

Grant Aid Sub-Committee

Tuesday, 18 October 2016 at 14:00

County Hall, County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 7QP

AGENDA

1	minutes 17 May 2016	3 - 6
2	Apologies for Absence	
3	Declarations of Interests by Members and Officers:- (see note below) (a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (b) Private Interests (pecuniary and non-pecuniary)	
4	Sports Fund Grant Aid, Club Development 2016-2018 & Talented Athletes 2016-2017	7 - 18
5	Grant Aid Impact Report 2012-15	19 - 54
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7	Work Programme Report	101 - 104

Notes

- (1) Councillors are advised to contact their Research Officer for details of any Group Meetings which are planned for this meeting.
- (2) Members of the public wishing to inspect "Background Papers" referred to in the reports on the agenda or Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act should contact:-

- (3) Persons making a declaration of interest should have regard to the Code of Conduct and the Council's Procedure Rules. Those declaring must indicate the nature of their interest and the reasons for the declaration.

Councillors or Officers requiring clarification on whether to make a declaration of interest are invited to contact Dawn Lawrence (Tel. 0115 977 3201) or a colleague in Democratic Services prior to the meeting.

- (4) Councillors are reminded that Committee and Sub-Committee papers, with the exception of those which contain Exempt or Confidential Information, may be recycled.
- (5) This agenda and its associated reports are available to view online via an online calendar - <http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/dms/Meetings.aspx>

Meeting	GRANT AID SUB-COMMITTEE
Date	Tuesday 17 May 2016 (commencing at 2.00 pm)

Membership

Persons absent are marked with an 'A'

COUNCILLORS

Joyce Bosnjak (Chairman)
Chris Barnfather (Vice-Chairman)

John Cottee
David Kirkham
Keith Longdon

David Martin
Muriel Weisz

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Pete Barker	Democratic Services Officer
Joanne Fletcher	Grant Aid Officer
Sally Gill	Group Manager, Planning
Cathy Harvey	Team Manager, Community and Voluntary Sector

OTHER ATTENDEES

Liz Sheldon Homestart - Ashfield

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 26 JANUARY 2016**RESOLVED: 2016/06**

That the minutes of the last meeting held on 26 January 2016 having been circulated were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

It was reported that Councillor Chris Barnfather had been appointed to the Committee in place of Councillor Martin Suthers, for this meeting only.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

All members declared a non-pecuniary private interest in Item 6, Arts Grant Aid and Item 7, Summer Play Scheme Grant Aid Programme 2016 & 2017, as all were aware of organisations and groups in their electoral divisions who had submitted bids, this did not preclude any member from speaking or voting on either item.

HOMESTART – PRESENTATION TO GRANT AID COMMITTEE

Liz Sheldon from Homestart Ashfield gave a presentation to Committee which informed members of the following:

- The work undertaken by Homestart and how they worked together in Nottinghamshire
- How Homestart work and how they supported Children's services and other partners
- The difference Grant Aid made to the work undertaken by Homestart

RESOLVED: 2016/07

That the presentation was noted.

Members thanked Liz Sheldon for attending.

UPDATE ON THE WORK OF THE COMMUNITY & VOLUNTARY SECTOR TEAM

Sally Gill presented a report updating members on the work of the Community and Voluntary Sector Team and the work undertaken to support the community and voluntary sector in Nottinghamshire.

RESOLVED: 2016/08

- 1) That the work undertaken by the Community and Voluntary Team be noted.
- 2) That the following single year (2016/2017) grants to organisations supporting the victims of sexual abuse & sexual violence be approved:

ISAS (Incest & Sexual Abuse Survivors)	£13,397
Nottingham Rape Crisis Centre	£23,202
S.H.E (Supporting Healing Educating)	£12,940

ARTS GRANT AID 2016-18

RESOLVED: 2016/09

That the recommended grants detailed in Appendix 2 of the report be approved.

SUMMER PLAY SCHEME GRANT AID 2016 & 2017

RESOLVED: 2016/10

That the recommended grants detailed in Appendix 1 of the report be approved.

WORK PROGRAMME

Members requested that a report on the progress of Play Schemes be brought to a future meeting of the Committee.

RESOLVED: 2016/11

That the report be noted.

The meeting closed at 3.11 PM

CHAIRMAN

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR PLACE

SPORTS FUND GRANT AID: CLUB DEVELOPMENT 2016-2018 AND TALENTED ATHLETES 2016-2017

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to:
 - Provide an update on the Sports Fund 2016-18
 - Seek approval for the funding recommendations for 2016-18

Information and Advice

2. At the meeting in March 2015 the Grant Aid Committee agreed a grant aid fund totalling £1.7m per year from 2015-18 to support projects in the Voluntary & Community Sector (VCS). Within this budget, £36,000 per year is allocated to the Sports Fund.
3. The Sports Fund consists of two parts: Talented Athletes and Club Development. Within the Club Development programme, there are 3 themes that focus on sports participation, developing the coaching workforce and developing volunteers. Further information about the Sports Fund categories/themes can be found in Appendix 1 to this report.
4. Funding to sports clubs and individuals helps to deliver against Nottinghamshire County Council's (NCC's) current Redefining Your Council Core Functions, in particular, the Children's and Culture function. Traditionally, sports clubs and individual athletes have been awarded grants on an annual basis. At the October 2015 Grant Aid Sub-Committee, it was agreed:
 - To align the Sports Fund Club Development Grant Aid with the main 3-year Grant Aid 2015-18 programme. Grant Aid funding has already been awarded for 2015-16, therefore, Club Development applications were invited to deliver 2-year projects (2016-18).
 - To continue delivering the Sports Fund Talented Athletes programme on an annual basis (this is due to the unpredictable nature of the athletes, e.g. athletes may not be selected for their squad in subsequent years, they may change sport categories, or they may be injured).

Promotion

5. Online applications were invited from 13 June 2016 to 01 August 2016. The Community & Voluntary Sector (C&VS) team worked with colleagues in Communications and Marketing to promote the Sports Fund via the local press, social media and the NCC webpage. The C&VS team and Sport Nottinghamshire also contacted previous applicants and other relevant groups to inform them about the Sports Fund.

Applications Received and Assessment Process

6. The C&VS team received 23 **Club Development** applications which were assessed by Sport Nottinghamshire colleagues against the published eligibility and assessment criteria. Applications for Club Development funding were required to include a project action plan and confirm support from their local sports development officer. In total, the Club Development applications requested almost £40,000 of Grant Aid funding.
7. Assessors have recommended approval of 15 Club Development applications to deliver a total of 28 sports participation, coaching and volunteering projects (some clubs applied to deliver more than one project). The total amount recommended under the Club Development category is £22,790 per year (2016-18). Appendix 2, Table 1 to this report contains data about:
 - The number of Club Development applications and recommendations by district and by Club Development theme
 - The amount applied for – and the recommended grant award by district
 - A summary of what the funding will contribute to (i.e. the anticipated project outcomes).
8. In summary, the recommended Club Development funding will help sports clubs to:
 - Attract over 870 new participants to sport
 - Keep over 400 people involved in sport who would otherwise cease to participate
 - Support 50 new coaches to achieve a National Governing Body or UKCC level 1 &/or 2 coaching qualifications
 - Recruit and train over 80 new sports volunteers.
9. Appendix 2 to this report lists:
 - The recommended Club Development applications, a summary of the proposed activity, the amount requested and the amount recommended for each sports club (Table 2)
 - The Club Development applications that are not recommended and a summary of the reason(s) why each application is not recommended (Table 3)

10. The C&VS team received 49 **Talented Athletes** applications requesting a total of £19,600 (the maximum award for this category is £400 per athlete). The applications were assessed by Sport Nottinghamshire colleagues against the published eligibility and assessment criteria. Talented Athletes were required to submit a letter of endorsement from their National Governing Body (NGB), in support of their application. Assessors recommended that 44 applications receive a grant of £300 each, totalling £13,200 for 2016/17. Appendix 3 to this report lists:
- The number of Talented Athlete applications received and the recommendations by district (Table 1)
 - All Talented Athlete applicants by their name, district, sport/discipline and the assessment outcome (Table 2).
11. Five Talented Athlete applications are not recommended, as shown in Appendix 3 (Table 2).

Monitoring and Support

12. Recipients of Club Development and Talented Athletes funding will be asked to complete monitoring information at the end each funded year. With regards to sports clubs, colleagues from Sport Nottinghamshire (and in some cases, approved partners), will aim to carry out monitoring visits as and when practicable during the funded period.
13. All Sports Fund applicants not approved for funding will be provided with the reason(s) for not recommending their applications and will be offered support from both the C&VS team and Sport Nottinghamshire. Positive relationships have been developed between Sport Nottinghamshire and sports clubs and appropriate support continues to be offered to them. For example, this includes a general health check and help with exploring ways to reduce costs and generate income for sports clubs. Applicants to the Talented Athletes Fund will be signposted to other possible sources of information/support as appropriate.

Programme Developments

14. Over the last 2 years, a complete review and revamp of the Sports Fund 'end-to-end' process and forms has taken place in line with the corporate Grant Aid strategy and in response to budget challenges to make the process more efficient, effective and purposeful. Developments include:
- Use of technology e.g. an enhanced online application form and introduction of online monitoring reports.
 - A revised assessment tool and process to make it more robust - and assessment guidance for assessors.
 - A revised agreement in line with corporate requirements (agreed with Nottinghamshire County Council Legal Services).
 - Use of the new corporate database (One Space), to assist with managing and sharing information – as well as financial recording and reporting.
 - Revised monitoring arrangements.

Other Options Considered

15. All the applications received have undergone rigorous assessment and moderation by officers.

Financial Implications

16. These are contained within the report.

Reason(s) for Recommendation(s)

17. The Sports Fund applications recommended for approval meet the published criteria and help to deliver against NCC's current Redefining Your Council Core Functions, in particular, the Children's and Culture functions.

Statutory and Policy Implications

18. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

19. Members are asked to approve:

- The recommendations for the Club Development applications 2016-18.
- The recommendations for the Talented Athletes applications 2016-17.

Tim Gregory
CORPORATE DIRECTOR PLACE

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Cathy Harvey
Team Manager, Community and Voluntary Sector Team
0115 97 73415

Constitutional Comments (SLB 07/10/16)

Grant Aid Sub Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report.

Financial Comments (SES 07/10/16)

The financial implications are set out in the report.

Background Papers

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected: ALL

Appendix 1: Sports Fund themes

Table 1: Sports Fund themes and eligibility criteria

Fund Category / Theme	Eligibility
Talented Athletes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Athletes who compete in a sport that is recognised by Sport England and governed by a National Governing Body that is also recognised by Sport England. Applicants must have represented the Country of their choice within the last 8 months / and / or be nationally ranked within the top 5 in their age group. If the applicant is applying as an individual from a team sport, they must be a member of a national squad. A maximum award of £400 will be available to individual athletes.
Club Development - Themes:	
Sports Clubs - Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clubs who are looking to run projects that aim to increase participation or diversify its current membership. The club will be required to hold Clubmark accreditation or demonstrate it is actively working towards gaining the award. A maximum award of £1,000 will be available.
Sports Clubs - Developing Volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clubs who are looking to train volunteers to become qualified officials can apply for a contribution towards the overall costs. The club will be required to identify the need and receive an endorsement from its Governing Body. A maximum award of £250 will be available for Volunteering Development.
Sports Clubs - Coaching	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clubs who are looking to train individuals to become qualified level 1 & 2 coaches will be able to apply for a contribution towards the overall costs. The club will be required to identify need and receive an endorsement from its Governing Body. A maximum award of £400 will be available for Coach Bursaries.

Note: The maximum award across all Club Development themes is £1,000.

Appendix 2: Club Development 2016 - 2018

Table 1: Club Development applications received, recommendations, themes and total amount recommended by district

District		Ashfield	Bassetlaw	Broxtowe	Gedling	Mansfield	Newark & Sherwood	Rushcliffe	Outside Nottinghamshire	Countywide Totals
Number of Applications received		5	4	2	1	4	2	3	2	23
Number of Applications recommended for approval		5	2	1	1	3	1	2	0	15
Number of applications received per Club Development Theme*	Sports Participation	3	4	2	1	3	2	2	1	18
	Sports Coaching	5	2	1	1	3	2	2	2	18
	Sports Volunteering	2	1	1	1	2	1	2	0	10
Total amount requested by district		£7,410	£4,148	£4,200	£2,000	£8,712	£3,940	£6,307	£2,239	£38,956
Total amount recommended for approval by district		£6,130	£2,910	£1,400	£1,800	£5,210	£1,940	£3,400	£-	£22,790
Anticipated project outcomes:		Ashfield	Bassetlaw	Broxtowe	Gedling	Mansfield	Newark & Sherwood	Rushcliffe	Outside Nottinghamshire	Countywide Totals
Number of new participants		169	80	48	40	400	80	57	-	874
Number of people involved in sport that would otherwise cease to participate.		130	30	18	100	52	30	46	-	406
Number of new coaches supported to achieve a National Governing Body or UKCC level 1 &/or 2 coaching qualifications		23	3	-	14	2	2	6	-	50
Number of new volunteers recruited and trained		39	10	-	20	5	3	5	-	82
Anticipated total number of Nottinghamshire people who will benefit from the 2016/18 Sports Fund: 1,412										

* Sports clubs can apply for more than one theme therefore 23 Club Development applications were received requesting funding to deliver 46 projects; of these, 15 applications were recommended to deliver 28 projects.

Note: Total number of Club Development applications not recommended = 8.

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Table 2: List of Club Development applications recommended for funding and a summary of their proposed activity

District	Organisation Name	Club Development Theme(s)	Summary of proposed activity	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
Ashfield	Falcon Amateur Swimming Club	Coaching	The club plans to train two Level 1 coaches and two Level 2 coaches to enable the club to take on additional swimmers.	£ 800	£ 800
Ashfield	Sutton Sting Ice Hockey Club	Coaching Participation Volunteering	To start up new, separate beginner sessions at the club. The club will also train new volunteers and coaches in order to support the beginner sessions.	£ 1,900	£ 1,400
Ashfield	Sutton Swimming Club	Coaching	To train three Level 1 coaches and one Level 2 coach to enable the club to increase their membership.	£ 800	£ 800
Ashfield	Sutton-in-Ashfield Harriers and Athletic Club	Coaching Participation	To purchase new equipment in order to carry out sessions in the local area. To train new coaches to support new members through this initiative.	£ 1,810	£ 1,730
Ashfield	The Nottingham Piscatorial Society	Coaching Participation Volunteering	To deliver six training sessions followed by four competitions. Up to six coaches will be trained to deliver the sessions and support the increased membership at the club once the project has finished.	£ 3,300	£ 1,400
Bassetlaw	Bircotes Swimming Club	Coaching Participation Volunteering	To develop a masters section of the swimming club for adults aged 18 plus. To train volunteers and coaches to enable the club to take on more swimmers and improve sustainability.	£ 1,438	£ 1,400
Bassetlaw	Retford Gymnastics Club	Participation	To introduce new classes in order to retain some of the older gymnasts within the club and also attract parents of the young gymnasts attending the mainstream sessions.	£ 1,710	£ 1,510
Broxtowe	Chilwell Memorial Institute Tennis Club	Participation	To set up a new junior section of the club to improve sustainability. The project will go into the local community to generate interest for a new junior section at the club.	£ 1,400	£ 1,400
Gedling	Gedling Southbank FC	Coaching Participation	To set up a new girls and boys team for children aged 5-9 years. To achieve this, the club requires new coaches to be trained to Level 1 standard.	£ 2,000	£ 1,800
Mansfield	Blidworth Welfare FC	Participation	To set up a new football team for people with disabilities in the Newark and Sherwood / Mansfield area.	£ 2,000	£ 2,000
Mansfield	Mansfield Harriers and Athletic Club	Coaching Participation	To increase the clubs membership by providing four cross country events over the two year period. To support this, two new Level 1 coaches will also be trained.	£ 1,212	£ 1,212

District	Organisation Name	Club Development Theme(s)	Summary of proposed activity	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
Mansfield	Mansfield Junior Badminton Club	Participation	To increase club membership by delivering taster sessions in the local area over a two year period.	£ 2,500	£ 2,000
Newark & Sherwood	Newark Castle Cycling Club	Coaching Participation Volunteering	To increase club membership through Go Ride sessions and to increase the number of qualified coaches within the club. The purchase of three new bikes will enable new members to join.	£ 1,940	£ 1,940
Rushcliffe	Nottingham Kayak Club	Coaching Participation Volunteering	To refresh the clubs introductory / recreational sessions that take place all through the year by purchasing new equipment and training existing members to achieve volunteer and coaching awards.	£ 3,300	£ 2,000
Rushcliffe	Upper Broughton Youth & Social Club	Participation	To deliver first level and introductory tennis in the local community for children aged 7-8 years. The exit route will be Upper Broughton Tennis Club.	£ 2,000	£ 1,400

Table 3: List of Club Development applications not recommended and reasons why not recommended

District	Sports Club	Club Development Theme	Not Recommended Reason					
			A	B	C	D	E	F
Bassetlaw	Babworth Rovers Junior Football Club	Sports Participation	x			x		
Bassetlaw	Harworth Archers	Sports Participation	x			x		
Broxtowe	Stapleford Town Football Club	Coaching Bursaries Sports Participation	x					
Mansfield	Woodhouse Colts JFC	Coaching Bursaries Sports Participation Volunteering Development	x					
Newark & Sherwood	Newark Athletic Club	Coaching Bursaries Sports Participation	x					
Nottingham City	Total Fitness Nottingham Triathlon Club	Coaching Bursaries						x
Outside Nottinghamshire	Erewash Valley Gymnastics Club	Sports Participation Coaching Bursaries						x
Rushcliffe	Nottingham Netball Association	Coaching Bursaries Volunteering Development	x					

Key: Club Development: Reasons why not recommended

A = Incomplete application / insufficient information provided

B = No other funding identified

C = High reserves / surplus or viability concerns

D = Project / service outcomes do not fully address grant priority

E = Part of commissioned services or duplication of mainstream services

F = Application not eligible

Appendix 3: Talented Athletes 2016 - 2017

Table 1: Talented Athletes: Number of applications received and recommendations by district

District	Number of Applications	Number of Applications Recommended for Approval	Number of Applications <u>Not</u> Recommended
Ashfield	10	10	-
Bassetlaw	5	4	1
Broxtowe	3	3	-
Gedling	9	9	-
Mansfield	3	2	1
Newark & Sherwood	3	3	-
Rushcliffe	16	13	3
Countywide Totals	49	44	5

Note:

- Out of the 49 Talented Athletes applications received, 24 were for athletes aged under 16.
- Generally, applications were requested as a contribution towards the cost of coaching, competition, travel, equipment, training and travel.

