Cambridgeshire Residents	<p>Papworth Everard is the only village within South Cambridgeshire covered by this service although some queries are received from other South Cambs residents. During 2005/06 a total of 114 enquiries were made by residents of South Cambs resulting in an increase of £22,630 in benefit income received. This is equivalent to approximately 8% of all enquiries. It is estimated that the last 6 months have resulted in £10,000 increased benefit income from 56 enquiries.</p>
Total Annual Costs	<p>£75,784 expenditure in 2005/6 £54,343 expenditure in 2006/7 £41,651 projected for 2007/8</p>
Other Sources of Funding (2006/07)	<p>Cambridgeshire County Council - £27,748 Huntingdonshire District Council - £5,200 Godmanchester Town Council - £500 St Neots Town Council - £1,500 Huntingdon Town Council - £500 Income from Service Users - £488 Huntingdon Freeman's Charity - £2,500 Change Up (short term infrastructure project) - £1,971 Citizen's Advice Bureau (4 month sub-contract) - £4,167 Bank Interest - £339</p>

Fundraising - £104
 Total Funding - £45,017
 (A Big Lottery grant of £42,620 towards the welfare benefits project ended in June 06).

Amount Requested	£1,200
Proposed Use of Grant	The grant would be used towards project work, preferably the cost of running the Benefits and Family projects which includes home visits in the Papworth area.
History of SCDC Support	2005/6 - £1,000 2006/7 - £800
Officer Suggestion	£800
Decision of PFH	£

8. **Cambridgeshire Rehabilitation Club for the Visually Handicapped**

Objectives of Organisation	To provide an opportunity for visually handicapped people to maintain their social skills by meeting similarly disadvantaged people at talks, games afternoons and excursions. It also provides an opportunity for those who are newly handicapped to overcome their problems in a supportive group.
Size and Location	Community Wing, Abbey Meadows Primary School, Cambridge, 15 – 30 members
Benefits to South Cambridgeshire Residents	Prevention of blind and visually impaired people from becoming isolated in the community by providing access to others who are similarly challenged. Provide a range of activities, talks and discussions supported by volunteer helpers and drivers
Total Annual Costs	£2500
Other Sources of Funding	Member donations, fundraising
Amount Requested	£1000
Proposed Use of Grant	Transport costs for members to attend meetings, speakers expenses, hire of meeting room
History of SCDC Support	1998-2001 £3200 2002-2003 £2000 2003-2004/05 £1000 £2006-£2007 £700
Officer Suggestion	£800
Decision of PFH	£

Counselling

9. **Cambridge Family Mediation Service**

Objectives of Organisation	To work for the least possible emotional and financial disruption to those affected by separation and divorce, particularly children, by offering information, mediation and counselling.
	The core values of their service are inclusiveness,

acceptance, accessibility, the empowerment of parents, carers and children; quality and professionalism of service and acting as a voice for the well-being of children.

To help separating couples to work together to resolve their financial and/or childcare problems by offering them a safe environment where they are encouraged to discuss and plan the future as constructively as possible. Representatives attend the County Court Section 8 children days to consider cases referred to them by the District Judge.

The service has a Legal Services Commission quality mark and is committed to equal opportunities.

Size and Location

A local organisation and registered charity based in Cambridge, covering all villages in South Cambridgeshire, Cambridge City, East Cambridgeshire, Huntingdon District and other surrounding areas.

1 Full-time and 12 Part-time staff
10 Part-time Volunteers

Benefits to South Cambridgeshire Residents

Between June and December 2006, 32 adults and from April to December 2006, 14 children from South Cambs have attended for information or mediation.

The benefits to South Cambridgeshire residents of the services offered include:

Information for couples and individuals contemplating or undergoing separation and divorce about the choices available to them and about ways of helping their children.

Information for parents on how to help their children through separation and divorce and on their involvement in new family groups.

Providing free counselling to children and young people aged 4 to 19 who have been affected by separation and divorce.

