



REPORT TO: Grants Advisory Committee

20 November 2019

LEAD CABINET MEMBER: Cllr John Williams

LEAD OFFICER: Gemma Barron

Grants to Voluntary Sector – 6-monthly Update Report

Executive Summary

1. To examine the delivery of grant programmes funded by the Council for 2019.
2. Following a decision made by the Grants Advisory Committee at its meeting in September 2019; 6-monthly updates are only now required from organisations in receipt of sums greater than £15,000 unless specifically requested by the Council.
3. The reports provide a review of activity for Q1-Q2 only.

Key Decision

No

4. This not a key decision because it reviews expenditure within current budgets.

Recommendations

5. The Grants Advisory Committee is asked to review the report and make recommendations to the Lead Cabinet Member for Finance to inform his decision-making in respect of service support grants to the voluntary sector. Reports have been requested specifically for those organisations in receipt of £15,000 funding per annum or greater or due to a specific request by the Committee Members.
6. It is recommended that the Lead Member:
 - a. Notes the delivery of grant programmes within the scope of this report as currently being delivered, or
 - b. Highlights any concerns for further investigation or action.

Reasons for Recommendations

7. All organisations receiving grants, are on track to deliver the agreed outputs to time and to budget, achieving the objectives of individual grant programmes. All recipients are being actively monitored.

8. It was agreed at the GAC in September 2019 that only organisations in receipt of grant funding greater than £15,000 pa would need to prepare mid-year reports (unless specifically requested by committee) with the exception of The Farmland Museum, which, following major change, a mid-year report was required to report against objectives.
9. Those charities which fall outside of the above criteria were notified by letter of the change to reporting in early October 2019.

Details

10. The scope of this report covers the following grant funds:
 - a. Voluntary Sector Advice and other grants
 - I. Service Support Grants
 1. Community Transport
 2. Generalist and Specialist Advice
 3. Support Parishes and Communities
 4. Independent Living
 - II. Planning and Economic Development
 1. Farmland Museum
11. Q1 and Q2 requested reports have been received from the following organisations:
 - (a) Care Network, Community Transport Scheme
 - (b) Citizens Advice Bureau,
 - (c) CCVS
 - (d) Care Network, Open Arms project
 - (e) The Farmland Museum
12. A summary report of progress during quarters one and two for these grant programmes is provided in Appendix 1. The summary also gives an officer opinion on the status against targets agreed within the grant agreements.
13. Funding agreements for grants provided through the Service Support Grants programme are for three years, subject to satisfactory performance at annual review. This report is on the first two quarters of year 1 for funding agreements for 2019-22. Monitoring and reporting on grants take place at six monthly intervals for organisations in receipt of funding sums greater than £15,000 per annum.
14. Monitoring and reporting on grants will take place annually for organisations in receipt of funding sums less than £15,000 per annum unless specifically requested otherwise.

Options

1. Grants Advisory Committee could:
 - (a) note the delivery of all grant programmes within the scope of this report, as currently delivered; and/or

- (b) highlight any concerns for further investigation or action

Implications

15. There are no significant implications.

Legal

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

Effect on Council Priority Areas

A modern and caring Council

Funding community and voluntary groups that benefit local people

Background Papers

None

Appendices

Appendix A: Individual reports by Service

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Appendix A : Grant Programmes 2019 – Q1 Q2

(a) Voluntary Sector – Advice and other grants

Service Support Grants

General Welfare Advice and Specialist Advice

CAB

Review of progress under existing policy and plans for an updated policy 2021-2026

Report to client and advisory committee and cabinet

Plans for next year under the existing policy

Plans to renew/refresh the existing policy

Update them in March

Funding is granted under this theme for the provision of free, independent, confidential advice and advocacy in two categories:

To residents on their rights and responsibilities in the areas of debt, benefits, employment, housing, legal and relationship/family matters (General Welfare Advice).

To residents who are disabled, to carers and to families with disabled children (specialist advice).

Funding for the delivery of General Welfare Advice was allocated to four Citizen Advice Bureaux (CABx) as shown below:

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
General and Specialist Welfare Advice			
Cambridge and District CAB	£52,000 £3,250	£52,000 £3,250	£52,000 £3,250
North Herts CAB	£16,800 £1,050	£16,800 £1,050	£16,800 £1,050
Suffolk West CAB	£5,600 £ 350	£5,600 £ 350	£5,600 £ 350
Uttlesford CAB	£5,600 £ 350	£5,600 £ 350	£5,600 £ 350
Year totals	£85,000	£85,000	£85,000

The four CABx report jointly with Cambridge and District CAB compiling the report on behalf of others.