Table 2: List of all talented athlete applications by district, their sport / discipline and assessment outcome

District the Athlete is based in	Athlete Name	Sport / Discipline	Recommended Or: Not Recommended
1. Ashfield	Alex Arbon	Javelin	Recommended
2. Gedling	Aren Francis	Ice hockey	Recommended
3. Broxtowe	Benjamin Foulston	Para-swimming	Recommended
4. Ashfield	Bethany Warner	Synchronised skating	Recommended
5. Mansfield	Bradley Fothergill	Ice hockey	Not Recommended
6. Broxtowe	Bradley Fry	Slopestyle Skiing	Recommended
7. Rushcliffe	Calum Fernie	Cycling - Mountain bike Cross-Country	Not Recommended
8. Rushcliffe	Charlie Parry-Evans	Figure Skating- Senior men	Recommended
9. Ashfield	Charlotte Henshaw	Para-swimming	Recommended
10. Newark & Sherwood	Edmund Howlett	Fencing	Recommended
11. Rushcliffe	Emilia McAllister Jepps	Sprint Kayaking	Recommended
12. Rushcliffe	Ethan Barrett	Canoe Slalom	Not Recommended
13. Rushcliffe	Eva Shaw	Tennis	Recommended
14. Rushcliffe	Ewan Vernon	Canoe Slalom	Recommended
15. Ashfield	Georgie Boyce	Cricket	Recommended
16. Rushcliffe	Haider Ali Rahat Aslam	Handball	Recommended

District the Athlete is based in	Athlete Name	Sport / Discipline	Recommended Or: Not Recommended
17. Gedling	Jack Urquhart	Shorttrack Speed Skating	Recommended
18. Rushcliffe	Jacob Barrett	Canoe Slalom	Recommended
19. Rushcliffe	Jacob Clark	Pole vault	Not Recommended
20. Ashfield	Jenny Bryan	Archery	Recommended
21. Gedling	Jessica Urquhart	Shorttrack Speed Skating	Recommended
22. Rushcliffe	Joel Leon Benitez	Athletics / Pole Vault	Recommended
23. Rushcliffe	Joshua Brown	Figure Skating	Recommended
24. Gedling	Joshua Max Plumridge	Handball	Recommended
25. Mansfield	Joshua Tarry	Figure Skating - Ice Dance (Couples)	Recommended
26. Newark & Sherwood	Kiren Harby	Modern Pentathlon	Recommended
27. Broxtowe	Laurence Elliot Oakden	Olympic Weight Lifting	Recommended
28. Bassetlaw	Lee Thompson	Athletics	Recommended
29. Gedling	Liam Redwood	Ice hockey	Recommended
30. Ashfield	Libby Coleman	Triathlon	Recommended
31. Ashfield	Lily May Boseley	Swimming	Recommended
32. Gedling	Louis Taiwo-Williams	Fencing, Pentathlon, Swimming	Recommended
33. Rushcliffe	Max Littlewood	Kayaking - Sprint and Marathon Racing	Recommended
34. Bassetlaw	Nathan Langley	Athletics	Not Recommended
35. Gedling	Niall Monks	BMX Racing	Recommended
36. Rushcliffe	Nikita Setchell	Canoe Slalom (Kayak)	Recommended
37. Rushcliffe	Noah Phillips	Freestyle Kayaking	Recommended
38. Ashfield	Oliver Hynd MBE	Para-swimming	Recommended
39. Bassetlaw	Owen Freddie Jordan	Fencing	Recommended
40. Newark & Sherwood	Phoenix Weir	Tennis	Recommended
41. Gedling	Rais Francis	Ice hockey	Recommended
42. Mansfield	Rebecca Gillespie	Figure Skating	Recommended
43. Gedling	Rosie Rudin	Swimming	Recommended
44. Ashfield	Samuel Hay	Squash	Recommended
45. Bassetlaw	Sophie Mills	Athletics	Recommended
46. Ashfield	Tahya Fells	Taekwondo	Recommended
47. Bassetlaw	Thomas Atkinson	Swimming	Recommended
48. Rushcliffe	Zach Pearson	Canoe Slalom	Recommended
49. Rushcliffe	Zygy Chmiel	Marathon canoeing (kayak)	Recommended

18 October 2016**Agenda Item: 5**

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR PLACE GRANT AID IMPACT REPORT 2012-15

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide an overview to Members of the Grant Aid Sub-Committee about the way in which the 3-year Grant Aid programme 2012/15 has contributed to achieving the Nottinghamshire County Council strategic plan.

Information and Advice

2. At the November 2011 Grant Aid Members Reference Group, Members agreed a Grant Aid 2011/15 Strategy which sought to bring about a number of significant changes in the way that the Council worked with the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS). Further information about the features and drivers of the Grant Aid 2012/15 Strategy can be found in Appendix 1 to this report.
3. Over the course of the 3 years, members approved 390 grants (this includes 3-year awards and annual awards for arts, sports and summer play schemes. These Awards included number of successful joint bids to operate as 'consortiums', for example, from the Citizens Advice Bureaux, the MIND Network and Infrastructure Organisations. The financial value of the 2012/15 Grant Aid awards was just under £6m over the 3 years. Appendix 2 to this report provides a summary of awards by theme and geographical area.

The Grant Aid Programme 2012/15: Report Overview

4. This report aims to highlight the impact of the 3-year Grant Aid programme (2012-15) and includes a summary of:
 - The Grant Aid reach, i.e. the number of Nottinghamshire people who have benefitted from the Grant Aid programme
 - How the Grant Aid programme has helped to improve the lives of Nottinghamshire people
 - The contribution made by volunteers and the benefit to volunteers
 - Grant Aid as a leverage to secure other income
 - Other achievements and partnership working
 - Challenges experienced by VCS groups.

Grant Aid Reach

5. Around 596,000 people are reported to have benefited from a diverse range of Grant Aided activities and services over the 3-years. It is recognised that some service users may have benefitted from the Grant Aid programme in more than one year; therefore, assuming an estimated 198,600 people benefit from the Grant Aid programme in any one year, this would represent almost 25% of the Nottinghamshire population.*
6. The benefits of an improved quality of life, (including health and well-being), can often go beyond the immediate service users. For example, anecdotal information suggests that the family members of service users who receive support with debt and / or mental health are also likely to benefit from an improvement in the service user's financial situation and improved health and well-being.

* Using the Mid-Year Population Estimates 2014, the Nottinghamshire population was estimated at 801,400 people - as published by the Population Estimates Unit, Office for National Statistics (Crown Copyright). Source: <http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/business-employment-and-benefits/economic-data/population-estimates>

How the Grant Aid 2012/15 programme has helped to improve the lives of Nottinghamshire people

7. Through the monitoring process, groups have shared information about how Grant Aided projects and services are making a significant contribution to improving the lives of Nottinghamshire people. For example, one project reported that:

"...Feedback from service users is very positive. At the [initial] assessment stage 85% of service users reported experiencing severe loneliness and isolation. After 9 months 100% of service users reported that they felt less lonely and 75% confirmed that the visits made them feel much happier and more positive...."

Grant Aided project 2012/15

8. An overwhelming majority of groups reported that they achieved all that they set out to do during the funded period. Appendix 3 to this report includes case studies to provide an insight into how real lives are being transformed through projects supported by the Grant Aid programme. It is recognised that the full value (or impact) of the Grant Aid programme cannot be measured in monetary terms alone; many benefits to the community are priceless in terms of the improved quality of life – and in some cases, the lives that have been transformed or even saved as a result of the support received from Grant Aided groups.

The contribution made by volunteers - and the benefit to volunteers

9. Grant Aided groups reported that almost 7,300 volunteers per year deliver approximately 610,500 volunteer hours annually to support the funded activities – i.e. over 1.8 million volunteer hours over the 3 years.

10. Volunteers are crucial to enabling the VCS to deliver services, as exemplified by the following comment:

"[We] could not offer service users the range of services without an effective volunteer development programme. Volunteers have supported service users to increase self-esteem, self-worth, sense of value, gain confidence, access mainstream services and community engagement, develop peer support and meaningful friendships, build resilience, increase independence, prevent relapse, understand their condition, access volunteering and employment...." Grant Aided project 2012/15

11. Reporting the financial value of the contribution made by volunteers is challenging due to the array of variables within each project and each volunteer. However, using a conservative calculation, to employ staff to do the work carried out by volunteers would cost somewhere between £3.7m* and £7.8m** per year. Consequently, the value of volunteer time could be estimated to be between £11m and £23.4m over the course of the three-year Grant Aid programme – this is an incredible contribution to Nottinghamshire communities.

* Assuming the national minimum wage (£6.19 per hour in 2012) for adults and a 52 week year;

** Assuming the median gross hourly rate for full time employees in the East Midlands (£12.76 per hour in 2012). Source:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/earningsandworkinghours/bulletins/annualsurveyofhoursandearnings/2012-11-22#hourly-earnings-excluding-overtime>

12. Groups also reported that volunteers benefit from their volunteering experience:

"Our structured volunteer programme enables our volunteers to experience a range of workplace activities... Volunteers learn new skills, meet new people and gain valuable experience. For many people volunteering is a stepping stone on their career path. However, for others, they volunteer as they are unable to work due to health issues but who are able to do some work; [therefore], volunteering for these people gives them back their self-respect, confidence and even 'a reason for getting up in the morning' ". Grant Aided project 2012/15

Grant Aid as a leverage to secure other income

13. Grant Aid provides a *contribution* to the delivery of services/activities, therefore, groups must secure additional funding from other sources to cover their costs. Most funders require groups to have other funding in place - and a number of groups reported that they believe that having a Grant Aid award has helped them to secure additional funding:

"Using the core grant aid we have attracted additional funding...."

"We have continued to successfully pursue and secure charitable funding, with a total of £148,895 secured during the Grant Aid period. We believe that the award of Grant Aid has been a positive factor in our ability to secure funding from these other sources...." Grant Aided projects 2012/15

Other achievements and partnership working

14. Almost 80 groups reported that they received recognition at a local, regional or national level for their work. For example, groups have demonstrated excellence, engaged in partnership working and reported a range of achievements above and beyond the scope of the Grant Aid award. Grant Aid could be seen as a contributing factor to these achievements by supporting services/activities and enabling groups to attract additional income to enhance existing – or develop new services/activities. Below are some examples of the achievements highlighted by groups:

- Pioneering new ways of working, evidencing the value and impact of inter-generational social mobility
- Working closely together to bring policies and procedures in line to enable greater streamlining and more cost effective services
- Success in winning contracts and/or becoming a preferred service provider
- Making links and partnerships with other Countywide organisations, the Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner, health organisations, and educational establishments
- Strengthened links between in-patient care and community support to ensure there is an effective and supportive transition
- Achieving local, regional and national recognition, for example:
 - The Broxtowe Youth Homelessness Peer Impact project - National Finalists for in the Team Activity category at the v-Inspired awards;
 - In 2014 APTCOO became a Centre of Excellence in recognition of their contribution towards innovative education using person-centred tools and multi-media advocacy - supporting young people to become authors of their own life stories.

Challenges

15. Despite showing tremendous resilience during challenging and unprecedented times, many Grant Aided groups also experience the key challenges experienced by the VCS. These challenges include:

- Reduced funding and difficulty in securing other funding*
- The increasing demand on – and for volunteers
- Communicating and promoting what the voluntary sector is, what it does and the benefits to communities. For example, soft outcomes (benefits and achievements) are extremely difficult to observe or measure in financial or numerical terms as it is difficult to quantify the improvement in the quality of people's lives, a change in lifestyle/attitude and a reduced or delayed need for other services/interventions.
- The nature of VCS infrastructure (e.g. diminishing support for capacity building).*

Source: Adapted from the Nottinghamshire State of the Voluntary Sector 2015 Report

16. The diverse, complex nature of the projects/services funded by the Grant Aid programme poses a significant challenge to consistent, coherent and succinct reporting as there is no single reporting model of impact or social value that fits all the funded projects.
17. For the small number of groups who did not achieve what they set out to do, they provided legitimate reasons as to why – for example, one group's premises was damaged by fire; therefore, they were restricted in the activities that they could deliver for a period of time. Sadly, eight groups closed during the funded period (including the lead organisation for the infrastructure consortium), as listed in Appendix 5 to this report.

Information Sources

18. The majority of information presented in this report has been provided by the Grant Aided groups through the monitoring process, where groups were asked to provide information on a number of generic and theme specific areas as appropriate. In some cases, information has been obtained from annual reports submitted to the Charities Commission and departmental colleagues (e.g. community transport). Where relevant, and reference has been made to the Nottinghamshire State of the Voluntary Sector 2015 report.
19. An annual review of the Grant Aid Programme for 2012/13 and 2013/14 was presented at the September 2013 and January 2015 Grant Aid Sub-Committees respectively. There were some differences to how the information was reported in each year due to the transition from a departmental to a *corporate* approach and the consequent improvements in the monitoring arrangements and information management. Due to changes in monitoring arrangements during the funding period (and possible differences in how the diverse range of groups collate their monitoring information), some of the figures presented in this report are approximate or estimated, based on the information available at the time.
20. During 2012/15 Members also approved 10 additional discretionary one-off grants with a total value of just over £203,500 as shown in Appendix 4 to this report. This report does not seek to review the discretionary grants, nor the Grant Aid strategy, arrangements or processes.

Other Options Considered

21. No other options are necessary as this report is for noting only, and to provide an overview to members of decisions already approved.

RECOMMENDATION

22. It is recommended that the value and benefits of the Nottinghamshire County Council Grant Aid programme is recognised & celebrated.

Reason/s for Recommendation/

23. The Grant Aid programme makes an enormous contribution to the Nottinghamshire County Council strategic plan.

Statutory and Policy Implications

24. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, the public sector equality duty, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

25. There are no new financial implications as a result of this report.

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments (SLB 07/10/16)

Grant Aid Sub Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report.

Financial Comments (SES 05/10/16)

There are no specific financial implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All

Appendix 1

Grant Aid 2012/15 Strategy

In November 2011, the County Council adopted a Corporate Grant Aid Strategy to cover the 2012/15 Grant Aid programme. The key drivers and features of the strategy were as follows:

Strategy Features:

- Member Led – ensuring that members take a strategic lead on decision making
- Corporate approach – decisions aligned to the council's priorities
- Recognition of the VCS – valuing the enormous contribution made across the county
- Centralised administration – a streamlined process for the administration of grant aid across the council
- Proportionate at all stages – simple application, 1 or 2 payments each year, monitoring simplified
- Making better use of IT – application & monitoring processes
- Longer agreements – where possible, approve awards for a three year period to enable the VCS to forward plan
- Grants to make a contribution towards provision, not to directly purchase key services – making Grant Aid distinct from commissioning.

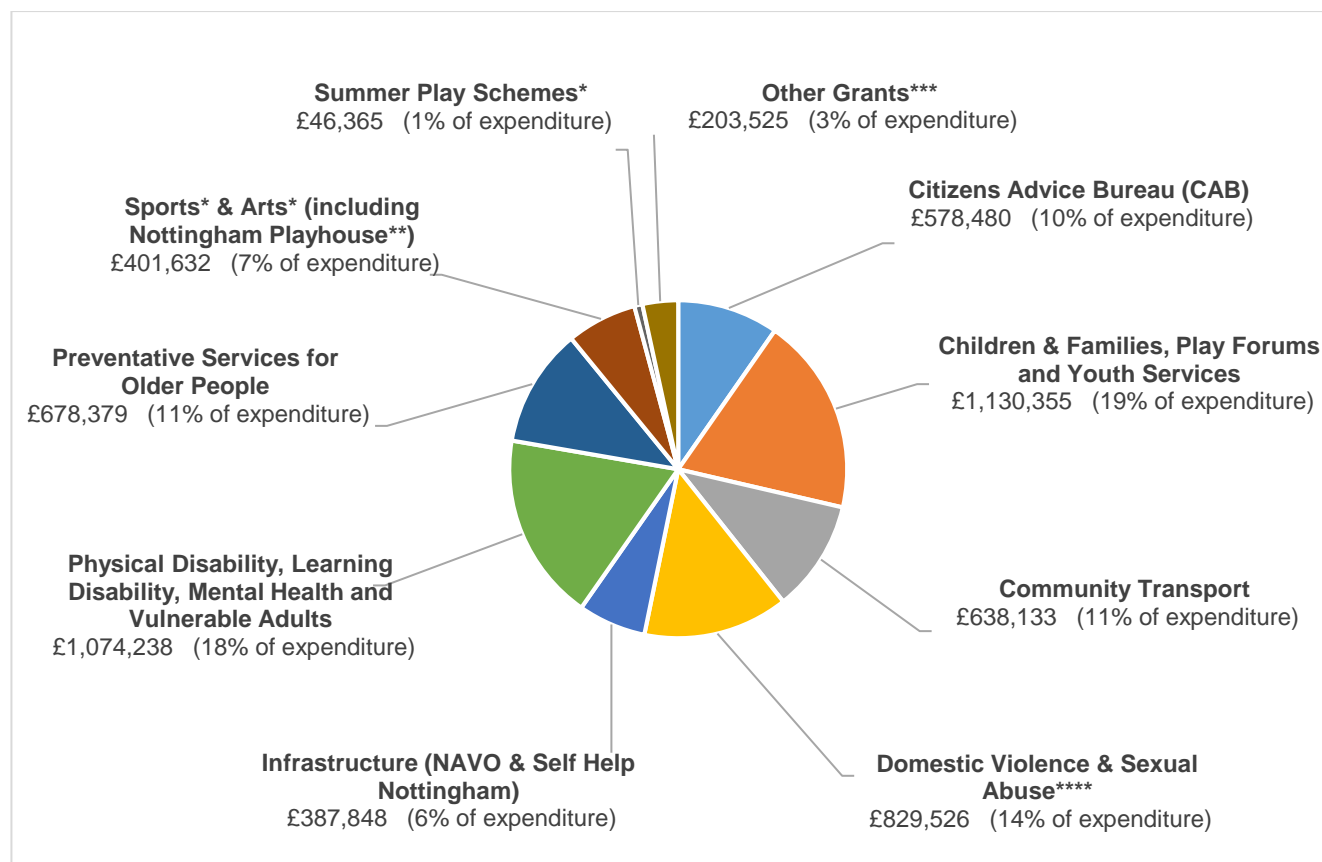
Strategy Drivers:

The Voluntary & Community Sector (VCS):

- Harnesses the time, talents and ambitions of local residents who wish to volunteer
- Reaches excluded or isolated people and communities that the statutory sector sometimes cannot
- Attracts additional resources to Nottinghamshire through grant funding
- Is a significant employer of people and as such is an important part of our mixed economy (State of the Sector - SOS report)
- Assists the Council to improve the quality and accessibility of our own services
- Provides a local Community Voice – advocates for vulnerable people and provides valuable feedback on community consultation

APPENDIX 2

a) Chart showing the Grant Aid 2012-15 expenditure and proportion of total Grant Aid budget by theme



Notes

- * These themes historically operate on an annual basis (as opposed to a 3-year programme).
- ** The Nottingham Playhouse agreement ceased on 30th June 2014.
- *** Other grants cover in-year discretionary grants (this includes CAB Health Grants).
- **** On 01 July 2014, the domestic violence groups transferred to Public Health (and therefore, are no longer part of the grant aid programme). The groups in the sexual abuse theme also transferred to Public Health on 01 July 2015.

b) **Table showing expenditure, number of projects, number of service users (beneficiaries), number of volunteers and volunteer hours by theme over the funded period 2012/15**