Mediation for divorcing/separating couples. This service is subsidised for a large proportion of clients who are not legally helped but on low incomes.

Trained mediators help couples reach their own agreement relating to children, finances and property.

Total Annual Costs

£135,500 expenditure in 2005/6
£169,787 expenditure in 2006/7
£164,650 projected for 2007/8

Other Sources of Funding

Cambridgeshire County Council - £10,050
Huntingdonshire District Council - £600
BBC Children in Need and Children's grants - £21,340

Evelyn Trust - £8,000
 Income from Service Users - £40,000
 Fundraising - £3,430
 Legal Services Commission – £82,895
 Donations - £500
 Court Work Funds - £2,081
 Bank Interest - £3,200

Total Funding - £172,096

Amount Requested £1,000, plus £3,500 additional project funding

Proposed Use of Grant A grant would be used in the following areas:
 subsidised cost of providing mediation and information to clients who are on low incomes but not eligible for public funding.
 provision of a free counselling service for children and young people affected by separation and divorce.

History of SCDC Support 1998/9 - £650
 1999/0 - £800
 2000/1 - £820
 2001/2 - £850
 2002/3 - £850
 2003/4 - £900
 2004/5 - £950
 2005/6 - £1,000
 2006/7 - £700

Officer Suggestion £800, awaiting consultation with Scrutiny Committee.
 Decision of PFH £

10. **Cambridge CRUSE Bereavement Care**

Objectives of Organisation CRUSE exists to help people who have been bereaved by death understand their grief, cope with their loss and develop a sense of purpose for the future. The organisation works with anyone who has been bereaved by death through the provision of a daily helpline, individual counselling in clients homes and bereavement support for children and young people. Clients are not charged to use their services.

The organisation has targeted its recruitment of volunteers from socially isolated groups including rural communities so local bereavement support can be offered in South Cambridgeshire.

Size and Location A local branch of a national organisation based in Cambridge, covering all villages in South Cambridgeshire.

1 part-time member of staff
 87 volunteers (32 in training)

Benefits to South Approximately 150 South Cambs residents utilised

Cambridgeshire Residents	the services either individually at home or in groups. An unknown number used the helpline and website.
Total Annual Costs	£43,086 expenditure in 2005/6 £56,719 expenditure in 2006/7 £projected for 2007/8 not provided
Other Sources of Funding (Year ending 31 st March 2006)	Cambridgeshire County Council - £2,000 Cambridgeshire City Council - £4,000 Income from Service users/Donations - £10,000 Fundraising - £8,000 Essex Community Fund - £750 (Annual support of £14,000 from PCT withdrawn this year) Total Funding - £24,750
Amount Requested	£1,500
Proposed Use of Grant	A grant would be used to fund core activities including administration, recruitment and training of new volunteers and room hire for groups. Also to fund the strategic project to ensure that bereaved people in rural locations receive an equal level of support.
History of SCDC Support	1997/8 - £550 1998/9 - £600 1999/0 - £600 2000/1 - £630 2001/2 - £650 2002/3 - £700 2003/4 - £730 2004/5 - £750 2005/6 - £1,000 2006/7 - £800
Officer Suggestion Decision of PFH	£800, awaiting consultation with Scrutiny Committee £

11. ***The Cogwheel Trust***
Objectives of Organisation
- To provide counselling services that help and support people, regardless of gender, race or belief, with a wide range of problems including: abuse, bereavement, disability, depression and employment issues. The service includes:
- Marital, couple and family therapy
 - Individual counselling (all ages)
 - Parenting skills with individuals and couples
 - Family preservation
 - Lone parent and break-up support
 - Dealing with stress at work
 - Counselling to help people back into employment
 - Family Law advice

