

Appendix A: Grant Programmes 2021 – (year 3) Q1 & Q2

Service Support Grants to the Voluntary Sector

General Welfare Advice and Specialist Advice

Citizens Advice

Funding is provided to give free, independent, confidential and impartial advice to residents of South Cambridgeshire. To develop, deliver and publicise advice service to residents in a manner which takes account of the rural nature of the district.

We ask Citizens Advice to log outcomes from the advice given, recording the value of income gained, problems resolved and homelessness prevented as well as detailing the range of issues dealt with including demographic data.

Citizens Advice continue to keep us regularly updated throughout the year. Their data very much reflects the same as this time last year, in terms of numbers of clients helped and the types of issues they cover. It's worth noting that the number of clients seeking help for debt this past 12 months increased significantly as did the number of issues per client relating to debt, i.e. more than 1 area of debt needed to be resolved.

Status: On track

Community Transport

Care Network

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.

Their community transport grant requires them to:

- Deliver a community car schemes sustainability project via community-based participatory research activity follow up research to include the impact of COVID-19.

- Develop an area-based initiative and collaborative approach to community transport via Care Network Transport membership scheme
- Raise awareness of Care Network and other local services and connections 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 to gather evidence of COVID-19 impact and recovery
- Provide 1-1 support for community car schemes as required
- Provide 6 networking and training events per year for community car schemes

The service was impacted during the pandemic with a number of schemes having lost volunteer drivers but they continue to actively recruit and numbers are slowly re-building. Many of the schemes are now back up and running prioritising any medical journeys. 1-1 support and networking and training events have all taken place via online delivery platforms such as Teams or Zoom. They continue to raise awareness via social media but also through their own newsletter which has a reach of 2,327 people per month.

Status: On track

Support to parishes and communities

CCVS

Funding is provided for support services to community and voluntary groups in South Cambridgeshire; to support and advise 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:

- 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

Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC), which will also include funding elements and 1-2-1 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 Community Safety Partnership

Representation at other occasional and ad hoc district forums and meetings that require a Voluntary & Community Sector voice

Key Deliverable: Networking and communication

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

CCVS have continued to adapt their service to accommodate more online support. Pre-covid many of their workshops were District-based, however, with the move to online communications, their reach has been more countywide with a mix of Districts able to join their workshops, webinars and training events. They continue to extend

their reach via social media. CCVS is also a vital link for the groups and organisations supported by the SCDC post-Covid support programme and SCDC will regularly signpost to them.

Status: On track

Independent Living

Care Network

Care Network are continuing to adapt their service to reflect community need as a result of the ongoing impacts of COVID-19. A number of new initiatives have been introduced which help to support issues arising from social isolation. Care Network have requested that under their grant conditions relating to Independent Living and Support to Parishes and Communities, that outcomes are now related to the wellbeing activities listed in their report under the headings:

Back on Track – wellbeing support

Check and Chat – isolation and loneliness support

Trusted Friend – supporting individuals to venture back outside and re-join the activities they attended prior to COVID-19 lockdown.

This reflects the changing demands on their service from the community for peer-to-peer support focusing on wellbeing which they report is continually growing and which has seen demand increase by almost 20% in the last 18 months.

Status: On track