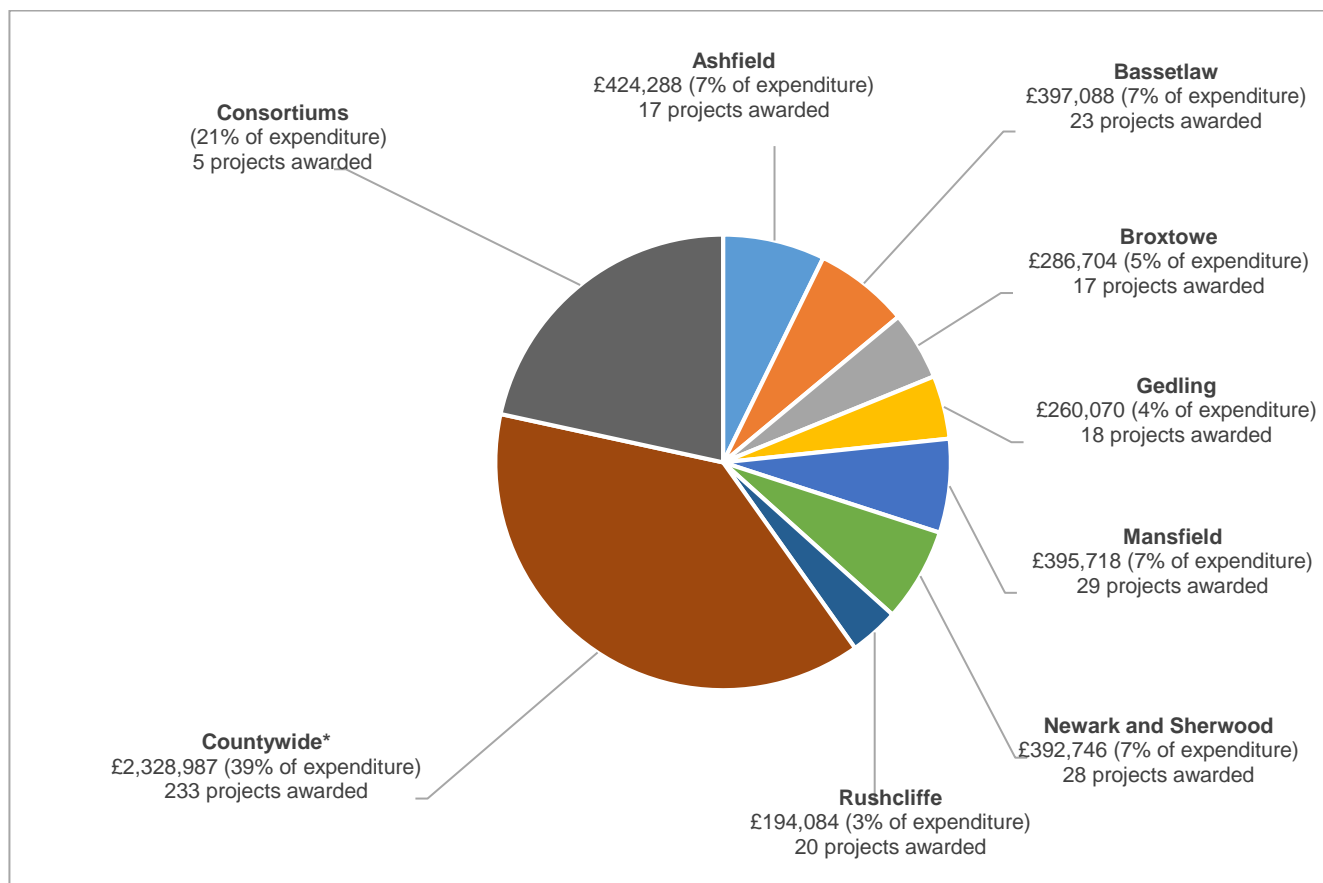
Theme	Grant Aid expenditure 2012-15	Number of Grants Awarded	Approximate number of service users (beneficiaries)* over 3-years	Approximate number of volunteers per year*	Estimated number of volunteer hours over 3-years*
Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB)	£ 578,480	1	85,800	250	267,000
Children & Families, Play Forums and Youth Services	£1,130,355	40	173,160	2,455	454,900
Community Transport	£ 638,133	18	58,500	290	185,540
Domestic Violence & Sexual Abuse	£ 829,526	14	4,330	240	74,880*
Infrastructure	£ 387,848	2	4,580	300	93,600
Physical Disability, Learning Disability, Mental Health and Vulnerable Adults	£1,074,238	21	63,930	742	233,400
Preventative Services for Older People	£ 678,379	30	72,000	1,550	325,730
Sports & Arts	£ 401,632	217	126,000	600	187,200*
Summer Play Schemes	£ 46,365	37	7,790	850	9,350
<i>Other Grants**</i>	£ 203,525	10	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total across all themes	£5,968,481	390	596,090	7,277	1,831,600

Notes:

* Data provided by groups in their Interim and Annual Monitoring Reports. Some categories may not have provided data for each year due to historic differences in reporting requirements – in these cases, estimates are provided based on the available information.

** Other grants cover one-off discretionary grants – see Appendix 4.

c) **Chart showing the Grant Aid 2012-15 expenditure and number of projects by geographical area**



APPENDIX 3

Outputs, outcomes and case studies for the Grant Aid 2012/15 themes

Citizens Advice Bureaux (CAB)

Summary of funded provision:

A consortium which includes all the Nottinghamshire CABs: Ashfield, Bassetlaw, Broxtowe, Mansfield, Nottingham & District and Ollerton & District. This service provides free, independent and confidential advice across the whole of Nottinghamshire. Advice covers debt, welfare, housing, employment and other areas.

Table summarising the services offered by the CAB Consortium

	Welfare benefits	Money advice	Discrimination	Employment	Consumer	Immigration	Family	Housing	Taxes	Health	Education
Self-Help Information	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Assisted Information	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Generalist Advice	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Casework	✓	✓	✓								

Table of outputs and outcomes across the 3 years

Outputs / outcomes included:	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	TOTAL 2012-15
Number of clients helped with problems	31,800	31,700	23,159	85,871
Number of non-debt problems	100,000	86,000	86,650	272,650
Number of debt problems	39,000	35,000	40,000	114,000
Number of clients provided with specialist debt help	6,300	6,000	7,000	19,300
Value of debt clients helped with*	£77m	£64m	£64m	£205m
Value of benefit gains for clients*	£13.4m	£10.7m	£14.7m	£38.8m
Number of volunteer hours per year	86,000	90,000	91,000	267,000
Value of volunteer time	£1.5m	£1.6m	£1.6m	£4.7m
Number of new volunteers recruited and trained	170	135	133	438
<p>*Debt and benefit enquiries accounted for approximately 74% of the CAB total enquiries each year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Over 50% of volunteers went on to paid work each year. ✓ 100% of clients were satisfied with the overall CAB service and said that they would use the service again. 				

Children & Families, Play Forums and Youth Services

Children & Families

Summary of funded provision:

To provide children and young people (and their families), with the early help support that they need.

Case studies/examples/quotes:

Nottingham Nightspot: *"The Grant Aid has been essential in helping Nightstop to provide emergency accommodation and support to young vulnerable people who find themselves homeless. The Grant contributes to the cost of office space, insurance and administration costs ...without the office space, we wouldn't be able to operate..."*

A Place to Call Our Own (APTCOO): *"...we provide social, emotional, and practical support to some of the most vulnerable people living with SEND and life limiting conditions within the community...APTCOO provides a holistic support service for children and young people (CYP) which is inclusive of their whole extended family and focused on learning, developing the tools families need to improve their resilience, moving out of depression and getting involved in their own development. It also provides CYP with an opportunity to increase their independent living skills and prepare for transition into adulthood. APTCOO provides a single point of contact and one stop resource centre, including crisis support, where families feel safe, improve their health, education and wellbeing, develop new skills and have fun within an all-inclusive 'community hub'....APTCOO works with other health, education and social care providers which helps to improve communication, to ensure services can be accessed at the right time, by the right person, in the right place, for example, the centre also hosts other complementary providers and agencies enabling families to benefit from joined up services and coordinated care...The changes to Grant Aid has helped APTCOO enormously with our planning of services and management of finances, Thank you!" APTCOO CEO*

Play Forums

Summary of funded provision:

Seven Play Forum projects covering 7 districts received a Grant Aid contribution to help provide children with accessible play opportunities that meet their social, psychological, physical and spiritual needs. This involves direct work with children and by offering support, advice, training and shared resources to groups who work with children. Services include a Play Resource Centre, Toy Library, Loan Equipment, Positive Play, Street and Park Play, Play in Schools and Play Days. Some Play Forums also offer members an information service, a help line, advice on funding and childcare legislation, support with DBS (Disclosure & Barring Service) applications and other play services.

Case studies:

Gedling Play Forum: *"Through scrap store and resource centre membership we have benefitted over 5,000 children and young people per annum. Through Free Play activities we estimate over 7,500 per annum...Grant aid gives us our foundations - with this we can attract further funds to enable us to deliver a range of play based services and support for our community...[We] host regular Gedling Play Partnership meetings enables partners and service users to network, and promote play in our district. Our scrap store members tell us that we save them over £35,000 a year a year on materials - we also save them money on additional services [including training]...Additional benefits include being able to offer families with children with additional needs a place to meet, share and play. This encourages learning new skills, increasing feelings of self-worth and wellbeing. Through our Community play we help strengthen communities...encouraging active and creative family play strengthens families. Making this play free, providing additional support for families with children with additional needs removes many of the barriers families face in accessing community events - we now have families joining in with community events that would not have come if the support was not available..."*

Mansfield Play Forum: *“Through play children develop crucial interpersonal life skills. They learn how to solve problems, how to get on with each other, how to co-operate, negotiate, take turns and play by the rules. Play helps to develop positive emotional wellbeing in children as well as having a positive impact on their physical health. Community play organisations can provide innovative play activities using scrap materials - activities which would otherwise have been impossible to deliver due to financial restraints. Through our project, children learn the benefits of recycling...We are able to offer volunteering opportunities. Volunteers learn new skills, meet new people and gain valuable experience. Our structured volunteer programme enables our volunteers to experience a range of workplace activities. For many people volunteering is a stepping stone on their career path. However, for others they volunteer as they are unable to work due to health issues but who are able to do some work - volunteering for these people gives them back their self-respect, confidence and even ‘a reason for getting up in the morning’ ”.*

Youth Services

Summary of funded provision:

To increase opportunities for all young people to participate in positive activities.

Case studies/examples/quotes:

Nottinghamshire Clubs for Young People: *“Young people gain raised self-esteem and confidence through attending our programmes. Some young people and volunteers have also gained accredited outcomes which has enhanced their skills and made them more employable. Young people have made friends and mixed with people from out of their geographical area thus lots of evidence of community cohesion has been witnessed.”*

Rev and Go: *“The Grant has contributed to reducing illegal riding of motorcycles by underage young men....the project has provided them with the motivation to gain numeracy, literacy and mechanical skills – and to extend the aspirations of members, many of whose personal self-esteem is exceptionally low. The project aims to continue the work of reducing young people's contact with the criminal justice system...”*

Community Transport

Summary of funded provision:

Community and voluntary transport schemes offer services for people who have difficulty using, or are unable to use public transport services

Outputs and outcomes across the 3 years

Over the three years, outputs / outcomes included:	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	TOTAL 2012-15
Number of Car admin hours	3,049	3,944	3,920	10,913
Number of Car drivers	292	290	294	As stated per year
Number of Car driving hours*	42,540	45,128	43,602	131,270
Number of Car miles	425,401	451,284	436,016	1,312,701
Number of Car trips	69,909	72,044	67,382	209,335
Number of Minibus driving hours*	17,633	17,260	19,378	54,271
Number of Minibus groups**	219	192	191	As stated per year
Number of Minibus miles	176,325	172,600	193,776	542,701
Number of Minibus passengers	57,280	57,703	60,523	175,506

* Based on an average of 10 miles per hour while volunteering.

** Across this period, there was an average of 158 minibus drivers per year.

Car scheme mileage increased by 2.5% over the report period, although an intermediate increase of 6% was recorded for year 2. The increase in usage is partly as a result of the introduction of wheelchair accessible Car Scheme Plus Ring & Ride services for individual bookings across most of the County. The number of car scheme trips shows a modest decline, which indicates that the average trip length has increased, which might reflect the loss of local bus routes or facilities, resulting in the passenger using the scheme for longer trips.

Minibus (group travel) activity shows a 5.6% increase in passengers over 3 years, which is likely to be the result of schemes taking an increasing role with providing transport previously provided through commercial providers, as the Council seeks to look at more innovative ways of providing transport solutions, and also as a result of the introduction of the Ring & Ride style services for individual bookings using a shared vehicle. The number of registered volunteer groups and volunteer drivers has remained broadly the same over the report period.

The estimates of **driving hours** are conservative, especially for the volunteer drivers. In addition to driving hours, some volunteers will also spend time assisting the client beyond the journey, i.e. shopping or into a medical appointment etc.

Case Study

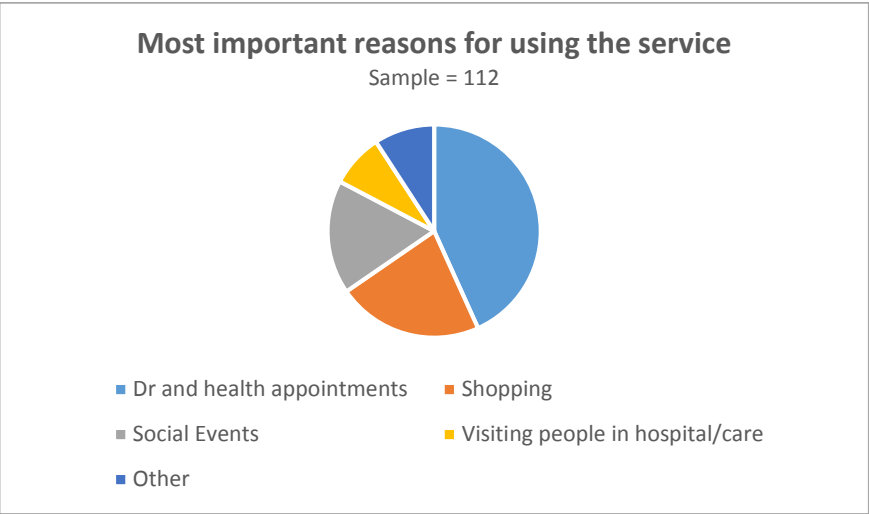
Rushcliffe Voluntary Transport Scheme (RVTS): *"The RVTS service plays a big role in driving passengers to health appointments and, like last year, this is the most important reason why the majority of passengers use the scheme. Rushcliffe has some of the highest levels of both 65+ and 85+ populations (2011 Census, Nottinghamshire Insight). The elderly are more likely to have health issues and less likely to have access to their own transport because of this. For those who are more mobile there are many areas of Rushcliffe which lack strong public transport links and only 58% of residents could access a hospital by public transport in less than 30 minutes (The People of Nottinghamshire 2015, Joint Strategic Needs Assessment). All of the listed features of the scheme scored highly but 'Feeling Safe with the Driver' and 'Retaining Independence' received the highest scores, which is consistent with previous results."*

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Rushcliffe Voluntary Transport Scheme (RVTS) – Case study (Continued)

From the RVTS Passenger Feedback Survey 2016:

The overwhelming majority of comments praised both the service in general and the quality of the drivers and all respondents said that they would recommend the scheme.



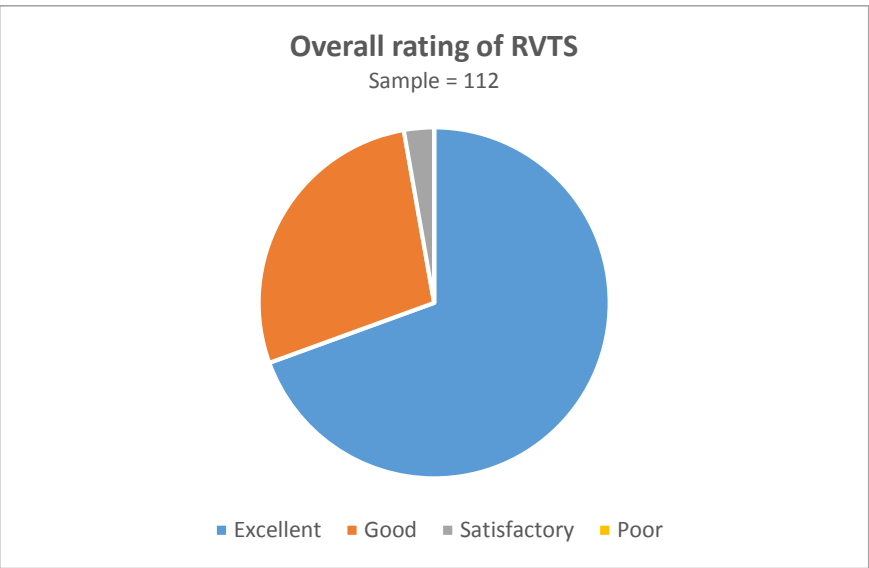
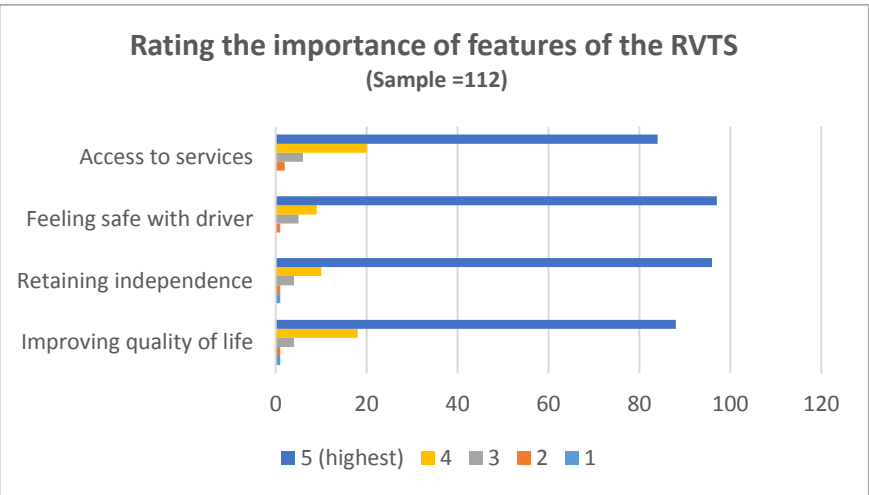
Service User Comments

“An excellent service which has given me a new lease of life. Also I’m dreading the winter months. In the past I was often house-bound and bored but not any longer! Thank you so much.”

“Everybody is really caring and enjoy what they are doing – could not manage without you all.”

“It’s a great service. The drivers are wonderful. I don’t know how I would manage without drivers who are very reliable, very pleasant and friendly. They have never let me down. I cannot praise you all enough.”

“Having been ‘housebound’ and unable to drive, I have found the Voluntary Transport Scheme has given me a freedom and independence I would otherwise have. The drivers have been so caring and helpful, willing to make sure everything was alright for me. Thank you so much for this wonderful service – very much appreciated.”



Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse

Summary of funded provision

Seven specialist domestic violence organisations were supported through Grant Aid and received a contribution towards the costs of a 24 Hour domestic violence helpline, outreach and support for women and children as well as training and resources for professionals.

On 01 July 2014, the domestic violence groups transferred to Public Health (and therefore, are no longer part of the Grant Aid programme). The sexual abuse groups were also transferred to Public Health on 01 July 2015.

Case Study 1

Equation (Equation Nottinghamshire, trading as Equation, formerly known as Nottinghamshire Domestic Violence Forum - name changed on 12th June 2013)

“The Professionals and Communities work stream promoted interagency working and early interventions by:

- Identifying and promoting a common framework of understanding and approach to tackling domestic and sexual violence to professionals in Nottinghamshire and Nottingham - through the identification or development of good practice.*
- Identifying gaps in provision and resources and working towards reducing the gaps.*
- Improving access to services by survivors and their children through awareness campaigns, working with professionals to improve interventions and developing resources that promote access to services (including marginalised and vulnerable groups – LGBT, BME, disabled survivors and those with mental health problems).*
- Assisting in multi-agency working on the issue of domestic violence, through the development and facilitation of multi-agency meetings on the issue of domestic violence.*
- In 2013-14 year Equation expanded its training provision. Equation provided training as usual to multi-agency groups, but also to drug and alcohol intervention providers, PCSOs and CSOs, Nottingham City and County Adult Safeguarding, and Nottingham City Children’s Partnership.”*

Source: Equation Annual Report 2013-14 (year ended 31 March 2014).

Case Study 2

ISAS (Incest and Sexual Abuse Survivors): *“A female client I assessed in her early 30’s who had been abused came for an assessment feeling this was her last straw - only 2 days before she self-harmed cutting herself with scissors. Realising this lady needed help urgently I persuaded her to join the female therapeutic group (as all the counsellors at the time were fully booked). After the 3rd session the client made friends and realised she was not alone. This enabled her to look to the future and eventually she stopped self-harming. After the 12 week group sessions, the client was matched with a counsellor and engaged in 12 one-to one-therapy sessions. The client’s confidence improved and depression faded. Looking to the future, the client is now studying medicine at a university and is looking forward to becoming a GP.”*

Source: adapted from the ISAS Annual Report 2014-15

Infrastructure Consortium

Summary of funded provision

The infrastructure covers support for VCS organisations that provide organisational development/capacity building advice and information and support to other groups in the VCS sector.