	<p>There has been an increase in the number of referrals from local GP's and 40% of clients are recommended to Cogwheel by the local health services. It is envisaged that Cogwheel will eventually have a service level agreement with South Cambs PCT to provide counselling services. The applicant also hopes to set up a satellite centre in Sawston.</p>
Size and Location	<p>A local organisation and registered charity with offices in Cambridge and at the Papworth Trust for people with disabilities.</p> <p>1 Full-time and 14 Part-time staff 10 Volunteers</p>
Benefits to South Cambridgeshire Residents	<p>In the 11 months to November 2006, 3025 appointments have been offered, of which 39.4% of are to residents in South Cambridgeshire. As many of the clients are socially and financially disadvantaged, Cogwheel operates a Bursary Scheme providing assisted places for those who are financially unable to pay the minimum contribution.</p>
Total Annual Costs	<p>£105,000 expenditure in 2005/6 £113,165 expenditure in 2006/7 £121,646 projected in 2007/8</p>
Other Sources of Funding	<p>Local Authorities (Cambridge County Council, Cambridge City) - £6,933 Donations - £18,369 Grant Making Trusts (National) - £28,176 Grant Making Trusts (Local) - £11,382 Income from Service Users - £59,283 Fundraising - £1,450 Revenue and Customs Incentive - £250 Bank Interest - £952</p> <p>Total Funding - £126,795</p>
Amount Requested	<p>£2,560</p>
Proposed Use of Grant	<p>The grant will be allocated towards the Bursary Scheme to help disadvantaged families in South Cambs receive counselling services.</p> <p>The applicant estimates that at least 1380 clients from South Cambs will require support from the Bursary Scheme next year. The average bursary per session is £10. Therefore the total bursary fund for South Cambs residents will be £12,800. The amount requested equates to 20% of this cost.</p>
History of SCDC Support	<p>1996/7 - £2,000</p>

1997/8 - £2,100
 1998/9 - £2,170
 1999/0 - £2,225
 2000/1 - £2,280
 2001/2 - £2,300
 2002/3 - £2,300
 2003/4 - £1,750
 2004/5 - £1,900
 2005/6 - £2,000
 2006/7 - £1,350

Officer Suggestion £1,320 awaiting consultation with the Scrutiny Committee

Decision of PFH

Advice

12. **Cambridge Association of Local Councils**

Objectives of Organisation To support the Parish and Town Council movement in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough by:
 Promotion of engagement and partnership working with principle authorities
 Provision of legal, procedural and other advice to member councils
 Lobbying on local and national issues
 Providing training to clerks and councillors
 Supporting capacity building of Parish and Town Councils

Size and Location A local organisation covering all South Cambridgeshire Parish Councils

3 part-time staff
 30 part-time volunteers

Benefits to South Cambridgeshire Residents In the past 12 months there have been almost 1500 contacts from parish councils, SCDC and members of the public. A number of 'hands on' support roles for councils in what CALC term 'serious difficulties'. 40% of their workload is from parishes in South Cambs. Approximately 20 residents have contacted the organisation. They work with SCDC in a variety of areas including as a board member for the LSP and South Cambs Strategic Partnership. The applicant is currently in discussion with SCDC to provide support where required.

Total Annual Costs £90,590 expenditure in 2005/6
 £91,600 expenditure in 2006/7
 £98,500 projected in 2007/8

Other Sources of Funding Affiliation fees - £63,000
 County Grants - £13,500
 Training & Publication sales - £15,000

Total Funding - £91,500

Amount requested	£2,000
Proposed Use of Grant	Towards core funding, supporting closer liaison with SCDC in order to identify cost reductions and increase savings.
History of SCDC Support	2005/6 - £2,000 2006/7 - £1,500
Officer Suggestion	£1,500
Decision of PFH	£