Specific measures agreed with the four CABx for Year One of the funding agreement were as follows:

South Cambs residents accessing CAB advice services in the reporting period:

- Breakdown showing the number of clients dealt with by each CAB

- Number of clients
- Number of advice issues
- Number of sessions
- Total income gains for clients
- Number of cases where homelessness prevented

Issues dealt with by

- i) category
- ii) channel (in person/phone/email)
- iii) age of client
- iv) gender of client
- v) health status of client
- vi) ethnicity of client

Category of issue data for age groups:

- i) under 25s
- ii) 25-64
- iii) 65+

Map indicating relative concentrations of CAB clients by ward
Map showing index of multiple deprivation (IMD) by ward

Financial outcomes
Client case studies
Selection of client feedback

A full report including case studies is provided in Appendix 2.

STATUS: ON TRACK

Community Transport

Funding is provided for the delivery, development and promotion of Community Transport Services with South Cambridgeshire and for its residents.

Although funding for Community Transport services was allocated to three organisations for this period, we have only asked Care Network to report Q1, Q2 outcomes as they fall within the funding criteria of granting funding exceeding £15,000 per annum.

Community Transport

- Deliver a community car schemes sustainability project via community-based participatory research activity
- Develop an area-based initiative and collaborative approach to community transport via Care Network Transport membership scheme
- Provide Open Arms training to all community car schemes in South Cambridgeshire to enable them to identify and signpost lonely service users to Care Network
- Use social network theory to increase awareness of community car schemes
- Redesign the annual community car schemes survey
- Provide 1-1 support for community car schemes as required
- Provide 6 networking and training events /year for community car schemes

STATUS: ON TRACK

Support Parishes and Communities

CCVS

Key Aims To provide support services to community and voluntary groups in South Cambridgeshire; to support and advice parish councils on community related projects and advice on non-statutory governance matters; to provide representation on the behalf of the community and voluntary sector in South Cambridgeshire.

Key Deliverable Organisational development
Improvements in the confidence and knowledge of people who run local community and voluntary activities. The following to be provided:

Specific Measures Step by step support and advice with start-ups, growth and service development for all groups that need it. This will include 1-2-1 support, email and phone support and access to factsheets and information;
Advice, information and support on all aspects of financial management to small community and voluntary organisations to ensure they meet their legal requirements and the requirements of any funders;
One training, information and advice-giving event per patch (3 in total) to cover topics highlighted by the CCVS annual survey and agreed with South Cambs District Council, which will also include funding elements and 121 support if requested
Attendance at up to 6 SCDC-led patch or districtwide events if requested by SCDC to provide advice, information and support to local community and voluntary organisations (and/or parish councils if relevant to the work of CCVS)

Key Deliverable Representation
Provision of a collective voice for the voluntary and community sector, offering expert and impartial representation, so that the views of the sector be taken into account as statutory policy makers make decisions.

Specific Measures Representation on the South Cambs Living Well Area Partnership
Representation on the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership
Representation at other occasional and ad hoc district forums and meetings that require a Voluntary & Community Sector voice

Key Deliverable Networking and communications
Sharing knowledge and experience within the sector; bringing people together to share common issues, identify complementary activities and develop joint solutions:

Specific Measures 1 South Cambs funders fair, bringing together various funders and allowing groups to book appointments to discuss funding opportunities and individual projects
11 newsletters sent to all contacts. These will include updates on good practice as well as local and national news and information.
Regular e-bulletins to all CCVS members giving them additional local information, news and advice
11 funding bulletins to CCVS members
Social media updates and promotion
2 newsletters to local councillors to promote CCVS and the work of the sector

2 newsletters to parish clerks to promote CCVS and the work of the sector
Communicate by any or all of these means to share appropriate information and consultation opportunities highlighted South Cambridgeshire District Council

STATUS: ON TRACK

Independent Living

Care Network Open Arms Project

Trial Open Arms training on co-ordinators of 10 community groups before official launch of the project. Amend training based on feedback

Offer Open Arms to current community groups as supported by Care Network as well as community groups new to Care Network, and in so doing, provide information and support to 100 South Cambridgeshire residents/year on how to increase their community involvement. Present information to community groups regarding wellbeing to stimulate interest to set up peer support groups for carers and cared-for of those with depression and mild to moderate dementia

Set up 6 intergenerational befriending and good neighbour projects, (2 formally structured and 4 informally structured)/year

Support for Parishes and Communities

Offer Open Arms training and general support regarding social isolation and loneliness to all parish councils within South Cambridgeshire

Develop a profile of informal group activity across South Cambridgeshire

Support communities with a consistent presence for community development activity across the district

STATUS: ON TRACK

Planning and Economic Development

Overall Mission To provide a valuable visitor attraction and leisure amenity for the benefit of residents of South Cambridgeshire

Specific Deliverables

To continue to operate the Farmland Museum as a visitor attraction and leisure amenity

To continue to develop a plan which will enable the Farmland Museum to continue to operate beyond a time when no further funding is provided by South Cambridgeshire District Council

To provide a six month report by the end of October on activities and visitor numbers for the period 01 April to 30 September, and an annual report by the end of April covering the financial year.

STATUS: ON TRACK