Case Study

NAVO was a county wide registered charity that promoted, connected and represented the community sector throughout Nottinghamshire.

NAVO was the lead body for the Infrastructure Consortium which included: the Northern Infrastructure Partnership (Ashfield Voluntary Action, Bassetlaw CVS, Voluntary Action Broxtowe & Mansfield CVS), the Southern Alliance Infrastructure Partnership (Gedling CVS, Newark & Sherwood CVS, Rushcliffe CVS and the Hostel Liaison Group), Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire (RCAN) and Community Accounting Plus.

The Infrastructure consortium supported services to the Nottinghamshire VCS. Consortium partners were responsible for leading on a VCS priority area as shown below, and the funding was distributed between the lead partners:

Priority Area Name:	Lead Partner:
1. Volunteering	Gedling CVS
2. Communications, Networking and Consultation	NAVO
3. Group Support & Funding Advice	Rushcliffe & Newark and Sherwood
4. Finance and Legal Support - including governance and closures	Community Accounting (CA) Plus
5. Response/Support to welfare cuts – including homelessness	Hostel Liaison Group
6. Closing the Gap on Rural Exclusion	RCAN

In October 2014, due to changes in the Charity Commission regulations – and changes in the way NAVO was funded by different funding bodies, NAVO's Executive Board, took a pragmatic and difficult decision to close at the end of March 2015. Consequently, some data for the latter part of the reporting period is not available. Despite this, the infrastructure consortium made a significant contribution to the Nottinghamshire VCS – with almost £4m in additional funding secured on behalf of other VCS groups reported as a key achievement.

Outputs / outcomes included:

Outputs / outcomes included:	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	TOTAL 2012-15
Additional Funding secured on funding on behalf of groups / support	£2,706,665	£1,248,711	Not available	At least £3,955,376
Number of Website hits	125,887	Not available		At least 125,887
Number of E-bulletins (Bulletins included: jobs & volunteering, news, funding, training, public consultations and surveys).	188	120		At least 308
Number of Countywide e-bulletin subscribers	500+	1,282		At least 1,282
Number of Voluntary organisations offered practical support (including support with annual reports)	971	1838		At least 1,838
Number of Volunteers directly supporting the consortium per year	Not available	274		274
Number of Volunteer hours per week	Not available	415		415
Number of people recruited to new volunteering opportunities per year	1,225	8,860		At least 10,085
Number of public consultations supported and responded to per year	20	79		99

Other Infrastructure Consortium achievements during the 2012-15 funded period included:

- ✓ Lead body for the Transforming Local Infrastructure project funded by Big Fund, securing £348k lottery funding for the Sector.
- ✓ The launch of Rushcliffe Befriends funded by Lloyds TSB and Lottery, secured £101k from the Lottery.
- ✓ The Rushcliffe Together Community Cohesion Network increased its membership to 157 individuals and 90 organisations and networks and organised the 'Five Ways to Rural Health & Well Being' annual events.
- ✓ The launch of the Rushcliffe Voluntary Sector Forum led to the development of new initiatives, including a project by the Friends of Rushcliffe Country Park, and joint working between Rushcliffe CVS and Rushcliffe 50+ Forum to organise and deliver events in rural communities.
- ✓ 423 Twitter followers & 194 Facebook likes (in the year ending March 2014).
- ✓ Cost-effective DBS checking service (supporting 750 applications in 2013/14).
- ✓ Raising the profile of volunteering and celebrating volunteer achievements, e.g. via: Volunteer Awards Ceremony and Volunteers weeks.
- ✓ RCAN also reported that:
 - IT Community Champions secured funding from the Lottery for £120,000 for three years to deliver training to 1250 learners across the County.
 - Build, Grow, Cook and Eat: created a new community garden built by beneficiaries at Hope Beeston. The produce grown is used to help teach cooking skills to families.
 - The oil members saved a total of £15,952.56 over the year between them.

Case Study

Self Help Nottingham & Nottinghamshire is a unique organisation which helps people to start and grow their own groups – and bridges the gap between these groups and health and social care professionals.

Examples of development, support and dissemination of good practice in service provision include:

- ✓ Extensive services to help new groups to start up and enable existing groups to develop and grow. For example: access to promotional support, free publicity and meeting rooms for new groups in their first year.
- ✓ Access to a comprehensive and professional information service and group networking days.
- ✓ Promoting the benefits of self-help groups to health & social care professionals.

With 30 years of experience, the Department of Health asked Self Help to use their knowledge and expertise to support other areas of the UK.*

Outputs / outcomes included:

Over the three years, 2012-15: Outputs / outcomes included:	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	TOTAL 2012-15
Number of County voluntary organisations / groups offered practical support during the funded period.*	87	80	104	271
Amount of additional funding secured for self-help groups / organisations	£23,173	£18,819	£22,765	£64,756
Number of <u>County</u> groups benefitting from free training courses (to build their capacity to run and develop their own groups)*	95	65	80	240
Number of new <u>County</u> groups established*	29	34	36	99
Information support: number of visits to website	13,642 info searches; 41,288 web hits	13,910 info searches; 41,638 web hits	14,545 (new website)	42,098
Information support service: Directory of self-help groups and self-care support distributed to how many County GPs, Pharmacies, health centres and the general public?*	1,300	1,226	952	3,478
Number of County groups supported	228	193	151	571
Number of County individuals supported via telephone information line	575	495	130	1,199

*Source: <http://www.selfhelp.org.uk/home/>

Adult Social Care, Health and Public Protection (ASCH&PP): Mental Health, Learning Disability, Physical Disability & Vulnerable Adults

Summary of funded provision

Projects and services to improve health & well-being for vulnerable adults and adults with mental health, learning disability and physical disability needs.

Over the three years, outputs / outcomes included:

- ✓ 21 VCS projects across Notts helped to reduce isolation and improve well-being over the 3 years
- ✓ Service users benefited from a wide range of services and activities including:
 - Home assessments for equipment and adaptations
 - Benefits advice for disabled clients
 - Approximately 300 people with mental health issues given 1:1 support per year
 - Skills-based training and arts & craft, personal development and social activities (1,800 events per year reported for people with mental health issues).

Mental Health Case Study

Notts Mind Network: *"Mind attracts many people who do not traditionally use mental health services through fear of stigma and 'asking for help' but through support have regained their confidence to access both voluntary and statutory services and develop skills and tools to manage their mental health and build their resilience to respond effectively to situations. The Grant Aid funding has:*

- ✓ *Supported 3 central hubs across the County offering a range of services to meet the local needs of people with mental health issues, their carers, friends, families and the local community.*
- ✓ *Enabled services users to address issues relating to their mental well-being, including - understanding diagnosis, treatment options, identifying signs and symptoms, building resilience, addressing recovery, accessing statutory support, independent living and developing their skills...*
- ✓ *Enabled carers, friends and families to understand the needs of their loved one/friend, build their resilience in supporting someone with a mental health issue, practical support in engaging with other support services, accessing support from peers experiencing similar issues and providing a break from caring responsibilities...*
- ✓ *Contributed to the delivery of flexible services to enable local people to access support that meets their needs ranging from low level interventions delivered by trained volunteer telephone befrienders where people can have regular support to talk through issues; through to face-to-face support from trained professional staff offering crisis intervention...*
- ✓ *Contributed to the development of an effective volunteer development programme, where volunteers have supported service users to increase their self-esteem, self-worth, sense of value, gain confidence, access mainstream services engage with the community, develop peer support and meaningful friendships, build resilience, increase independence, prevent relapse, understand their condition, access volunteering and employment. Mind could not offer services users the range of services without a volunteer development programme...*
- ✓ *Enabled Mind to provide various training packages, presentations and social contact opportunities, raising the awareness of mental health issues in the workplace, schools, colleges and other organisations."*

Learning Disability Case Study

Reach Learning Disability: "...the funding contributed to vital activities that help to grow and strengthen our service for adults with learning disabilities in Nottinghamshire...benefits included:

- ✓ Creating more opportunities for involvement in community life and positive interaction with other local people, recruiting more volunteers and strengthening our volunteer induction and training programmes...
- ✓ Creating new opportunities for adults with learning disabilities to participate in community events...
- ✓ Increased partnership working with local health and social care colleagues to ensure we reach those most in need and that our services fill gaps...
- ✓ Ensuring the voice of adults with learning disabilities and family carers informs the development of services...
- ✓ Reducing the risk of poor health outcomes, e.g. working in partnership with the Mansfield Community Learning Disability Nurse to pilot a 12 week 'Adult Life' course supporting 10 adults with learning disabilities to promote more positive lifestyle choices around alcohol use, smoking, exercise, diet and relationships. Grant Aid meant that our Mansfield Manager was able to respond to this joint working opportunity quickly and flexibly.
- ✓ During the funded period we have also created new work placement opportunities thereby drawing new health and social care expertise into our service. E.g. in 2013, two Occupational Therapy (OT) students participated in activities adding value and bringing new insights about OT.

Physical Disability Case Study

Disability Nottinghamshire:

"Grant Aid supports our charity to achieve its strategic aims and objectives, enabling us to:

- ✓ Offer a universal information and advice service on a wide range of subjects relating to disability, long-term health conditions and caring for individuals, families, professionals, students and other organisations.
- ✓ Recruit, retain and develop volunteers
- ✓ Support our outreach service that operates in local communities across the County which face significant challenges, in particular, those where inequality, deprivation, lower levels of educational attainment and higher rates of poor health are prevalent.
- ✓ Relieve complications, stress, worry and anxiety, caused by welfare reforms by supporting clients in a holistic and person centred approach, increasing their confidence, self-esteem and empowering them to self-manage their situation in the future.

This is an example of how our services have supported a Nottinghamshire resident:

- ✓ Mr A is 75 years old, he is a proud man and did not like asking for help. He has severe arthritis, lives alone in rented accommodation and does not claim any disability/income related benefits. As a result of coming to an event that we organised, he had a benefit check completed.
- ✓ We identified a possible claim for Attendance Allowance and if successful this could possibly lead to additional support. He was struggling with his personal care and needed a social care assessment.
- ✓ We enabled and empowered him to contact social services for support.
- ✓ Mr A was successful in claiming Attendance Allowance (High Rate) this in turn led to a successful claim for Pension Credit (Guarantee) which also triggered full support with housing and council tax. In total, Mr A is now some £7,488 per year better off through our intervention.
- ✓ Mr. A fed back: "...The advisor was very helpful and extremely friendly, excellent organisation...A light in a very dark tunnel."

Vulnerable Adults Case Study

Cedar Housing Nottingham: *"We continue to ensure that young women are equipped for independent living, leaving situations of homelessness and acquiring the skills and ability to manage a tenancy, or where appropriate moving back to a home situation. This includes addressing or overcoming mental health problems, making more healthy lifestyle choices, engaging with education and training, better able to manage key relationships in their lives, taking steps to manage any substance misuse issues, feeling more confident and better able to manage their finances. The following quotes are taken from exit interviews with residents, where they were given the opportunity to say in their own words what has changed in their lives as a result of receiving support from Cedar Housing:*

"Before I came to Cedar, I was very unhappy and was very desperate, I was very unsettled and day to day living was a struggle for me; I sort of forgot who I was. I was in a really bad relationship and was always frightened and could never say 'no' to anyone or look after myself and I really struggled to make any kind of relationships with people that was positive. When I came to Cedar, I was offered a new start - at first it was really difficult for me, but I soon settled in. Throughout my time here I have learnt so much and learnt lifelong skills. I am finally happy. Cedar has changed my life the staff and the support they have given to me is amazing. I have now learnt how to say 'no' and it is okay to make my own choices and decisions on my own. Cedar has helped me to find myself again and I have found my voice."

Radcliffe on Trent Advice Centre: *"From July 2012 to 2015 we have:*

- ✓ *Supported more than 600 enquiries regarding welfare benefits, tax credits and general tax issues to an estimated value of £960,000.*
- ✓ *Assisted over 200 clients (to) deal with debt issues relating to more than £500,000 of debt."*

Adult Social Care, Health and Public Protection: Preventative Services for Older People

Summary of funded service

The funding contributed to projects that prevent or delay the need for older people to access additional services.

Over the three years, outputs / outcomes included:

- ✓ 30 VCS projects across Notts helped to reduce isolation and improve well-being.
- ✓ Older people per year benefited from a range of services and activities to improve health, well-being & independence – and to reduce social isolation / loneliness e.g. lunch clubs, arts & crafts, friendship groups, exercise classes, therapies, mental stimulation activities, support, advice and signposting to other services.
- ✓ An estimated 18,500 meals per year provided to older people through 11 luncheon clubs.

Preventative Services for Older People Case Study

Age UK Nottingham & Nottinghamshire (2 projects: Visiting North & Visiting South):

“The Grant has helped service users to reconnect with their local community. They have become less isolated and are known by more people in their community....”

“Feedback from users of the service is very positive. At the assessment stage 85% of service users reported experiencing severe loneliness and isolation. After 9 months 100% of service users reported that they felt less lonely and 75% confirmed that the visits made them feel much happier and more positive. Fifty percent of service users reported that they now visit their local community 3 or more times a week. Quotes on feedback forms included; “She is my lifeline”, “I look forward to the visits all week”, “It’s made such a difference to my life”, “Thank you for all that you do” and “We chat, we laugh, we put the world to rights...”

“Service users are matched with a reliable Visiting Volunteer who has similar interests to the service user. (The Volunteers are interviewed, DBS checked and trained by Age UK Notts to ensure their suitability for the service) The service user makes a new friend, builds their self-esteem and has something to look forward to each week. Through these regular visits the Volunteers are able to identify and report any changes in the Service user’s physical and mental wellbeing. This ensures earlier intervention and potentially avoids a crisis that may result with the Service user requiring NHS or Social Care provision / intervention...Through these regular visits service users are more aware of what is available to them locally and are aware of how to access services. Those service users that are able have been supported by their Visiting Volunteer to visit local amenities such as cafes, shops and other venues to enjoy social activities and meet new people...Volunteer Visitors are fully trained to deliver the best outcomes for the Service user...Service users develop self-management and care skills to relieve loneliness and improve their health and wellbeing. Their minds are stimulated, they are encouraged to reminisce, review accomplishments and re-establish their sense of personal identity. Their sense of self-worth is enhanced and they benefit from increased self-confidence. They are given the opportunity to learn new things or go to new places with the support of the Visiting Volunteer who they have learnt to trust...The Volunteers support the Service users to find out more about other local services available to them so that they can access help that already exists or to re-engage with local organisations and businesses.”

Grant Aid themes that run on a different funding cycle to the corporate Grant Aid programme (i.e. Summer Play Schemes, Sports & Arts)

Summer Play Schemes

Over the course of the 3-years, the priorities for Summer Play Schemes were based on the following:

“Our ambition is for Nottinghamshire to be a place where children are safe, healthy and happy, where everyone enjoys a good quality of life and where everyone can achieve their potential.

The Nottinghamshire County Council Young People’s Service supports Voluntary Sector play provision for children and young people aged 5-14 years. We recognise that by focussing our resources, including Grant Aid, on providing opportunities for positive play experiences for the children of Nottinghamshire, we can bring communities together and support the social and emotional development of children through the natural process of play.”

Summer Play Scheme applicants were asked to:

- Demonstrate how their scheme contributes to the Nottinghamshire County Council Strategic Plan in their application form
- Address the needs of minority, diverse and excluded groups in their service provision and management
- Indicate how they have included / will include the specific/target community in their planning and service delivery
- Have in place the required policy, procedures and structures
- Have in place good governance and effective management processes and practice
- Demonstrate ‘value for money’ (a formula was applied to assess this).

Historically, the Summer Play Schemes Grant Aid was managed by the Young People’s Service and in 2014, this responsibility was transferred to the C&VS team. The C&VS team continue to work with departmental colleagues in respect of the service specific requirements, as appropriate. By transferring responsibility to the C&VS team, the Summer Play Scheme programme benefitted from the developments introduced for the 3-year corporate Grant Aid programme (e.g. improved monitoring process and information management).

Through joint-working with departmental colleagues, it was agreed that due to the nature of Summer Play Scheme projects, it was important to:

- Carry out a due diligence check prior to making recommendations and this was successfully introduced in 2014
- Carry out a monitoring visit to all groups during the Summer Play Scheme delivery (where possible),

The Summer Play Schemes 2012/15 were awarded 1-year Grants up to a maximum value of £1,000.

Case Studies:

The following case studies are taken from the Summer Play Scheme 2014 End of Project Monitoring Report, where Summer Play Schemes were asked:

“Overall, what went well during the Summer Play scheme? i.e. what were your successes?”

Responses include:

Rainworth and Blidworth Detached Youth Project: *“We were fully booked throughout the summer holiday, Children and parents gave us excellent feedback for the second year running. Our volunteers have all progressed onto formal youth work qualifications following the work experience. Well planned sessions offering a number of different activities on each day to keep young people engaged.”*

Radcliffe Family Play Days: “Fantastic attendance. Interesting, varied activities. Very positive range of grant funding from local donors. Energetic, committed team of volunteers. High quality activities delivered by external providers.”

Pleasley Playscheme: “Strong relationships of trust developed between leaders, children and families. The children were continually engaged with a varied and imaginative programme - there was no boredom. The behaviour of the children was excellent. The team of volunteers was diverse, committed, and had a wide range of skills.”

OASIS Community Church, Centre: “The overall plan worked perfectly and we attracted more than double the number of children this year than last year. And we also added another site to our work in Ordsall where we already run a second children's club. All staff worked well together and the rapport with the children was great. New children soon settled well and the activities we planned went very well with something different each day and also a variety of crafts, sports, cooking, performing arts, circus skills etc. Kids loved quiz and story time activities and loved the teenagers working with them as well...we have lovely grounds and outside play equipment at the OASIS Gardens so they enjoy time outside in the sun when we have free play time.”

Toton Churches: “Fun for all involved positive relationships, Great atmosphere, really enthusiastic children. Superb team of leaders and teenage helpers. No complaints at all. The comments we received from parents stated that they were very happy with the way the scheme was organised and that their children had had a great time.”

Friends of Ordsall Primary School (FOOPS): “The successes of our play scheme included:

- a) Good attendance, over 100 local children engaged in positive play at some time over the two week period
- b) The variety and balance of activities on offer were particularly successful and ensured that there was something that appealed to all children across all ages and interests
- c) The length and timing of the play scheme was successful in maximising uptake
- d) The quality of activities on offer, delivered by coaches and artists in the wider community ensured quality provision for the children
- e) Recruiting adult volunteers to support the delivery of the play scheme and receiving local community support
- f) By providing activities that integrated different ages of children and different families in the community which successfully enabled siblings from same families to attend activities together, encouraging a sense of care and support for one another
- g) On an individual success level, a child with quite severe behaviour issues asked to access more sessions than he originally planned to do once he started attending and proceeded to attend all sessions without any conflict in his behaviour.”

Blue Skies Community Initiative: “Every session was enjoyed by the children and they were safely transported between home and activities. We have had excellent feedback from children and parents. The variety of activity allowed children to choose what they would like to do. Getting children into the outdoors created the greatest success. Den building and cooking over the fire was an activity the children said they would love to do again. Handling animals such as cockroaches and snakes was exciting for them. Children were amazed to be able to fly a hawk and this provider created added excitement by getting children to make a hoop with their arms for the birds to fly through. All the crafts were devoured with enthusiasm and children especially enjoyed using unusual materials such as coloured feathers and willow. Making a diorama with a "Frozen" theme was popular. All the arty activities provided really positive feedback from the children. They especially loved the picnic and play day at Rufford. Freedom to play and move from activity to activity was a big part of the day. Using a Young Volunteer has really inspired the children to be a future volunteer. See report for more information.”

Summer Play Schemes were asked:

“What challenges / concerns / complaints did the Summer Play Scheme experience (if any)?”

No complaints were reported by the Summer Play Schemes and some groups identified the following the following areas of concern to them:

“We have a concern re the venue for next year as the current venue will not be available...”