13. **Cambridge and District Volunteer Centre**

Objectives of Organisation	<p>The main objective is “to promote and assist voluntary work in the advancement of education, the protection of health, the relief of poverty, sickness and distress, the protection of the environment and any other charitable activities of benefit to the community in Cambridge and the surrounding area”.</p> <p>This service covers Cambridge City and all of the South Cambs area except those in the SG8 postal area (referred to the Royston and District Volunteer Centre).</p> <p>The organisation has been awarded the Volunteer Development England Quality Mark which requires the following six core functions to be met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Development of volunteeringMarketing volunteeringBrokerage (matching volunteers with specific local volunteer opportunities)Good practice developmentStrategic development of volunteeringPolicy response and campaigning on volunteering issues <p>Services are provided for voluntary, statutory and not-for-profit agencies that want to involve volunteers. There are volunteer opportunities with 238 organisations throughout Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire. Workshops were piloted in 2005 to introduce people to volunteering and to enable them to find suitable placements.</p>
Size and Location	<p>A local organisation and registered charity covering all villages in South Cambs.</p> <p>3 Part-time staff 3 Office Volunteers, 8 Trustees</p>
Benefits to South Cambridgeshire Residents	<p>Of the 1622 volunteer enquiries received in 2005/6, 25% of those giving an address were residents of</p>

South Cambs. From June to November 2006, 81 individuals from South Cambs were helped with their volunteering enquiries. Around 15% of the member groups are based in South Cambridgeshire. Many more are based outside the district but actively provide services in South Cambs. Many of the other organisations that benefit from the help of volunteers are city-based services open to and used by South Cambs residents. Many South Cambs volunteers prefer to work with groups based in the city as transport links between villages are poor and there are more opportunities in Cambridge.

Total Annual Costs	£112,278 expenditure in 2005/6 £61,088 expenditure in 2006/7 £66,568 projected for 2007/8
Other Sources of Funding	Cambridge City Council - £30,084 Cambridgeshire County Council - £23,120 Cambridge Students Rag Appeal - £100 Volunteering England - £2,000 Cambridge City Council – project fund - £599 Income from service users/Training - £805 Other various expenses refunded - £2,307
	Total Funding - £57,015
Amount Requested	£2,000
Proposed Use of Grant	Towards core costs.
History of SCDC Support	1996/7 - £1,250 1997/8 - £1,300 1998/9 - £1,350 1999/0 - £1,500 2000/1 - £1,540 2001/2 - £1,600 2002/3 - £1,700 2003/4 - £1,750 2004/5 - £1,800 2005/6 - £2,000 2006/7 - £1,600
Officer Suggestion	£1,600
Decision of PFH	£

14. ***Royston and District Volunteer Centre***

Objectives of Organisation To encourage, support, develop and promote voluntary activity amongst all sections of the community of Royston and surrounding villages. This is achieved through:
Promoting the benefits of and opportunities for volunteering and community involvement to the general public and specific groups.

Providing information, guidance and advice to individuals and organisations on all aspects of volunteering.

Encouraging participation in volunteering for all individuals, especially those who find they have barriers e.g. people with disabilities.

Supporting organisations to develop and market their local opportunities training and to provide advice, training and support on good practice.

Consultancy/policy developmental work with volunteer-involving organisations. This will seek to improve the standard of volunteer management and support within the sector.

Developing and encouraging employee volunteering within large local companies, including group opportunities

The organisation aims to improve the social, economic and environmental well-being of individuals by supporting organisations that work with volunteers to provide community services.

Size and Location

A local organisation and registered charity, serving all villages in the SG8 postcode area and some immediately adjacent.

3 Part-time Staff

64 Time Bank volunteers and 7 Trustees

Benefits to South Cambridgeshire Residents

Of the 75 voluntary organisations registered with the Volunteer Centre at least 36 are based in South Cambridgeshire. There are more than 135 active volunteering opportunities registered with the Centre, approximately 75 of which are for organisations based within South Cambs. Approximately 40% of their work arises from meeting the needs of prospective volunteers and volunteer involving organisations that provide services in South Cambs. The benefits of volunteering are promoted through community events and the internet. A regular Volunteers Co-ordinators Forum is run to advise organisations on volunteering issues. From April – September 12 residents of South Cambs contacted the organisation directly to enquire about volunteering.

