

## **REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF PLACE**

### **UPDATE ON THE WORK OF THE COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY SECTOR TEAM**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To update members of the Grant Aid Sub-Committee on the work of the Community and Voluntary Sector Team and to approve the award of 4 grants to organisations delivering befriending and sexual abuse & violence services.

#### **Information and Advice**

2. The priorities of the team have been identified as working in partnership with the voluntary and community sector:
  - to improve preventative and core services that help strengthen the local community;
  - to streamline the corporate grant aid process; and
  - to promote localism by working with communities to increase community involvement in the way services are shaped and delivered.
3. A key strategic priority for the Council is to ensure that Nottinghamshire has strong communities that are safe and thriving. The reality of the challenges faced means that the Council of the future will be different in the way it is shaped, organised and how services are delivered. The Council is committed to working in partnership with local communities, voluntary groups and volunteers to provide services.

#### **Working with Communities**

4. The work of the Community and Voluntary Sector Team underpins the Council's commitment to building on its reputation of working in partnership with the community and voluntary sector to help build local capacity. The range and scope of activities which members and officers are involved in seek to help drive programmes with communities to deliver local solutions and move towards providing services in a different way.
5. The Council has several important roles to play in supporting communities to:

- Build a strong sense of community, capacity and pride through collaborative partnerships;
  - Engage in the planning and delivery of services; and
  - Generate and sustain their own capacity to respond to the challenges which Nottinghamshire faces.
6. Building confident and stronger communities is especially important within the current climate and the Team has been working with different communities across Nottinghamshire to help support local activities. These activities bring individuals together to celebrate the uniqueness of localities by helping to encourage and empower communities to take ownership and pride in the places they live and the people they live with. Examples of this include:

### **Community Commemoration Fund Round 6.**

7. Over 140 volunteer hours have gone into the planning of 450 days of activity across the county. It is estimated that 60,000 local residents and visitors to the county will attend or take part in events that commemorate the Great War. Applications from the latest round were assessed on 20 January 2017. Contributions totalling £3,200 have been awarded from the Community Commemoration Fund, releasing an additional £2,000 of match funding from various sources assuring successful completion of all the suggested events. Four applications have been approved.

The four successful applications were:

- Newark and Sherwood Play Support Group, supported by Cllr Tony Roberts. Funding will be used for local children to work with an artist to produce a banner. The banner will be displayed in Newark Town Hall. The aim of the project is to show what children of today think the war meant, how it affected local history and how it affects them now by including their drawings and poetry on the banner.
- Perlethorpe Environmental Education Centre, supported by Cllr Mike Pringle. The funding will be used to provide WW1 clothing and resources to support the Great War Activity Programme at the centre. The opportunity to wear and handle relevant resources will provide an immersive experience and reinforce the learning.
- Norwell CofE Primary School, supported by Cllr Bruce Laughton. Contribution towards the transport costs for the planned visit to the Perlethorpe Environmental Education Centre. Pupils will take part in the Nottinghamshire Schools Great War activity programme and explore the trench system that still exists today.
- Queens Royal Lancers and Nottinghamshire Yeomanry Museum, Thoresby Court, supported by Cllr Ian Campbell. Funding will enhance the visitor experience to the QRL and NYM by providing an educational exhibition for all ages of the County's Cavalry Regiments' deployment and involvement during the Great War. This free exhibition, which attracts upwards of 35,000 visitors each year, is hosted at Thoresby Court Yard.

## **New Horizon Church – Eastwood**

8. The church is based at Eastwood Academy, has a growing congregation of 300+ and 80+ volunteers in the community delivering a range of projects including youth clubs and a seniors club. They are looking to secure a site for either a new build or refurbishment to provide a permanent base. The C&VS Team has provided advice, offered further support with funding applications and has introduced them to Voluntary Action Broxtowe to consider how the work they do can contribute to the wider needs of the Borough.

## **Voluntary Action Broxtowe (V.A.B.) Reach out and Connect Conference**

9. The C&VS team are working in partnership with Voluntary Action Broxtowe to facilitate an event on 9 March 2017 called Reach Out and Connect.

The conference is designed to bring the community and voluntary sector together. The primary objectives are to promote community cohesion, mapping and gathering local intelligence on the work being carried out by the sector in Broxtowe. This will be achieved by creating new relationships between stakeholders and identifying shared priorities.

## **Learning Disability Mansfield / Ashfield**

10. Three local organisations – Nottingham Mencap, TenFifty and Unanima Theatre Company – all with experience of working with adults with learning disabilities, have come together to make a difference in the key areas of Social Connectedness and Community Safety for people with learning disabilities. The focus of this work will be in Mansfield but will also involve engagement with services delivered in Ashfield.