“Financially, things have been tighter for the playscheme this year.”

“The main challenges of delivering the play scheme were:

- marketing the play scheme offer to all children and families [in the local area] and ensuring a take up take from those children and families most in need*
- reliance on professional providers, their costs and ensuring the providers delivered appropriate activities “*

“A few parents booked and paid for sessions and then didn't send their children.”

“We didn't have any complaints apart from we didn't run for all 6 weeks of the summer [parents and children would have liked the scheme to run longer]”

“The only challenges are with growing numbers of children but we prepared for a higher numbers every day...”

“Having enough committed volunteers is always a challenge for us...”

Sports Fund

Summary / background

During 2012-14:

- Grants to sports clubs were managed by the Sports Team and were awarded under the 'Community Sports Fund'.
- The 'Rising Stars Fund' supported talented athletes performing at a *national* level who were resident in Nottinghamshire and in full-time education, with costs such as travel, training and accommodation.
- The 'Shining Stars Fund' was set up to support talented athletes performing at an *international* level. This grant scheme was initially conceived in the run up to London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games.
- Historically, Sports Fund rounds were launched two times each year and successful applicants were awarded 1-year Agreements.

In 2015:

- The Sports Team and Community & Voluntary Sector (C&VS) team worked towards transferring the management of the Sports Fund to the C&VS team. The C&VS team liaises with Sport Nottinghamshire regarding the sports specific aspects of this fund, as appropriate.
- The 'Community Sports Fund' became the 'Club Development Fund'; under the new Fund, grants were awarded to Nottinghamshire sports clubs for projects in one or more of the following themes: Sports Participation, Volunteer Development and Coaching Bursaries.
- Sports clubs were able to apply to one or all 3 categories for up to a maximum £1,000.
- The 'Talented Athletes Fund' replaced both the 'Rising Stars' and 'Shining Stars Funds'.
- Talented athletes competing in a Sport England recognised sport, representing their country and / or within the top 5 in their age group could apply for up to £400 financial support.

Over the three years, 2012-15, outputs / outcomes included:

- Forty-one Sports Club projects and 122 different athletes were supported (note that 261 individual athlete grants were awarded as some athletes received funding for more than one year)
- At least 21 athletes represented their country at national or international level.
- Previous participants of funding from the County Council have included Olympic gymnasts Sam Oldham, Becky Downie and Ellie Downie, Paralympians Ollie Hynd (swimmer), Charlotte Henshaw (swimmer), Richard Whitehead (sprint athlete), Sophie Wells (dressage) and rising tennis star, Freya Christie.
- 22,000 pupils per year participated in sport under the auspices of the NSCS

Arts

Summary / background

Historically, the Nottinghamshire Arts Fund (NAF) was coordinated by the Nottinghamshire County Council Arts Department, with the following priorities for the 2012/15 programme:

- Developing community engagement and participation in the Arts
- Developing the workforce of the Arts sector
- Developing the infrastructure of the Arts sector

Two funding rounds were launched each year and successful applicants were awarded 1-year Grant Aid awards between £500 - £2,500. Projects were required to have a minimum 10% funding from other sources and involve a professional artist.

Over the three years:

- Approximately 3,500 people per year took part in a range of arts activities in almost 60 arts projects
- An estimated 39,000 people per year engaged as audiences through the Community Arts fund.

Case Studies

Bamboozle Theatre Company

“A fabulous sensory stimulating experience for all abilities to join in”

“A little bit of magic in Mansfield...”

“Mole and The Meadow involved 3 days of immersive theatre experience for families with children with profound and multiple learning disabilities. The families attended for 1 day in groups of up to 6 families per day. The experience included a narrative, live music, and interaction with characters, multi-sensory environments and experiences. Each day was designed around the needs of the whole group and therefore, the content/structure varied depending on the makeup of the group. For example, if a group had no siblings attending, the session would have been altered to reflect this. Similarly, if the group had several siblings of different ages, the session would have been adapted to provide integrated and appropriate activities for those attending. This was the first project of its kind to be run in Mansfield at the Create Theatre.

There was a team of 7 artists in total, with 4 artists delivering each day. The artists had a range of art form experience and levels of expertise. Every day had 1 highly skilled facilitating artist, a musician, designer and 2 performing artists delivering the experience. The team worked together to plan and evaluate each day. By sharing expertise and reflecting on each days’ delivery, the teams were able to ensure that the participant’s needs were met in the most creative and fun way possible.

The Bamboozle team was supported by 2 student volunteers from Vision West Notts College Drama Department. The volunteers took an active role in working with the team to set the multi-sensory environments, work one-to-one with the children participating and in planning and evaluating each session. The Vision West Notts students were given impactful access to an experience they stated that they had not been able to find elsewhere. Both students were interested in the educational and social aspects of theatre and despite many attempts had failed to secure any other work experiences.

“I would just like to say thank you to yourself and your team at Bamboozle, your dedication and commitment is inspiring. This experience has encouraged me to continue with my degree to achieve my goal of becoming a drama therapist. After constant rejection I am so grateful I was allowed to join in with these sessions and appreciate the work you do, Thank you.” Student Volunteer

The participant's feedback was 100% positive with all families stating that they 'Agreed' or 'Agreed Strongly' with the following comments:

- We found coming to Bamboozle today beneficial
- Today as a family we feel we interacted or communicated more than we usually do.

The funding helped to ensure that these families had a positive arts experience which was accessible for the whole family. The project provided meaningful stimulation and interaction between family members and also between different family groups who, whilst experiencing similar life experiences, rarely get the opportunity to share this with other families: *"It's is a great opportunity to meet families like our own - it makes life feel less isolated coming to Bamboozle."* Parent.

The families and in particular the disabled children were given access to professional and high quality artists in a mainstream arts facility - an experience rarely offered to these families:

"A little bit of magic in Mansfield (and that doesn't happen very often!) It's a multi-sensory day long experience that is about the kids, not the adults. It's something they can easily access. It's a day for and about them – Keep it up!" Parent.

This was a new venue for Bamboozle and the first time the college has been able to offer its facilities to Nottinghamshire families with profoundly disabled children. The experience was a positive one for both the theatre and the community participants and it is hoped that further such projects giving access to highly marginalised members of the community will continue at the theatre.

Feedback from the Theatre:

"The impact on our venue was very positive one. We are keen to make new links with companies from diverse backgrounds and, as the event which Bamboozle wished to stage was a new venture for Create it was not only good to meet company members but also families that attended. Most of these had not had the opportunity to attend the venue before and obviously enjoyed the experience, which was great to see."

"When the company offered the opportunity for two students to participate in the event this was an even more affirming link. The students thoroughly enjoyed their time working with the cast and family participants and provided them with invaluable experience as this work is something they are particularly interested in pursuing after their studies." Vision West Notts

Movement For All

"The Inter Dance project took place over four 2 hour long sessions at Brinsley Parish Hall. The knowledge exchange across the generational gap was fantastic to see - young and old were fully engaged and involved in teaching each other their own phrases of movement and all equally enjoyed learning and being allowed creative time.

The film we made highlights both the group's views and opinions about the project and the joy that they experienced whilst working together. The film has since been shown to wider audiences at a sharing at the Parish Hall and the Schools Performing Arts Showcase. It is also playing on the schools PA system, has been shown at the Healthy Lifestyle Event and the over 55's Event both held in Eastwood recently (organised by Notts West CCG and the CVS). We are in talks with Nottingham Age UK and Notts TV as to how it can have an even wider reach. The film is also online on the Movement For All website and Hall Park Academy's YouTube channel. We have had great positive feedback so far and the film is currently being edited to be shown in 2 local doctor's surgeries."

Appendix 4

One-off grants

Members approved a small number of additional 'one-off' discretionary grants during 2012-15, with a total value of £203,525, as shown in the table below:

Organisation	Theme	District	Amount Awarded 2012-13	Amount Awarded 2013-14	Amount Awarded 2014-15	Total Awarded 2012-15
Bassetlaw Citizens Advice Bureau	Health Grant	Countywide	£ -	£ -	£ 80,000	£ 80,000
Bassetlaw Learning Disability Association	Community Resource Centre	Bassetlaw	£ -	£ 17,000	£ -	£ 17,000
Broxtowe Citizens Advice Bureau	Health Grant	Countywide	£ -	£ -	£ 20,000	£ 20,000
Mansfield Woodhouse Community Development Group	Community Resource Centre	Mansfield	£ -	£ 5,000	£ -	£ 5,000
Nottingham Credit Union	One Year Agreement	Countywide	£ -	£ 22,000	£ -	£ 22,000
The Manton Centre for Sport and Learning	One Year Agreement	Bassetlaw	£ -	£ 10,000	£ -	£ 10,000
The Nottingham Roosevelt Travelling Scholarship	Two Year Agreement	Countywide	£ -	£ 5,000	£ 5,000	£ 10,000
The Nottinghamshire Schools Council for Sports	One Year Agreement	Countywide	£ -	£ -	£ 29,325	£ 29,325
The Pilgrim Fathers UK Origins Association	One Year Agreement	Countywide	£ -	£ 200	£ -	£ 200
The Tin Hat Centre	Community Resource Centre	Ashfield	£ -	£ 10,000	£ -	£ 10,000
TOTAL			£ -	£ 69,200	£ 134,325	£ 203,525

Appendix 5 Group Closures

The table below lists the Grant Aided projects that closed and the year of closure. The reasons for closure were generally as a result of unsustainable finances or the inability to replace a key worker or volunteer, leading to unsustainability of the project / service. Groups were asked to repay the proportion of unspent grant after the closure.

GA Year of Closure	Organisation	Theme	District	Date of Closure	Annual Amount	Reason for closure / notes
2012-13	Community CentrePoint Ltd	Community Transport	Ashfield	28 Jan 2013	£3,899	Closed due to unsustainable finances.
2012-13	Roshni NAWA Ltd	Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse	Nottingham City	31 Jan 2013	£10,000	Closed due to unsustainable finances.
2012-13	Christ Church PCC	Youth Services	Bassetlaw	1 Jun 2013	£2,500	The member of staff running the project left and no replacement could be found.
2012-13	Nuthall Temple Luncheon and Friendship Club	Older People	Broxtowe	3 Jun 2013	£560	The group did not provide a reason for closure.
2012-13	Home Start Dukeries	Children and Families	Mansfield	30 Jun 2013	£17,640	Closed due to unsustainable finances.
2013-14	Tap Youth Ltd	Youth Services	Ashfield	5 Feb 2014	£1,000	The group experienced difficulties retaining staff and closed as a result.
2013-14	Gedling CVS (Befriending Scheme)	Older People	Gedling	20 Mar 2014	£2,500	Be-friending coordinator suffered ill health and a suitable replacement could not be found.
2014-15	NAVO	Infrastructure	Countywide	Announced: October 2014; Officially closed: 31 March 2015	£165,000	Changes in the Charity Commission regulations – and changes in the way NAVO was funded by different funding bodies.



18 October 2016

Agenda Item: 6

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR PLACE GRANT AID REPORT 2015/16

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide an overview of how the first year of the 3 year Grant Aid 2015 to 2018 programme is contributing to achieving the Nottinghamshire County Council strategic plan.

Information and Advice

Grant Aid Strategy & Budget

2. At the July 2014 Grant Aid Sub-Committee, Members agreed:
 - To endorse the key drivers and features of the 2012-2015 Grant Aid Strategy for the new Grant Aid 2015 to 2018 programme (see Appendix 1).
 - To align the corporate Grant Aid programme for 2015 to 2018 with the core functions defined in "Redefining Your Council"
 - That Grant Aid service specifications (priorities) to be aligned with the Council's Core Functions as detailed in Redefining Your Council and shown in Appendix 1 to this report.
3. At the March 2015 Grant Aid Sub-Committee, Members agreed the following:
 - To approve 117 three-year awards in the region of £1.6m per year, subject to annual review.
 - That, in addition to the three-year awards, a further £100,000 be allocated for annual grants in the Arts, Sports, Summer Play Scheme and Great War Commemoration categories, bringing the total Grant Aid 2015/16 awards to £1.7m.
 - For £50,000 of the total Grant Aid budget per year to be "set-aside" for "new" or "innovative" proposals under the 'Innovation Fund'. The Innovation Fund was intended to be advertised on an annual basis, and available for groups who did not apply as part of the three year programme. At the May 2015 Grant Aid Sub-Committee, 13 applications were approved for funding under the 'Innovation Fund'. In response to the Council's budget review, the Innovation Fund was later removed from the Grant Aid programme (agreed at the January 2016 Grant Aid Sub Committee).

Service Priorities and the Grant Aid Process Transformation

4. The Community & Voluntary Sector (C&VS) team reviewed and transformed the end-to-end process for all Grant Aid themes. This included:
 - Working with the Cross-Services Officer Group who were tasked with writing the service priorities (with support from the C&VS team)
 - Designing the application process, guidance and forms
 - Designing the assessment process and assessment tools
 - Coaching cross-departmental colleagues in the assessment process & tools
 - Moderating the assessments
 - Co-ordinating the assessment process and providing all unsuccessful applicants with quality, written feedback and information about other sources of funding and advice
 - Revising the agreements to make it clearer for both parties what the Grant Aid funding is contributing to, reducing the number of agreements inherited from the various departments and bringing the agreement template in line with the corporate legal services guidance
 - Issuing agreements and processing payments
 - Improving the monitoring process and questions to provide groups with an opportunity review their projects and feedback to the C&VS team
 - Developing the information management database and procedures
 - Liaising with cross-departmental colleagues as appropriate.

Promotion, Applications and Awards

5. All Grant Aid rounds were advertised throughout the County using a range of media including press-releases, the Council website, Facebook and Twitter. The C&VS team organised 3 “Launch Events” to give the Community & Voluntary Sector a face-to-face opportunity to discuss the priorities and ask questions about the new 3-year Grant Aid round.
6. All applicants were required to apply through the corporate process for their respective theme. Groups offering similar / the same services were encouraged to apply as a consortium (partnership). Applications received by the published closing date were assessed and moderated. When assessing applications, particular consideration was given to projects that:
 - Help people to help themselves
 - Provide volunteering opportunities
 - Seek to address inequality in areas of deprivation
 - Identified ways for the applicant to generate their own income and be less reliant on Grant Aid.

7. The C&VS team presented recommendations for each funding round and Members approved applications for funding. At the October 2015 Grant Aid Sub-Committee, Members agreed that the Summer Play Scheme, Arts and Sports Fund (except Talented Athletes), to be brought in-line with the 3-year Grant Aid Programme; and for the talented athletes programme to continue to operate on an annual basis. Appendix 2 to this report includes an overview of the Grant Aid awards and the number of projects by theme.

Information sources

8. The information presented in this report has largely been provided by the Grant Aided groups through the monitoring process. Almost all groups (98%)¹ submitted the required Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) 2015/16. Groups were asked to provide information on a number of generic and theme specific areas. Due to the diverse range of projects / services there will be some differences in how the information is reported. Therefore, where appropriate, some reasonable assumptions have been made (based on the information available at the time), to calculate approximate or estimated values. In some cases, information has been obtained from annual reports submitted to the Charities Commission, departmental colleagues who carry out additional monitoring for specific themes (e.g. community transport), the Nottinghamshire State of the Voluntary Sector 2015 report and other reports as appropriate.

Grant Aid Reach

9. During 2015/16, groups reported that over 109,200 individual service users benefitted from the Grant Aid provision – representing almost 14% of the Nottinghamshire population (based on a total Nottinghamshire population estimate of 805,800²). Groups also reported that services/activities were accessed over 1.1 million times during the same period. Appendix 2 to this report includes a breakdown of the number of service users (beneficiaries) by theme.

How Grant Aid funding is helping to improve the lives of Nottinghamshire Communities

10. Appendix 3 to this report includes a selection of case studies, examples and quotes (provided by groups in their AMR), which help to illustrate how the funded projects are contributing to the Council's vision: *"...to make Nottinghamshire a better place to live, work and visit"* - and values: *Treating people fairly, value for money and working together.* In summary, the case studies and quotes provide an insight into how:
 - Early intervention is enabling older service users to stay in their own home for longer, resulting in improved levels of dignity, happiness and lower social care/health costs
 - Vulnerable adults are less lonely and isolated as a result of funded projects. People experiencing Dementia (and their loved ones/carers) are receiving much needed support

¹ For the groups that did not complete their AMR, the groups provided reasons for the delay in submitting their Reports.

² Source: <http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/business-employment-and-benefits/economic-data/population-estimates> (Mid 2015 data)

- Lives are being transformed and saved as exemplified by the following service user quotes: *“If [funded project] was not here then I would most probably be still at home every day deteriorating... I am hopeful that I will get a job soon and I have not felt that hope in years...”* and, another service user fed back that a particular project *“...saved my life.”*
 - Support services which help to lift Nottinghamshire people out of poverty and debt. For example, the Citizens Advice Consortium supported clients with almost £10m of benefit claims and £42m of debt issues during 2015/16. This has a knock-on effect of improving health & well-being, supporting the local economy and preventing crisis situations such as homelessness.
 - Partnership approaches to holistic wellbeing and support is both outcome and cost effective
 - Although the beneficiaries are primarily service users, groups have also reported examples of volunteers ‘moving on’, e.g. developing skills, and experience to assist them with moving into paid employment – see Appendix 4 to this report
 - Funded projects are delivering cost effective, ‘value for money’ services. For example, one project carried out face-to-face work with 7,243 children and adults which they have costed at £1 Grant Aid contribution per person. Another project fed back that: *“The County Council grant means that we [the project] can deliver a support service that is good value for money in the long term by reducing social care benefit costs.”*
11. It is recognised that the full value (or impact) of the Grant Aid programme cannot be measured in monetary terms alone – soft outcomes are extremely difficult to observe or measure in financial or numerical terms. For example, it is difficult to quantify the improvement in the quality of people’s lives, a change in lifestyle/attitude and a reduced or delayed need for other services/interventions. Many benefits to the community are priceless in terms of improved health and well-being and in some cases, lives have been transformed or even saved as a result of the support received from Grant Aided groups (as shown in Appendix 3 to this report).

Grant Aid as Leverage to Secure Other Income

12. Fifty-six groups reported securing over £2 million of additional funding during 2015/16 alone; 46 of these groups stated that the Grant Aid helped them to secure the additional funding for the benefit of Nottinghamshire communities. In many cases, the C&VS team supported groups to identify other funding sources and by providing advice on applications.

Volunteer Contribution to Nottinghamshire Communities

13. Volunteers are critical to delivering the services and contribute enormously to the funded projects. Many VCS groups not only survive but thrive on the dedication, time, commitment, support and service provided by Nottinghamshire people who give their time freely to help others. Grant Aided groups reported that over 9,800 volunteers contributed to their projects during 2015/16, with approximately 1,700 of these volunteers

recruited as 'new' volunteers. Groups also reported that volunteers delivered approximately 937,200 hours of their time. As a conservative estimate, if volunteers received the minimum or living wage, this would equate to between £6 and £7.5 million. Appendix 2 to this report includes a breakdown of the number of volunteers and the number of volunteer hours by theme.

Achievements, Innovation and Partnership Working

14. The vast majority of projects are either achieving or exceeding the objectives as stated on their Grant Aid Agreement. Additionally, many groups have also reported other achievements above and beyond the scope of their Grant Aid Agreement. For example Grant Aid funding helps groups to secure additional funding from other sources and therefore, the extra funding enables the group to offer enhanced and/or innovative services to the most vulnerable children, young people and adults in Nottinghamshire communities. Similarly, many groups have developed partnerships to enable the needs of Nottinghamshire people to be met in the most effective and efficient way. Appendix 5 to this report includes some examples about achievements, innovation and partnership working.