The bureau is working jointly with the Cambridgeshire County Consortium who are working to strengthen and develop the local voluntary sector support infrastructure. As part of this a bid is being submitted to work with other volunteer bureaux on strategic analysis and development of volunteer agency services across the county.

Total Annual Costs

£11,797 expenditure in 2005/6

£19,869 expenditure in 2006/7

£18,039 projected for 2007/8

Other Sources of Funding Cambridgeshire County Council - £3,500
North Hertfordshire District Council - £3,289
Hertfordshire County Council - £1,244

Total Funding - £8,033

Amount Requested £1,100

Proposed Use of Grant A grant would contribute towards core funding to include:
the salary of a Volunteer Centre Manager
travel, office, promotional, training and other
expenses incurred in providing the full range of
services.

History of SCDC Support 1998/9 - £1,000
1999/0 - £1,025
2000/1 - £1,050
2001/2 - £1,100
2002/3 - £750
2003/4 - £780
2004/5 - £800
2005/6 - £1,000
2006/7 - £700

Officer Suggestion £800
Decision of PFH £

15. **Cambridge Council for Voluntary Service**

Objectives of Organisation Awaiting application and consultation with Scrutiny
Committee.

Size and Location Cambridge City and South Cambs CVS is a voluntary
infrastructure organisation that supports the
development of voluntary activity in South Cambs. It
presently has a membership of some 400 voluntary
organisations based in or working in the district. Its
key activities are support with fund raising activities
and training of trustees.

Benefits to South
Cambridgeshire Residents By supporting voluntary activity in the District the CVS
is helping to enhance the quality of life of residents of
South Cambs by encouraging voluntary groups to
develop in order that they can deliver services and
support our most vulnerable residents.

Total Annual Costs
Other Sources of Funding
Amount Requested
Proposed Use of Grant

The funding is for core costs and to enable the CVS
to build better links between South Cambridgeshire
Local Strategic Partnership and the voluntary
organisations that support South Cambs residents

History of SCDC Support We have previously given a little over £1000 to the
CVS. The Community Development Manager would
like to increase this to a minimum of £3000 to enable

the drawing up of a Service Level Agreement with the CVS so that specific outcomes of the service they deliver can be agreed. The CVS is due to receive some funding from the Rural Social Community Programme through Cambridgeshire ACRE to enable it to review and develop the rural voluntary networks that already operate in South Cambs with a view to strengthening the voluntary work that already happens here, additional funding from us will help strengthen those links.

Officer Suggestion £3000 Awaiting discussion with Scrutiny Committee
Decision of PFH £

Young People

16. None received.

Community Transport

17. ***Royston Community Transport Scheme***

Objectives of Organisation Awaiting application
Size and Location
Benefits to South
Cambridgeshire Residents
Total Annual Costs
Other Sources of Funding
Amount Requested
Proposed Use of Grant
History of SCDC Support
Officer Suggestion £700
Decision of PFH £

18. The following organisations have Service Level Agreement arrangements with South Cambridgeshire District Council. This is because they receive £3000 or more in funding, or the service they provide is such that I want to keep in closer contact with them with a view to increasing their funding when circumstances allow. Each of these organisations has received a monitoring visit and is providing information about the level of service provision carried out in the last year.