The project has the following overarching aims:

- Enhanced social networks for people with learning disabilities;
- Stronger prevention and support from mainstream services; and
- Helping to create civic mindedness and safer welcoming public spaces

Work is planned around all of these objectives with a welcome response from the Mansfield Town Partnership who are keen to make Mansfield a safer and more welcoming place for people with learning disabilities.

A further outcome is to develop a series of projects and activities to be delivered during Learning Disability Week 2017. A centrepiece of the activities will be a town centre walk / parade called “One Walk – Equal, Safe & Living Life”.

## **Mansfield/Newark & Sherwood Befriending Scheme**

11. In December of 2016 the CVS Team were notified of the closure of one of the organisations that provided support and befriending services to vulnerable older people. The organisation concerned worked hard with partners including the County Council to find

alternative support for all existing service users. The areas where services were delivered was Newark & Sherwood and Mansfield.

12. Befriending is an intervention that is widely used to address support needs of vulnerable people, often during times of transition, or periods of mental or physical ill-health. For those people in receipt of befriending the social and emotional support they receive from a volunteer befriender can often be their only opportunity to make contact or communicate with another person or be able to access local community resources or amenities. Without befriending support many would experience long periods of isolation, feelings of loneliness and social exclusion, which in turn could impact negatively on their future health and well-being. Befriending schemes offer a lifeline for older vulnerable people, using trained volunteers they can play a significant part in improving quality of life and can prevent or delay the need for more expensive health and care interventions.
13. The closure of the scheme in December 2016 has left a gap in local provision and the release of the grant that had already approved provides an opportunity to build on an existing successful scheme that covers Ashfield & Mansfield.
14. Jigsaw Support scheme have an excellent good track record and reputation for delivering a be-friending scheme, the existing scheme already supports 85 older people every week with home visiting service providing companionship and friendship to housebound, socially isolated and lonely over 60's in the Nottinghamshire areas of Mansfield and Ashfield. Volunteers also run group befriending activities which are lunches that take place in local pubs offering peer support, self-help and maintain and enhance independence.
15. The proposal is to use the grant released from the closure to expand the services offered by Jigsaw. There is potential to more than double the number of people supported. The funding released is £4,000 in 2016/17 and £13,500 in 2017/18.

### **Grants to VCS Groups Supporting Victims of Sexual Abuse**

16. The Crime Survey of England and Wales reports that Sexual Abuse is experienced by 19.1% of women and 2.7% of men during the course of their lives, the recent high profile cases of historic child abuse has led to an increased demand for services from third sector organisations that provide a range of support services for victims.
17. For a number of years the County Council either through the grant aid programme or more recently through Public Health budgets has provided funding to three organisations in the county to support victims of sexual abuse and sexual violence. The groups supported are:

ISAS (Incest & Sexual Abuse Survivors)	£13,400
Nottingham Rape Crisis Centre	£23,200
S.H.E (Supporting Healing Educating)	£13,000

18. The Police and Crime Commissioners Office are leading a review which includes evaluating current services for victims across the county. The review will examine the

pathways to access services and identify any possible gaps in provision. Following the review it is intended to develop a joint approach for commissioning services from April 2018. Funding for 2017/18 will be sought from County Council reserves subject to this Committee's support, this request will be forwarded to Finance & Property Committee for approval.

### **Other Options Considered**

19. The report sets out how the Council priorities are being addressed.

### **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

20. To inform Members of the Grant Aid Sub-Committee of work undertaken by the Community & Voluntary Sector Team and to ensure that provision is maintained to support befriending and the vital services to the victims of sexual abuse and sexual violence.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

21. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working 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**

22. The funding befriending services will be met from the grant that will not be used as a result of the closure of the previous provider. The proposed expenditure for sexual abuse/sexual violence grants will be funded from County Council reserves.

### **RECOMMENDATION/S**

1. To note the work undertaken by the Community and Voluntary Sector Team.
2. To approve £17,500 funding to Jigsaw Support Service to expand the befriending programme they currently deliver from March 2017 to June 2018.
3. To approve the following single year (2017/2018) grants to organisations supporting the victims of sexual abuse & sexual violence

ISAS (Incest & Sexual Abuse Survivors)	£13,400
Nottingham Rape Crisis Centre	£23,200
S.H.E (Supporting Healing Educating)	£13,000

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**Constitutional Comments (LM 17/2/2017)**

The recommendations in the report fall within the Terms of Reference of the Grant Aid Sub Committee.

**Financial Comments (SES 24/02/17)**

The financial implications are set out in the report.

**Background Papers and Published Documents**

None

**Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All