Sustainability Planning

15. The Council encourages Grant Aided groups to become more sustainable and reduce their reliance on Grant Aid funding. Through the monitoring process, groups were specifically asked whether or not they have a sustainability plan in place – approximately 80% of groups responded to confirm that 'yes', they do. Information provided by groups also suggested that there is varying levels of understanding about sustainability plans and in July 2016, the C&VS team shared a range of 'sustainability support information' with all Grant Aided groups as summarised in Appendix 6 to this report.

Reporting Challenges and Continuous Review and Development

16. Due to the diverse and often complex nature of the projects/services funded by the Grant Aid programme, reporting in a consistent, coherent and succinct way continues to pose a significant challenge. Appendix 7 to this report provides a summary of other aspects of monitoring carried out during 2015/16. With the transition to a corporate programme the C&VS team regularly review and develop the way we work to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the monitoring and information management processes.
17. An update on the Sports, Summer Play Scheme and Arts Grant Aid programmes can be found in Appendix 8 to this report. Due to the timing of the Arts and Sports Fund, information is not yet available for a full year and this report does not seek to review the Innovation Fund, The Great War Commemoration Fund, nor the Grant Aid strategy, arrangements or processes.
18. Appendix 9 to this report provides a summary of the project closures.

Other Options Considered

19. No other options are necessary as this report is for noting only and to provide an overview of decisions already approved.

RECOMMENDATION

20. It is recommended that this report is noted.

Reason/s for Recommendation

21. The recommendation is based on the value and benefits to Nottinghamshire communities as a result of the Grant Aid programme.

Statutory and Policy Implications

22. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, the public sector equality duty, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

23. There are no new financial implications as a result of this report.

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments (SLB 07/10/16)

Grant Aid Sub Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report.

Financial Comments (SES 05/10/16)

There are no specific financial implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All

**Grant Aid Annual Review:
2015/16**

Appendix 1

Appendix 1:

In November 2011 the County Council adopted a Corporate Grant Aid Strategy to cover the period from 2011 to 2015. These features were welcomed by Members and VCS organisations and it was proposed that they were retained for the 2015-2018 period. The key drivers and features of the strategy are:

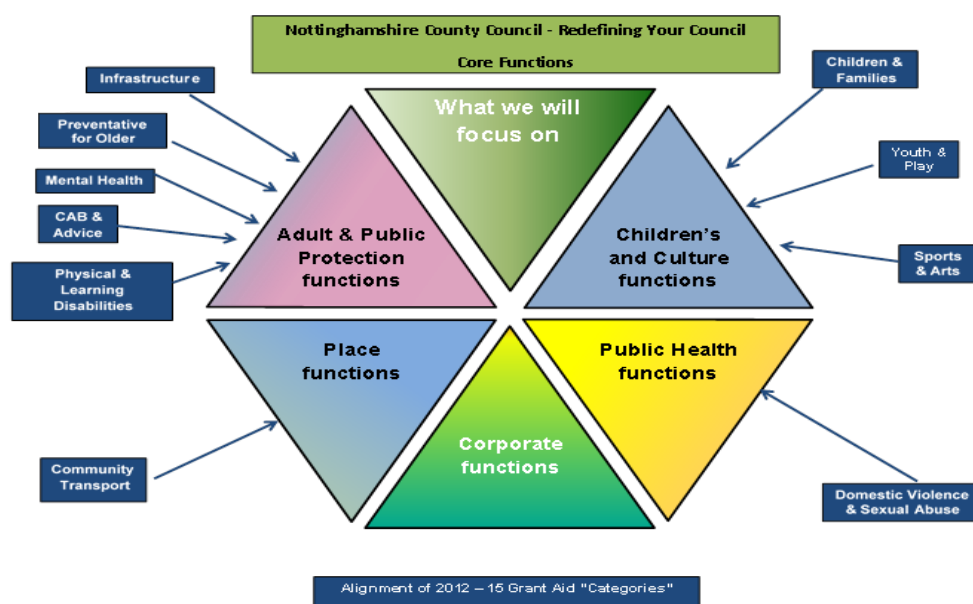
Grant Aid Strategy Features

- Member Led – ensuring that members take a strategic lead on decision making
- Corporate approach – decisions are aligned to the council's priorities
- Recognition of the VCS – valuing the enormous contribution made across the county
- Centralised administration – a streamlined process for the administration of grant aid across the council
- Proportionate at all stages – simple application, 1 or 2 payments each year, monitoring simplified
- Making better use of IT – application & monitoring processes
- Longer agreements – where possible awards will be for a three year period to enable the VCS to forward plan
- Grants to make a contribution towards provision, not to directly purchase key services – making Grant Aid distinct from commissioning.

Grant Aid Strategy Drivers: The VCS and the Grant Aid programme

- Harnesses the time, talents and ambitions of local residents who wish to volunteer
- Reaches excluded or isolated people and communities that the statutory sector sometimes cannot
- Attracts additional resources to Nottinghamshire through grant funding
- Is a significant employer of people and as such is an important part of our mixed economy (State of the Sector - SOS report)
- Assists the Council to improve the quality and accessibility of our own services
- Provides a local Community Voice – advocates for vulnerable people and provides valuable feedback on community consultation

Graphic: Grant Aid service specifications aligned with the Council's Core Functions as detailed in Redefining Your Council and shown below:



Source: Grant Aid Sub Committee Report, July 2014

Grant Aid Annual Review:
2015/16

Appendix 2

Appendix 2: Grant Aid Awards, Projects, Service Users and Volunteers Data 2015/16

The table below provides breakdown of the Grant Aid 2015/16 awards, number of service users (beneficiaries), number of volunteers and the number of volunteer hours by theme:

Theme	Grant Aid awarded	Number of projects awarded*	Approximate number of service users (beneficiaries)	Approximate number of volunteers during 2015/16	Estimated number of volunteer hours during 2015/16
Chairman's Charity	£ 500	1	N/A	N/A	N/A
Children & Families	£ 191,700	11	7,405	613	60,580
Community Transport	£ 204,300	15	11,134	437	168,688
Connected Communities	£ 270,600	30	18,803	1,266	151,840
Great War Commemoration Fund**	£ 7,260	19	N/A	N/A	N/A
Information, Advice and Support Services	£ 461,900	21	37,015	681	222,820
Infrastructure Support	£ 144,000	1	5,376	96	5,824
Innovation Fund	£ 50,000	13	495	132	N/A
Play Forum Support	£ 63,000	7	11,445	92	6,500
Promoting Independence	£ 189,350	17	4,775	1,201	98,384
Sports	£ 24,856	61	N/A	248	18,096***
Summer Play Schemes	£ 16,501	27	2,704	422	6,447
Youth Projects & Youth Infrastructure Groups	£ 80,300	15	10,137	4,676	198,068
TOTAL	£ 1,704,267	238	109,289	9,864	937,247

* This is the number of projects approved by the Grant Aid Sub-Committee and includes those groups which subsequently closed before the end of June 2016.

** Due to the Great War Commemoration Fund having several rounds throughout the year, the figures shown are for those projects which were *paid* between July 2015 and June 2016.

*** Due to the timing of the Sports Fund, a full years reporting data is not yet available. Therefore, this is an estimate based on a full year's activity (using data from the Sports Interim Monitoring Report).

**Grant Aid Annual Review:
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Appendix 3

Appendix 3: Case studies, examples and quotes

Introduction to the case studies:

Grant Aided groups / organisations were invited to share case studies about their funded project / service. The case studies and examples may include information about:

- How the service contributes to the Council's vision: “...to make Nottinghamshire a better place to live, work and visit”
- How the service works in line with the Council's values: “Treating people fairly, value for money and working together.”
- Innovative developments, other achievements and/or good practice / guidance that has been shared with other groups
- Effective partnership working to help improve outcomes for Nottinghamshire people.

Due to the vast amount of data provided, this section contains a *selection* of case studies / examples from groups with a 3-year Grant Aid Agreement, including:

- Projects that deliver services to Nottinghamshire residents from all districts (sometimes referred to ‘countywide’ projects)
- Projects in receipt of various levels of Grant Aid funding
- Projects from all the 3-year themes
- At least one example from each district of the county.

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Countywide

Grant Aid Theme: Information, Advice and Support Services

The Citizens Advice Bureau [CAB] Consortium - Providing Advice across Nottinghamshire

The CAB Consortium includes all the Nottinghamshire CABs: Ashfield, Bassetlaw, Broxtowe, Mansfield, Nottingham & District and Ollerton & District. This service provides free, independent and confidential advice across the whole of Nottinghamshire. Advice covers debt management, welfare, housing, employment, consumer issues and other areas. Key outputs for 2015/16 include:

- Number of service users / clients, that accessed the service: 26,930
- Number of times a service user / client accesses* the service: 71,750
- Number of issues dealt with for Nottinghamshire people: 75,000
- Amount of additional benefit gains generated for Nottinghamshire people: £9.9m
- Amount of debt handled for Nottinghamshire people: £42m

Volunteers

“We are a volunteer led service and we would not exist without our valuable volunteers who are supported by a small number of paid but highly trained and committed team of paid staff... if these [CAB volunteer] hours were paid the cost would equate to just over £1.3 million for the year.”

Whilst most CAB volunteers are advisors, the CAB also has volunteer administrators, information assistants, receptionists and trustees, all serving their local communities in different ways:

- Number of volunteers that helped to deliver this service: 248 (of these, 95 were new)
- Number of volunteer hours that supported the service in the last financial year: over 100,000 hours.

Comments from the CAB Consortium:

“The funding we receive from the Grant Aid enables us to open our doors each day and support our expert volunteers to give high quality advice to people who need us in our Communities. We continue to see a high number of vulnerable clients who need day to day support to function in their community... The NCC core funding cannot be sought elsewhere and we need the core funding to support our Project Funding applications* to increase our funding streams – resulting in sustainability.

**Project Funding enables us to employ specialist advisers who deal with the most vulnerable in our society who have multi-complex problems.”*

The following case studies and examples provide some insight into how the CAB Consortium contributes to the achievement of the Nottinghamshire County Council Strategic Priorities

1: Example of facilitation and/or use of alternative methods to assist clients in resolving their issues, such as case work and accessing and signposting to appropriate specialist support:

“Our offices run an ‘initial check’ service when clients first contact us. This is a triage type one to one session with clients to assess their needs, capability and urgency of their enquiry. If we are not the most appropriate provider for their enquiry we will signpost or makes referrals to other statutory and voluntary agencies. We all have close links with most other services and as we have also identify any priorities our clients get to the most appropriate service quickly...Once we have identified that the CAB is the most appropriate service we can offer generalist advice on the day which may then lead

onto Specialist advice (mainly debt, benefits or housing). We also take referrals in from the same agencies including local authorities, GPs, NHS, voluntary sector, police.”

“One example of this is Broxtowe Council referring a client to us who was struggling to pay her rent and council tax. The Client was very reluctant to engage with our services as she was embarrassed about her financial situation and the fact that the referral had to be paid. We worked with this client over a number of months gaining her trust, explaining how we could help and helping her produce a weekly budget. The client’s husband had two low paid jobs and they had 3 children. The situation could have become very serious resulting in homelessness if it had continued. We arranged for the client to pay token payments to her creditors, giving her some time and space to ensure she was paying her current bills. Eventually we helped the client complete a Debt Relief Order wiping out her debts of just over £15,000. In the meantime the client found herself a part-time job and was really positive about the future.”

2: Example of partnership working to promote independence and resilience, through self-help where appropriate and possible - resulting in increased confidence and ability to manage own problems for the client

“Throughout Nottinghamshire we work with other specialist providers both statutory and voluntary. An example of this is working within the Blue light Project (Nottinghamshire Alcohol Related Long Term Condition Team). We received referrals from this team who deal with clients who are often coming out of long hospital stays. This work usually involves home visits with the Blue Light Project team...We will work with the team to sort out any debt, housing or benefit issues whilst the Blue Light team work with the client on other issues such as their health, GP visits, and employment issues. Once the underlying issues are sorted this gives clients some breathing space to get their lives back on track.”

3. Example of partnership working with the County Council Trading Standards service

“All the Citizens Advice local offices across Nottinghamshire work with Trading Standards and the Citizens Advice Consumer Service. We assist clients with any issues relating to consumer legislation matters and this is one of our larger enquiry areas. Citizens Advice Broxtowe was one of 2 boroughs in England & Wales selected to receive a mail drop of ‘Scams Awareness’ postcards in conjunction with Citizens Advice, the Royal Mail and Trading Standards. To support this, a local MP, the Chair of the Council’s Community Safety Committee and national representatives from Citizens Advice and Royal Mail attended the Broxtowe CAB - our joint aim is to research and campaign on issues on behalf of our clients (both individually and collectively).”

Comments from service users whose lives, health and well-being have been improved as a result of the information and advice provided by the CAB Consortium

Here are some of the comments from the people that the CAB has helped:

"I feel as though I can set my life back on track. I have been suffering for years with debt mainly left by my ex. violent husband who went bankrupt. I nearly took my own life a few times by overdosing. I am fighting all the time with the debtors. I recently got married but now split through debts. I feel as though my life is back on track, now I feel as though I have hope and eventually get some kind of life back."

"I am always treated with respect and understanding. Very helpful advice given. I have a big worry regarding my son who has terminal cancer. Help with my debts gives me peace of mind and enables me to concentrate on caring for my son."

There are close links between debt and mental health issues and the CAB provides help on both of these aspects.

Countywide

Grant Aid Theme: Infrastructure Support

Nottinghamshire Together Partnership

The Nottinghamshire Together Partnership co-ordinates and develops infrastructure support for the VCS that maximises existing resources and adds value to local VCS infrastructure support. Nottinghamshire Together works at a strategic level to deliver capacity building, engagement, technical support and 'voice' that supports a sustainable collaborative sector.

Case study

“...our swift and focused intervention at the time of crisis was invaluable...”

“During the past 12 months a major charity in the County that supports vulnerable adults came close to closure. As the crisis loomed, key staff left. With the combined efforts of dedicated trustees, another similar organisation and CA Plus, this organisation has survived, turned itself around and continues to support those in need. Specifically, we helped the organisation to establish the exact financial position; clarified the law around going concern and assured trustees of their position and responsibilities; assisted in designing forecasts and better financial procedures. We worked with staff and trustees over a few months. Our on-going support continues with accounts, bookkeeping and payroll, but our swift and focused intervention at the time of crisis was invaluable.”

“Nottinghamshire Together:

- ✓ Conducted a Self Help Roadshow this year to raise the profile of self help/self care. This involved attending over 42 events in the County to promote self help groups and support self —care which led to over 300 enquiries for further information or assistance to set up new —groups.
- ✓ Supported 182 self help groups that offer support to people in the county this year which meant that 980 people were more engaged with their health and wellbeing.
- ✓ Put on a programme of training and networking events which attracted over 70 people across Nottinghamshire.”

“...successfully delivered five events that have engaged the sector as never before...”

“Nottinghamshire Together worked closely with the NCC Community Empowerment and Resilience Programme (CERP), and has successfully delivered five events that have engaged the sector as never before. This partnership and the CERP have formed an interdependent working relationship, that will now move forward together to develop robust social action throughout Nottinghamshire.”

“...a successful application to the General Dispensary Fund for start-up costs...”

“Self Help UK have been providing support to the Newheart Group in Newark a Heart Failure Support Group - we have supported them to access local low cost room hire, producing publicity, links with the community health practitioners, policies and procedures, as well as supported them in a successful application to the General Dispensary Fund for start-up costs. We continue to support them to grow the membership and offer guidance and networking opportunities to deal with any issues that may arise as the group develops.”

Grant Aid Theme: Children and Families

APTCOO - A Place to Call Our Own (*Mansfield*)

APTCOO provides a wide range of services for children and young people with special educational needs and/or a life limiting condition.

“Coming [to APTCOO] has given me hope when I thought that there was no longer any hope in my life”

“APTCOO’s Pre-school group is a specialist support service for parent carers and family members who are expecting a baby or have a child with additional needs and/or a life limiting condition. This group is highly valued by parents who need emotional, social and educational support, not least a place within the community that encourages the forming of friendships and peer-to-peer support. We provide family-centred support, advice and guidance tailored specifically for individual families. Highly trained staff support babies, children and young people with complex health, education and care needs. Feedback from this group is as follows:

“I like meeting parents with children with additional needs, it makes me feel less alone. It can be emotionally difficult at times for me...I carry a lot on my shoulders and suffer with severe anxiety. Places like SureStart are nice but I feel different to the other mums with ‘typical’ children. It can be isolating because they are following a very different path to me. It can be painful at times, too - APTCOO celebrates that my child is who he is. The staff are lovely and very patient with him. I don’t feel alone when I’m here and I then feel better for coming and cope better at home.”

Parent of 3 children, 2 of whom have different disabilities.

“This past month since the diagnosis I have felt lost, totally isolated and alone. I can’t believe the total difference there is from a local play group to this group. Coming [to APTCOO] has given me hope when I thought that there was no longer any hope in my life. It may only be my second time here but the amount of weight I feel that has been lifted off my shoulders feels amazing. I have been made to feel welcome and most of all wanted, [at APTCOO] you are treated as people NOT numbers. I have a light in the dark tunnel I have found myself in and this group has given it to me.”

Parent of 2 children; one age 2 (autistic) and one age 4 (autistic, with a speech and sound disorder).

“I find APTCOO helpful for advice, really friendly and approachable staff. Met some lovely people here, brilliant for my 1 year old to socialise and explore new things. Non-judgmental!”

Parent of 1 year old son with Tracheo-Oesophageal Fistula (requires peg feed).

Grant Aid Theme: Community Transport

Reducing loneliness and isolation – and enabling older people to stay at home longer

Collingham Village Care Community Car scheme (*Newark & Sherwood*)

The provision of a community car scheme in the catchment area covered by the Collingham Primary Care Practise.

“J is an 83 year old woman living alone with her closest relative being a sister who lives a long distance away. She has multiple health problems which involve partnership working with the Primary Care staff and hospital staff during admissions. Her mobility is restricted owing to breathing difficulties and she is desperate to retain her independence in her own home. We take her to the local Co-op twice a week, to the Post Office to cash her pension and to the pharmacy, podiatrist and GP. She says that she would not be able to continue living at home without our support.”

Soar Valley Bus (*Rushcliffe*)

Expanding services and area of operation to connect with existing Nottinghamshire public transport to benefit clubs and societies and improve quality of life by trips and excursions.

“Some of our service users were previously confined to home due to a lack of confidence to use public transport on own..they are now regular trip passengers.

“Two new users met for first time through this scheme and now socialise together and are no longer lonely.”

Grant Aid Theme: Connected Communities

Age UK Nottingham and Nottinghamshire

Men in Sheds Gardening Project (*Carlton-in-Lindrick & Worksop, Bassetlaw*)

An extension of the existing Men in Sheds Gardening Project to include a gardening club – to encourage better nutrition, exercise and friendship for older men.

“Men in Sheds has saved my life”

“Mr P is 72 years old and lives alone. He has some minor physical health problems. Following the death of his wife 15 years ago he became acrimoniously estranged from his family and they have never spoken to him since. This led to him becoming increasingly reclusive and depressed, he says that he was 'heartbroken' and that 'life had become worthless'. Since joining Men in Sheds, Mr P's well being has improved enormously; instead of the insular lifestyle that had become his norm, he now has new found friends and support that have enabled him to become more socially active. This has resulted in him being gradually weaned off antidepressants for the first time in twelve years. Mr P says that he is much happier now and that he often finds himself singing and joking instead of withdrawing inside himself. He has just booked to go on holiday with one of his new friends from the shed. He says 'Men in Sheds has saved my life'.”

Alzheimers Society

Singing For The Brain (*Rushcliffe & Mansfield*)

Singing for the Brain (SFTB) provides a way for people with dementia, along with their carers, to express themselves and socialise with others in a fun and supportive group.