Name of Organisation	06/07 Grant	Difference +/-	Proposed 07/08 Grant
Age Concern Cambridgeshire	£3000	0	£3000
Cambridge & District Mediation Service	£3000	0	£3000
Care Network	£2625	+£2375	£5000
Connections Bus Project	£3750	-£250	£3500
Crossroads Care South & East Cambridgeshire	£4850	0	£4850
Cambridge Dial a Ride Ltd	£3920	+£80	£4000
Directions Plus	£2300	0	£2300
Cambridge Relate	£2300	0	£2300
Cambridgeshire ACRE	£8900	0	£8900
Total	£34,645	+£2,205	£36,850

Review of Grants to Voluntary Organisations

19. The recommendations for small organisation grants total £14,220.
20. The final total including Service Level Agreement organisations is £51,070. SLA's are drawn up with voluntary organisations that receive funding of £3000 or more (based on pre-capping figures) and provide infrastructure support to smaller organisations or individuals working in South Cambridgeshire or provide direct services to South Cambridgeshire residents.
21. The Community Development Manager would like to extend the Service Level Agreements to three years rather than annual agreements as they are now. Three year agreements would give voluntary organisations providing direct services more stability in terms of how they plan their services.
22. The Service Level Agreements are a statement of intent and not legally binding. SCDC would not be legally bound to provide agreed funding for three years, simply giving an undertaking that this is what we plan to do if the present circumstances do not change.
23. Additionally the SLA's have a six month notice period written into them which means the agreement can be terminated by either side if circumstances bring about a reduction in available funding
24. The Portfolio Holder considered these awards on 25 January 2007 and agreed to them subject to consultation with the Scrutiny Committee on proposals made by the Community Development Manager

Considerations

25. By continuing to reduce some funding to non-priority areas it is possible to maintain, and in a small number of cases to increase levels of funding to key service delivery organisations for 2007/08.
26. Allocation for 2007/8 is again based on the need to prioritise key service providers who enable access to services and improve quality of life to members of the South Cambridgeshire population who are at a disadvantage through age, disability or social or geographical isolation..

Options

27. The main option is to look at whether funding to some non priority services (primarily some counselling services) should be further reduced or discontinued altogether.
28. The relevant organisations are items 9,10,11 in this report. They are Cambridge Family Mediation Service, Cruse Bereavement Care and the Cogwheel Trust.
29. The second option is to consider whether we can extend the SLA's with organisations delivering direct services to three year funding, with the caveats outlined above.

Implications

- (a) The implications of reducing or discontinuing funding to voluntary organisations is the reduction or loss of service to South Cambridgeshire residents by that organisation. In relation to counselling organisations the funding that we provide does support counselling service for less well off residents and they will be the ones no longer able to access the service. Those that can afford to pay will continue to receive the services they require.

30. Financial	Reduced funding to some organisations means we could increase funding to other key service provider organisations
Legal	We do not have a legal requirement to fund voluntary organisations
Staffing	Reductions in our funding may have staff implications for the organisations concerned
Risk Management	Any reduction in service provision by voluntary organisations will raise concerns both from the organisation and the members of the population who can no longer receive the service.
Equal Opportunities	The people least able to pay for the counselling services will be the ones who are most affected.

Consultations

31. In terms of the organisations with whom we have Service Level Agreements, visits have been made to all of these organisations. Many of the other voluntary organisations are aware of the funding constraints because of the information we disseminate through the South Cambridgeshire Voluntary Sector Forum.

Effect on Annual Priorities and Corporate Objectives

32. Affordable Homes	No affect
Customer Service	Reduced service from specific voluntary organisations
Northstowe and other growth areas	Potential weakening of some voluntary organisations to deliver in growth areas
Quality, Accessible Services	Reduction in access to some services
Village Life	As above
Sustainability	As Above
Partnership	The council needs good partnership relations with voluntary organisations. Cutting grants detracts from this relationship

Conclusions/Summary

33. Proposed funding to voluntary organisations for this year could stay relatively unchanged with small reductions in some cases to enable increases needed in other areas. A bigger change that could occur would be to further reduce or delete altogether funding to a small number of counselling organisations to enable greater flexibility in the funding allocated to key service providers in future years.

Recommendations

34. The Scrutiny Committee is therefore asked to approve the officer recommendations, subject to approval of the budget estimate by Council on 22 February 07.

Background Papers: the following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

Application forms and attached information

Contact Officer: Tricia Pope – Community Development Manager
Telephone: (01954) 713290