“...This fair treatment of people from all backgrounds and ages is essential to the service, and provides value for money for the social engagement and well-being of Mrs X”

Mrs X, a lady with dementia in her fifties, and her husband, attend the Singing for The Brain group. She had found that she was receiving support from our Dementia Support Worker but had no social outlets. She felt that other services in her area were for 'older people'. Working together, the Dementia Support Worker and Singing for the Brain lead recommended the group. Mrs X had a singing background and so attended with her husband. Mrs X has found it very stimulating and she and her husband very much enjoy the time spent there. This fair treatment of people from all backgrounds and ages is essential to the service, and provides value for money for the social engagement and well-being of Mrs X.

Kingsway Community Project

Over 50's (*Mansfield*)

Provision of twice weekly daycare and movement to music sessions which allows the opportunity to improve levels of health, increase social interaction and increase confidence levels for the over 50s.

“This early intervention allowed her to stay in her own home and meant that a hospital stay was not necessary...”

“A 69 year old woman found out during a chemist supported healthy living day that she had very high blood pressure. We were able to ameliorate her inevitable stress and support her through the period on an emotional level. Through the group she made friends with group members who had experienced the same, in itself a destresser. She confided that stress had been an issue due to debts she felt were running out of control so we referred her to our local CAB and they helped to agree new, manageable payments for her. She had experienced depression so we put her in touch with MIND who were able to support and boost her during low moments. She stopped smoking, ate more healthily, lost weight, and took up more physical activities and was able to reduce her blood pressure to a safe level without the need for medication in six months. This early intervention allowed her to stay in her own home and meant that a hospital stay was not necessary and that the care she needed at home was much less personally invasive and at a lower cost. Lower blood pressure also means a lower risk of strokes and heart attacks.”

Tin Hat Centre

Befriending in Selston Parish (*Ashfield*)

Development of a telephone, one-to-one visiting service and a resource centre based befriending project in the Selston Parish.

“He is now an ambassador for the befriending scheme...helping to reduce isolation and improve health...”

“A local gentleman who lives alone recently had to give up his car due to ill health. His only form of transport now is a mobility scooter which restricts the distance he can travel. Due to severe arthritis in his hands he is no longer able to cook for himself. The local church that are aware of our NCC funded befriending scheme sign posted him to us as without transport his social links are reduced dramatically along with access to affordable homemade meals. On his arrival at the Centre we gave him a warm welcome and explained the befriending scheme. After attending befriending sessions he became a daily visitor to the cafe at lunch time where he is welcome to pre order an affordable meal of his choice. He is now an ambassador for the befriending scheme recommending it to all he meets helping to reduce isolation and improve health within the Parish and surrounding area.”

Grant Aid Theme: Information Advice and Support

Ashfield Voluntary Action

ACCESS (*Ashfield*)

Delivery of a digital inclusion project to enable older people in Ashfield make use of Information Technology.

“Thanks to the funding from NCC many people attending ACCESS are working together to support other people to access a better future.”

“Mr X: From Service User to Volunteer ACCESS Project helper:

Mr X developed agoraphobia as a child and left school at an early age without any qualifications. Mr X is on ESA and his support worker suggested he visits AVA. Mr X attended with his Mum as he couldn't leave the house alone. After talking to Mr X, we suggested that he attends ACCESS as it is a very friendly environment with support but he is also able to come and go as he feels able. Mr X fitted straight into the relaxed environment and as his confidence grew he became a volunteer supporting others attending the ACCESS Project. After several months he was supported by AVA into work experience and, after a bumpy start, really began to shine. Mr X has now been offered part-time work. Thanks to the funding from NCC many people attending ACCESS are working together to support other people to access a better future.”

Grant Aid Theme: Play Forums

The play forums all offer accessible play opportunities that meet the social, psychological, and physical needs of children – this is delivered through direct work with children and by offering support, advice, training and shared resources to groups who work with children. Services offered include a Play Resource Centre, Toy Library, Loan Equipment and Scrap Store.

Broxtowe Play Forum (*Broxtowe*)

“We offer value for money...”

“We attended the local playday in Stapleford approx 200 children came to our activity tables. We worked in partnership/ supporting the Arts and Development team of Broxtowe Borough Council. We feel we offer value for money as the numbers of children and adults we work with face to face (7243) means the Grant Aid contributes to under £1 per person.”

Gedling Play Forum (*Gedling*)

“...This has given many [children] a sense of achievement and pride...”

“Using these materials saves money, landfill space and helps children understand the value of recycling”

“Through family membership a family with two children has access to our well stocked scrapstore. J is a wheelchair user and has multiple diagnoses. With support J searches through the shelves of recycled materials, feeling textures of fabrics and other materials, he chooses colours and shapes he wants. His parents work with him on making model rooms. He can relate to new places by making a room and becoming comfortable with his model. His sibling can also choose items for her own arts and crafts projects. They have the opportunity to take part in community play activities. We display child/parent made items in Gedling Civic Centre. This has enabled children to see their work is valued and this has given many a sense of achievement and pride. We have been told that children have taken family members to see their displayed work. Most items include recycled materials from our scrap store. Using these materials saves money, landfill space and helps children understand the value of recycling.”

Play Forum Support: Broxtowe Play Forum (*Broxtowe*)

Over the past year we have put on play events indoor and out (children attended 227) and training events (members attending 197), we were able to manage this through a successful bid from Awards for all. We have a good working relationship with our local SureStart Childrens Centre and local Councillors, both have attended our play sessions.

Grant Aid Theme: Promoting Independence

Ollerton and District Economic Forum

Feel Good Foods (*Newark & Sherwood*)

A project for those at risk of suffering social exclusion and lack of independence which generates social interaction and self-help.

“The County Council grant means ODEF can deliver a support service that is good value for money in the long term by reducing social care benefit costs”

“...Sharon is a transformed character since she first attended the project and has a much more positive outlook on life...”

“The people who attend the project are usually vulnerable, marginalised and have little social interaction with others in their community. This project helps to improve their lives by engaging them in activities which results in a more positive outlook and increased confidence and self esteem. The County Council grant means ODEF can deliver a support service that is good value for money in the long term by reducing social care benefit costs. In the future, there will be less people losing their independence and having to rely on social care benefits.”

Case Study

Sharon (not her real name) is a widow in her early 70's living alone in her own home. She was told about Feel Good Foods by a friend. She came along initially because she had an interest in gardening. During her interview with the ODEF support worker, Sharon revealed that she felt harassed and abused in her own community and was generally unhappy that she could not engage in any social activity, particularly gardening which she loved. Sharon described how important access to outdoor space was to her and she longed to be able to spend time with new friends in a communal activity. Sharon started coming to the Feel Good Foods work sessions regularly and she now sees it as her garden but she also views the Sherwood Pines site as a "retreat" saying that it is "inclusive" and therefore brings real benefits to people with limited or declining mobility. She meets a mix of people with different skills, experience and varying physical ability and she finds this a real advantage. Sharon is a transformed character since she first attended the project and has a much more positive outlook on life and is a good example that therapeutic "green care" can work.

Grant Aid Theme: Youth Projects & Youth Infrastructure Groups

Nottinghamshire Clubs for Young People

Events & Training Programmes for Nottinghamshire Young People

The Project provides opportunities for engagement in positive activities, contributing to young people becoming more self confident, improving their self esteem and enhancing their self worth. The project also provides a universal and inclusive service for young people aged 10 - 19 (or, up to 25 for young people with a disability).

“...One young woman in particular, has absolutely grown in confidence and self esteem...The camp and group is good value for money in respect to her achieving what she does with us...we will be working further with her with the intention of nominating her for young person of the year next year.”

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Appendix 4

Appendix 4: Examples of volunteers ‘moving on’

Although the beneficiaries of the Grant Aid programme are primarily service users, groups have also reported examples of volunteers ‘moving on’, e.g. developing skills, and experience to assist them with moving into paid employment. Here are just a few case studies about volunteers ‘moving on’:

Mansfield Play Forum (*Mansfield*)

The play forums all offer accessible play opportunities that meet the social, psychological, and physical needs of children – this is delivered through direct work with children and by offering support, advice, training and shared resources to groups who work with children. Services offered include a Play Resource Centre, Toy Library, Loan Equipment and Scrap Store.

Case study

“Mr N said volunteering had given him the opportunity to gain employment, skills to add to his CV, training and the confidence to carry on looking for work in the field that he wants to make his career”

“Mr N has lived in Mansfield Woodhouse all his life; he was the first person in his family to attend university. Mr N attended [University] for four years and worked very hard to gain a degree in biology. Throughout his time at university he couldn’t wait to be working. Unfortunately Mr N was unable to find work in his chosen field. Mr N says the rejection letters started to affect him, he got a bit lazy not going out and started to lose his confidence. Mr N heard of the Play Forum through a relative and came along to a meeting (Mr N had always had an interest in play and how it benefits children in later life, while at university he had been involved in summer play projects).

At the meeting he found out that money was tight [for the Play Forum] and that play was being affected. Mr N offered to become a volunteer doing administration, computer work and helping in the resource centre and scrap store. Mr N said putting himself forward as a volunteer had given him the opportunity to extend his skills in areas like administration, computers, sales, helping members of the public, understanding the needs of the community, and working with children.

Mr N was able to secure a paid part time position with the Play Forum. Mr N said volunteering had given him the opportunity to gain employment, skills to add to his CV, training and the confidence to carry on looking for work in the field that he wants to make his career.”

Reach Learning Disability

Reach Out (*Newark & Sherwood*)

Reach Out supports adults with learning disabilities to gain the skills, knowledge and confidence they need to integrate positively within their community by for example encouraging volunteering and access to training.

“Reach Southwell staff were delighted when one of their office volunteers (a young man with Autism Spectrum Disorder), secured part-time employment at a local firm, having sufficiently built confidence in his social and communication skills through his volunteering role.”

Stonebridge City Farm

Positive Progress (for Nottinghamshire older and vulnerable people)

The Positive Progress project provides support and opportunities for Nottinghamshire older and vulnerable people to participate in activities at Stonebridge City Farm. The Project provides:

- Opportunities for service users to engage with day to day tasks relating to gardening, animal care and/or customer service.
- Opportunities to access to education, training and employment (which may be delivered via external providers).

Through these activities, the project aims to increase service user confidence and self worth and help them to engage in social interaction, develop new friendships and learn new skills.

Case Studies

“I am hopeful that i will get a job soon and I have not felt that hope in years”

“My name is X and I’ve been volunteering for Stonebridge City farm for the past 2 months I came to work at Stonebridge City farm through my local jobcentre as I had been unemployed for sometime which had made me feel very low. Working at Stonebridge has built my confidence and gives me something to look forward to. I have met lots of different people which has opened my eyes to different cultures and backgrounds and I can appreciate and understand where they are coming from. They also give me help around my CV - I am surprised by the amount of things I have learnt since being here.”

“My name is Y and I am a volunteer at Stonebridge City Farm. Stonebridge City farm is a brilliant and amazing place to volunteer. All the staff are down to earth and have helped to bring me out and get me into a 9-5pm work routine after being out of work for over 2 years. Staff are very supportive which has helped my confidence and self esteem and great to work with colleague volunteers that are very friendly and hard working. I have also been able to brush up my computer skills as well as my face to face customer service and reception skills. I now am also job searching which i previously found difficult to do but now with their help I am identifying jobs. If Stonebridge City Farm was not here then I would most probably be still at home everyday deteriorating. I have also revitalized and updated my CV with current work experience. I am hopeful that I will get a job soon and I have not felt that hope in years.”

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Appendix 5

Appendix 5:

Examples of other achievements, innovation and partnerships

Children & Families:

The Centre Place (Bassetlaw)

The Centre Place provides a range of targeted preventative/early support services, for young people and families aged 16-25 and their children.

“We developed a social enterprise project ‘Hot Foods’ orking with a group of 9 young people initially to secure funding through the Talent Match Big Lottery Funded scheme. The project was developed to engage local young people aged 18-25 who have not been employed in education or training (NEET) for 12 months in setting up and running their own social enterprise business, providing freshly cooked healthy hot meals at an affordable price for the local residents.

The Hot Foods project has been an unexpected successful outcome which has provided vulnerable young people with long term volunteering opportunities enabling them to take on a variety of job roles in setting up this project including website design, flyer design, profit and loss, purchasing resources, food preparation, cooking, monitoring stock, ensuring health and safety and project evaluation. These outcomes will increase their ability to live independently and produce healthy and low costs meals. In addition to this young people increased their confidence and skills in working as a team, following instruction, meeting deadlines and customer service. Seven young people we successful in completing Food Safety qualifications (Level 2 CIEH Food Safety in Catering); and 5 young people were successful in progressing into paid employment as a direct result of their involvement with the project.

We have also been successful in planning and delivering LGBT workshops to tackle the high rates of homophobic incidents and lack of hate crime reporting we learnt about last year through our LGBT work. These sessions have been delivered in partnership with young people and has included workshops in schools, delivering in an LGBT conference in partnership Nottinghamshire NHS Healthcare Trust and organising the first Bassetlaw Hate Crime Event in support of Stonewall's ‘NoBystanders’ campaign in partnership with the local CVS, Police and County Council. Though our ongoing work within the LGBT community we have been involved in organising Worksop's first LGBT Pride (July 2016)...We have received feedback from the young LGBT people we work with about the positive impact the planning of this event is having on their lives, how they feel empowered, ‘more accepted’ and heard as a result of our campaign....We are working with other organisations and services to develop a survey for the Pride event that will enable professionals to gain the views of the wider LGBT community to use to continue to shape our services locally....we have become part of a local Mental Health Working Group and share what we have learned...”

Community Transport:

Dial a Trip Ltd, Community Car Scheme (Bassetlaw)

This project is a community car scheme operating in Tuxford and the surrounding rural villages. The transport is supplied by owner accessible cars and volunteers with their own cars.

“One of our volunteer drivers completed the Midas Trainer Training. This has enabled us to deliver Midas training to not only our selves but to other Minibus and Car Schemes throughout Nottinghamshire. All volunteer drivers must complete the Midas training and we believe this is a great value to the County as well as the local Schemes. We are able to offer value for money and also bring some income to our own scheme.”

Connected Communities:

Age UK Nottingham and Nottinghamshire, Visiting Service (Countywide)

This project coordinates and delivers volunteer visits to lonely and isolated older people in Nottinghamshire

“At the end of 2015 Age UK Notts secured funding (£37,600) from The Royal British Legion (RBL) to set up a pilot scheme to address loneliness and social isolation within the veteran community....This is an innovative development and an example of good partnership working that builds on the reputation that the Age UK Notts Visiting service has established. The visiting service would not exist in its current form without the support of the Grant Aid funding.”

Connected Communities:

Beeston Dementia Friends, Beeston Memory Café (Broxtowe)

Beeston Memory Café provides sessions for dementia sufferers and their carers. The purpose of the Memory Café is to enhance the quality of life of individuals with dementia and their carers. This is achieved through valuing and celebrating their contributions, listening to their needs and preferences, and acting on these.

“Innovative developments: Successful funding bid to purchase iPads for use with appropriate apps that will stimulate our guest creativity. Engaging arts and crafts-professionals to lead sessions to add quality of life and introduce wider experiences for those living with dementia and their carers/supporters;

Achievements: As from September 2015, we doubled the number of monthly Cafe sessions and now meet on both the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month, with a varied, high quality programme being arranged for every session.

Partnership working: Beeston Dementia Friends (the umbrella body for Beeston Memory Cafe) organises twice yearly Dementia Friendly sessions in conjunction with the Broxtowe Borough Council. A range of local retailers have been generous in supplying food, goods or equipment, either free or at cost price Beeston Dementia Friends has held Awareness days local supermarkets. The Alzheimers Society and Nottinghamshire Carers Hub has given presentations at Memory Cafe sessions and provided information leaflets for inclusion in the Memory Cafe resource packs given to all new attendees.”

Reach Learning Disability, Reach Out (Newark and Sherwood)

Reach Out supports adults with learning disabilities to gain the skills, knowledge and confidence they need to integrate positively within their community by for example encouraging volunteering and access to training.

“Reach is one of three Nottinghamshire charities selected in 2016 to receive the Queen’s Award for Voluntary Service in recognition of the commitment of our volunteers to our services and the community...This in turn has helped boost our volunteer recruitment.

Reach is developing a confetti project (a the Flower Pod), to create a new income stream from a product that has on-line marketing potential, whilst creating new purposeful and therapeutic activity for clients and peer volunteers. The John Lewis Foundation is to provide £7,000 towards this project to help forge a new partnership initiative with a local farm to further develop the confetti project.

Reach Newark Allotment group has transformed two overgrown plots into an accessible, pleasant wildlife-friendly area with a shed and picnic area. The Grant Aid funding helped to lever in small capital funding from a national trust The group have strengthened their links with Framework and the Community Mental Health Team, and held an open day and barbecue during the year.

Across Reach, we have had several success stories with adults with learning disabilities improving their lifestyle choices, for example cutting down on fizzy drinks and enjoying new sports.

The Grant Aid funding combines with current DH funding, Sport England Funding and partnership working with Mansfield District Leisure Trust and Newark and Sherwood District Council to enable us to offer a growing portfolio of accessible, community based sports activities. The funding helps gives us increased flexibility to bring staff together to share best practice and identify new project development ideas.

Reach Southwell staff were delighted when one of their office volunteers, (a young man with Autism Spectrum Disorder), secured part-time employment at a local firm, having sufficiently built confidence in his social and communication skills through his volunteering role.

Reach has been awarded a Local Sustainability Fund grant for 2016/17 from the Cabinet Office to help plan for sustainability and growth in a changing health and social care environment. We are currently developing a new sustainability and business plan, and working towards achievement of PQASSO, Investors in People, Information Advice and Guidance Matrix and implementing Learning Disability Outcome Life Star.”

Information, Advice and Support Services:

Nottinghamshire Deaf Society, Welfare Rights Service for Deaf People (Countywide)

“We are launching a skype service to enable Deaf people to make contact with the service and use BSL directly with the workers. Over this year the project has helped deaf people gain an additional £156,338.00 in benefits/income.”

The Friary (Rushcliffe)

“.. we have set up a new social enterprise in partnership with Enactus Nottingham. the business is called Re-Covered and it is our first venture into the formal creation of training and employment pathways for service users who we have supported through crisis. we hope to expand on this success and continue to invest in ways of creating innovative and effective opportunities for skills development for service users. We believe that in order to properly work locally to end homelessness, we have to invest in creating these opportunities for our client base.”

Disability Nottinghamshire (Mansfield)

“We have evidenced a gain of £325,688, with another possible estimated £725,614 in disability benefits for the people of Nottinghamshire pending results. Since obtaining the funding for this period of the project, we are extremely proud that this money increases personal independence and goes back into our community. We are working closely with Framework & Mansfield District Council Housing department helping their clients obtain or retain their eligible benefits - suitable clients will also be signposted to our in-house peer support group, choir or training workshops. We have been carrying out information advice sessions across the county, for example in Beeston, Kirkby in Ashfield and Mansfield Woodhouse, raising awareness of changes to the Disability Benefits systems, giving people the opportunity to seek out information, including Disability advice and support services or ask any questions they may have. We have also been engaging in staff and volunteer training courses as good practice to keep us up to date on the ever changing systems.”

Promoting Independence:

Autism East Midlands, Enterprise for Autism Volunteers (Bassetlaw)

“The project has been a great success and we have been very fortunate with the people that we have recruited. Whilst we haven't secured the number of volunteers we had hoped for, we have far exceeded the amount of time that the volunteers have given and consequently our service users have benefited from very committed individuals. A further achievement is that we have been able to recruit two of the volunteers into permanent employment which is a hugely beneficial outcome for the project.”

Broxtowe African Caribbean Elders Group , Healthy Body, Healthy Mind (Broxtowe)

“We are looking at getting printed a booklet that tells of the members' arrival to England and their subsequent lives and taking this into schools as part of black history month.”

Framework, Barista Sutton and Barista Worktop (Countywide)

“We are proud that we have supported 16 people into employment over the last year. We have a great working relationship with Worktop Library where one of the Baristas is based.”

Newark Live at Home Scheme (Newark and Sherwood)

“...we have developed the monthly lunch club to a weekly activity. We are also doing partnership work with Newark & Sherwood Homes running community cafes at their local community centres to encourage community spirit and wellbeing within the local complex.”

Worktop Live at Home Scheme (Bassetlaw)

“We have been working with BCVS prescription service which is linked to the doctors - they get patient referrals with depression, early memory issues ect and refer them on to us. They pay for the first 12 weeks for the new member and then they stay and start paying for themselves. It is working very well and we have had some fantastic comments about our services and how much we are making a difference to the people.”

Youth Projects & Youth Infrastructure Groups:

Focus on Young People in Bassetlaw, Core Funding for FoYPiB (Bassetlaw):

“We worked in partnership with Bassetlaw District Council to support Big Ambitions, Big Ideas, a careers event that raised awareness of opportunities for school leavers where we consulted with a 200+ young people asking them what activities they prefer to engage in. This information will shape our future events/activities. We also shared this information with other organisations within the area that we work in partnership with.”

Rainworth and Blidworth Detached Youth Project (Mansfield)

“We are extremely proud of our engagement of 16-25 year olds & our achievements in supporting them into education, training and Apprenticeships. We are also very proud of one particular service user who won the NCC young person of the year 2015 and has now gone on to secure employment!”

Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire, CAST Angling Projects (Gedling)

“As a follow on from the case study we have set up partnership work with Barnardos to facilitate work with their Muscular Dystrophy project and are working with Portland Training College to complete suitable facilities for children and young people with disabilities.”

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Appendix 6

Appendix 6: Sustainability Plans and Support

In the Grant Aid 2015-18 Application form, applicants were asked:

“How do you plan to generate other income to become less reliant on future Grant Aid awards?”

In the 2015/16 Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), groups were reminded about the importance of becoming less reliant on Grant Aid awards:

“Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) strongly recommends that all funded groups develop a sustainability plan (i.e. a plan to ensure that the project / service will continue after the end of the Grant Aid contribution).”

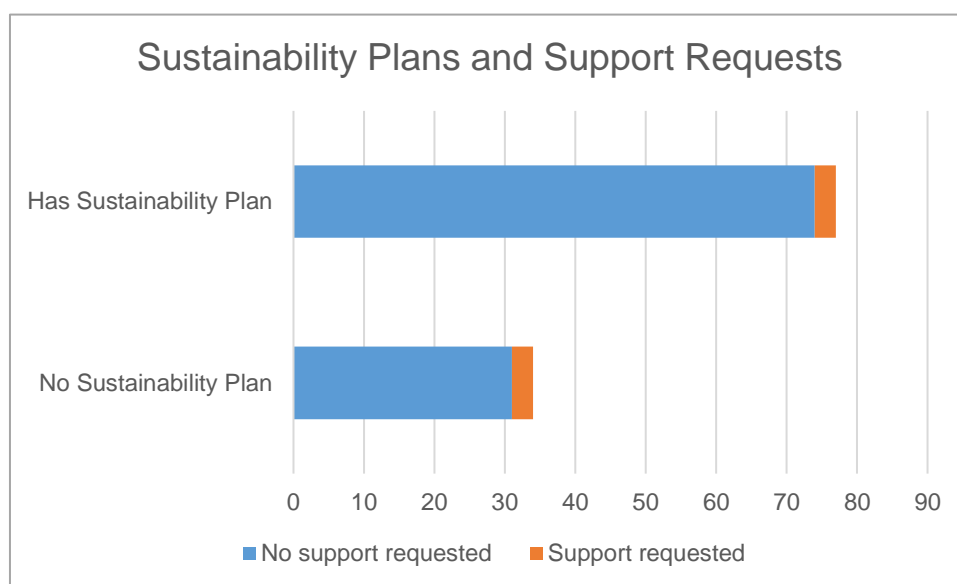
Groups were then asked:

“Does your organisation have a ‘project sustainability plan’ in place?”

- ☐ YES
- ☐ NO

If groups selected ‘no’, they were invited to contact the C&VS team to discuss how NCC may be able to offer advice/guidance on developing a sustainability plan.

A summary of responses to this question is presented in the graph below:



As shown in the above graph, out of the 111 responses:

- Almost 80 groups reporting having a sustainability plan
- Thirty four groups reported not having a sustainability plan in place
- Three groups in both response categories (total 6 groups), specifically requested further information / support with sustainability planning.

During a review of the responses provided, it was identified that although some groups demonstrated knowledge sustainability planning, a small number of groups gave rise to concern as to their level of understanding about sustainability plans. For example, some groups stated that they have a sustainability plan in place, which is to use their reserves.

For some groups/organisations, there are particular challenges with regards to securing additional funding and other approaches are being explored as illustrated in the case study below.

Case Study: The CAB Consortium and sustainability

The CAB Consortium reported that:

“None of the Citizens Advice services has a sustainability plan as such; however, they apply for as many relevant funding streams as possible to try to diversify our income streams so they are not totally reliant on funding from Local Authorities... It is what the CABs can use the grant for that is the most useful. Whilst we do need to diversify as much as possible, it is the core funding that is key to enabling us to deliver other projects and it is the core funding that is impossible to secure from elsewhere. It enables us to open our doors and pay for Managers and Supervisors to support our volunteers...unlike other charities we are not permitted to charge for our services - even if we could charge our client group, largely, does not have the money to pay for services.”

And

“As part of our future plans from October 2016 we are holding quarterly Consortium Meetings where all the Chairs and Chief Officers of all 6 County Offices come together to discuss:-

- Sharing Resources and expertise
- Look at our structures and for any efficiency savings
- Consider joint funding bids to develop our Countywide services.
- Expansion of our Countywide telephone service.”

CAB Consortium lead, August 2016

Sustainability planning support and information provided to groups

In light of the responses to the sustainability question, the C&VS team emailed the a range of support information to all groups/organisation (as it was felt that the information could be useful to group wishing to review their current sustainability plan, as well as to those group who need to develop a sustainability plan for the first time). The information shared with groups included:

- Introduction: What is Sustainable Funding?** Grant Aided groups were signposted to an introductory article about sustainability funding on the NCVO (National Council for Voluntary Organisations) website: <https://www.ncvo.org.uk/practical-support/funding/sustainable-funding>.
- The Sustainable Sun Tool*** - this tool is designed to help VCS groups:
 - Assess where they are in working towards financial sustainability
 - Give VCS ideas for how to move forward
 - Help VCS groups to review their progress.
- The Income Spectrum*** - designed to help VCS groups review their current income streams and assess their level of risk. Again, you'll find more information/guidance within the document.

* From the NCVO Sustainable Funding Project. The Sustainable Sun Tool and The Income Spectrum are also available from the NCVO website. Groups were encouraged to share and complete both tools with their colleagues and committee members / trustees (guidance on how to complete the tool is provided within the relevant documents).

d. Groups were emailed information about free fundraising training, free advice clinics and a free skills sharing and mentoring service for small charities and voluntary groups. Groups were also reminded that they could contact the C&VS team for support.

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Appendix 7

Appendix 7: Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) 2015/16 (for 3-year projects)

Information from the Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) 2015/16 has been used to inform much of this report. Additional reporting information from the AMR is as follows:

Funding

As part of their 2015/16 AMR (Annual Monitoring Report), all groups / organisations were asked to:

- Confirm how the Grant Aid from Nottinghamshire County Council has been spent
- Provide information about that the organisation has received (and to provide further information such as the name of the other funder(s), the amount of funding received from each funder and what the additional funding will contribute to).

Compliance

All groups / organisations confirmed that:

- They are using the Grant Aid for the purpose(s), as specified in the Grant Aid Agreement:
- They are operating in line with the terms and conditions of the Grant Aid Agreement
- Any additional funding received does not duplicate the Grant Aid funding received from Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC)

Payments

Most groups confirmed that their payments were up-to-date (for the small number that didn't, this was due to late completion of their AMR).

Changes

Groups / organisations were also provided the opportunity to report any changes to the Grant Aided project / service and/or programme administration / management arrangements.

Monitoring Visits

Since the start of the 2016/18 Grant Aid Agreements, approximately 48% of 3-year projects have received a monitoring visit for a Nottinghamshire County Council officer. The corporate programme of monitoring visits is co-ordinated centrally by the C&VS team via the Grant Aid Cross-Services Officer Group.

Further information about the Grant Aid Monitoring arrangements can be found here:

<http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/finance-and-budget/grant-aid/information-for-recipients-of-grant-aid-funding>

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Appendix 8

Appendix 8: Sports, Summer Play Schemes & Arts (projects that were traditionally launched on an annual basis)

Grant Aid Theme: Sports Fund 2015/16

Background

Historically, the Sports Fund was managed by the Nottinghamshire County Council Sports Team. In 2015, the Sports Team and Community & Voluntary Sector (C&VS) teams worked towards transferring the management of the Sports Fund to the C&VS team. The C&VS team now manages the Nottinghamshire Grant Aid Sports Fund and liaises with Sport Nottinghamshire regarding the sports specific aspects of this fund, as appropriate.

Also, in 2015:

- The **'Talented Athletes'** Fund replaced both the 'Rising Stars' and 'Shining Stars' awards. The Talented Athlete Fund helps promising athletes with travel, equipment, training and competition costs. Athletes competing in a Sport England recognised sport, representing their country and / or within the top 5 in their age group could apply for up to £400 financial support.
- The 'Community Sports Fund' was re-launched as the **'Club Development Fund'**. Under the new 'Club Development Fund', Nottinghamshire Sports Clubs were invited to apply for grants in one or more of the following themes: Sports Participation, Volunteer Development and Coaching Bursaries. Awards were available for up to a maximum of £1,000 across all 3 themes. Applications were endorsed by the relevant National Governing Body Sports Development officer whose comments were taken into consideration during the assessment stage.

Note:

**The Club Development grants awarded in 2015 were annual agreements. As from 2016, new Club Development awards will be for 2 years (2016-18); the Talented Athletes Fund will continue to be launched annually.*

***Clubs could apply to deliver more than one project, therefore, 23 sports clubs were recommended for Club Development funding to deliver a total of 37 sports participation, coaching and volunteering projects. Full details of the Sports Fund Grant Aid applications and recommendations are available in the October 2015 Grant Aid Sub-Committee Report.*

How the Sports Fund Grant Aid 2015 contributes to improving the lives of Nottinghamshire people

The 2015-2016 Sports Fund Awards will contribute to:

- Engaging over 500 new participants into sport
- Keeping approximately 600 people active that otherwise would cease to participate
- Enabling sports clubs to train over 60 coaches to achieve a recognised coaching qualification
- Recruiting and training over 100 new and existing volunteers
- Helping talented athletes to continue on their successful journey as Olympians and Paralympians.

Case Studies: Talented Athletes

Ollie (Oliver) Hynd MBE - Competitive Swimming (Para Swimming) was awarded a Talented Athlete Award and achieved the following at the Rio Paralympics in September 2016:

- SM8 200m medley: gold (achieved in a world record time)
- S8 400m freestyle: gold
- S8 100m backstroke: silver

Source: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/disability-sport/37398132>

Further info about Ollie's achievements can be found at:

<http://www.oliverhynd.co.uk/page/about/achievements-results>

George Jackson – Water Polo

George (based in Bassetlaw), was a member of the u14 North East regional team who won the national ASA championships in December 2015. George also secured a place in the Beacon Squad for the north east which is the feeder strategy to the England u17 and u19 squads which aim to compete at the annual European championships.

Ashleigh Plumptre of Notts County Ladies and England U17's football teams was successful with her Talented Athletes application; Ashleigh stated that: 'The funding provided will be of huge benefit to me, whether I'm training or attending strength and conditioning or physio clinics...it is 7 days a week so this grant will help with the financial burden, more specifically transport costs, nutrition and equipment - it means I can focus on developing as a player.'

Club Development update

The Sports Fund applications were approved in October 2015, and consequently, their Grant Aid Agreements run from 01 November 2015 to 31 October 2016. Therefore, as the Club Development projects 2015/16 are yet to complete a full year, below is a brief summary from the Interim Monitoring Reports received:

Most Clubs that completed their IMR reported that they are on target to achieve all that is outlined in their Grant Aid Agreements.

One group informed us that they are achieving more than they set out to do; two groups reported that they are not on target. Both groups that are not on target reported that this is due to either changes in volunteers/staffing or other work pressures and that plans are in place to address the issues and they have revised their timescales to complete in the 2016 winter season.

Grant Aid Theme: Summer Play Schemes 2015

In 2015, Grant Aid supported Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Play Schemes that contribute to the Nottinghamshire County Council Strategic Plan.

Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Play Schemes were invited to apply for up to £1000 to deliver Play Scheme sessions during the 2015 school summer holidays (the Summer Play Schemes were additional activity to what the group would normally deliver).

Successful applications were required to satisfy the due diligence check which included a visit from a Nottinghamshire County Council technical specialist.

In total, £16,500 was awarded to 27 Nottinghamshire VCS Summer Play Schemes who delivered 518 hours of activity to 2,700 children and young people aged 5-14, across all Nottinghamshire districts.

The Summer Play Schemes were supported by over 400 volunteers who freely gave over 6,400 hours of their time to the Schemes.

Groups reported that actual total cost of delivering the Summer Play Schemes was: £42,500 – the shortfall in funding was met through additional funding (£23,900) and reserves (£4,000).

Case Study

OASIS Community Church, Centre and Gardens (Worksop, Bassetlaw):

“...This year we were the only Playscheme on the Kilton estate and the only one for some considerable area.... About a third of the children were new to us which was great... we were able to have several sessions for children with learning difficulties. The families from the local community were able to access our play provision for only £1 thanks to the grant which enabled all families including those suffering disadvantage to access quality Holiday care provision....We had great behaviour and discipline and a quality team who worked together well. Our overall theme was SUPERHEROES and we were able to reinforce the theme on different ways throughout the month long sessions. Our grant meant we were able to provide quality craft and take home items and prizes fitting the theme. We looked at the Special Super powers that each child has and tried to give them a confidence and sense of self worth and value.”

Note: *The Summer Play Scheme grants awarded in 2015 were annual agreements. As from 2016, the new Summer Play Schemes awards are for 2 years (2016-18).*

Grant Aid Theme: Arts

Communities from across the county have the opportunity to take part in a range of new arts initiatives part-funded by Nottinghamshire County Council's Arts Fund. The funding will be used for a wide variety of projects – from the use of digital devices in care homes so residents can make 'virtual visits' to heritage sites and arts venues, to an introduction to all aspects of theatre for young people, covering acting, directing, writing, design and production. The arts projects cover a wide cross section of our county, with projects for young and old, women and men, people with disabilities and deprived communities – which will provide a lasting legacy in Nottinghamshire communities.

Ten projects were awarded between £2,500 and £4,000 per year (2016/18).

Details of the recommended arts projects were published for the May 2016 Grant Aid Sub-Committee meeting. Due to the timing of the Arts Fund, output and outcomes information will be available at a later date.

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Appendix 9

Appendix 9: Closures

The table below lists the Grant Aided projects that closed during 2015/16. The reasons for closure were generally as a result of insufficient funding or the inability to replace key workers and/or volunteers. Groups were asked to repay the proportion of unspent grant after the closure.

Organisation	Theme	District	Date of Closure	Annual Amount	Reason for closure / notes
Bassetlaw Play Forum	Play Forum Support	Bassetlaw	31/03/2016	£9,000	Funding issues.
Benjamin Stefan Lynch	Sports 2015	Newark & Sherwood	29/01/2016	£400	Unable to fulfil conditions of funding.
Cedar Housing Nottingham	Children & Families	Nottingham City	10/06/2015	£5,000	Funding issues.
Ekta Luncheon Club and Cancer Support Group	Connected Communities	Rushcliffe	19/03/2016	£1,000	Committee restructure.
Gedling CVS	Community Transport	Gedling	16/10/2015	£19,000	Service now provided by Rushcliffe CVS.
Langold Centre	Information, Advice and Support Services	Bassetlaw	30/11/2015	£9,000	Unable to recruit volunteers.
Mansfield Play Forum	Summer Play Scheme 2015	Mansfield	02/07/2015	£176	Funding issues.
Mansfield Play Forum	Summer Play Scheme 2015	Mansfield	02/07/2015	£220	Funding issues.
Mansfield Play Forum	Summer Play Scheme 2015	Mansfield	02/07/2015	£176	Funding issues.
Nuthall Phoenix Community Group	Connected Communities	Broxtowe	15/10/2015	£500	Unable to recruit volunteers.
Radcliffe-on-Trent Community Youth Project	Youth Projects & Youth Infrastructure Groups	Rushcliffe	23/10/2015	£2,700	Unable to recruit volunteers and leaders.
Saplings Stay and Play	Summer Play Scheme 2015	Ashfield	20/05/2015	£624	Unable to recruit volunteers.
Titchfield and Oakham Family Forum	Summer Play Scheme 2015	Mansfield	07/07/2015	£260	Funding issues.

18 October 2016**Agenda Item: 7**

REPORT OF CORPORATE DIRECTOR, RESOURCES WORK PROGRAMME

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider the Committee's work programme for 2016/17.

Information and Advice

2. The County Council requires each committee to maintain a work programme. The work programme will assist the management of the committee's agenda, the scheduling of the committee's business and forward planning. The work programme will be updated and reviewed at each pre-agenda meeting and committee meeting. Any member of the committee is able to suggest items for possible inclusion.
3. The attached work programme has been drafted in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, and includes items which can be anticipated at the present time. Other items will be added to the programme as they are identified.
4. As part of the transparency introduced by the new committee arrangements, committees are expected to review day to day operational decisions made by officers using their delegated powers. It is anticipated that the committee will wish to commission periodic reports on such decisions. The committee is therefore requested to identify activities on which it would like to receive reports for inclusion in the work programme. It may be that the presentations about activities in the committee's remit will help to inform this.

Other Options Considered

5. None.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

6. To assist the committee in preparing its work programme.

Statutory and Policy Implications

7. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such

implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the committee's work programme be noted, and consideration be given to any changes which the committee wishes to make.

Jayne Francis-Ward
Corporate Director, Resources

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Democratic Services Officer -
Dawn Lawrence
Tel: 0115 977 3201

Constitutional Comments (SLB)

8. The Committee has authority to consider the matters set out in this report by virtue of its terms of reference.

Financial Comments (NS)

9. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All

GRANT AID SUB-COMMITTEE**WORK PROGRAMME**

Report Title	Brief summary of agenda item	For Decision or Information?	Lead Officer	Report Author
May 16				
Grant Aid Update	General Update on the Grant Programme and the work of the Community & Voluntary Sector Team	Information	Cathy Harvey	Cathy Harvey
Homestart – Grant Aid	Presentation about the work of Homestart and the impact that NCC Grant Aid makes.	Information	Cathy Harvey	Cathy Harvey
Summer Play Schemes	To consider recommendations for allocation of the Play scheme Grant Aid	Decision	Cathy Harvey	Joanne Fletcher
Arts Grant Aid	To consider recommendations for allocation of the Arts grant aid.	Decision	Cathy Harvey	Joanne Fletcher
October 16				
Grant Aid Impact Report 2012/15	Provision of information on the 2012/15 Grant Programme	Information	Cathy Harvey	Joanne Fletcher
Grant Aid 2015/16 Annual Review	Provision of information on the 2015/16 Grant Programme	Information	Cathy Harvey	Joanne Fletcher
Grant Aid Sports Fund 2016/18	Consider recommendations for the Grant Aid Sports Fund 2016/18	Decision	Cathy Harvey	Joanne Fletcher
January 17				
Community Empowerment & Resilience Programme	Update on the Community Empowerment & Resilience Programme.	Information	Cathy Harvey	Cathy Harvey
Update on the work of the Community & Voluntary Sector Team	General Update on the Grant Programme and the work of the Community & Voluntary Sector Team	Information	Cathy Harvey	Cathy Harvey
Summer Play-Schemes	Update on the implementation on the Summer Play-Scheme Programme	Information	Cathy Harvey	Joanne Fletcher

