

**06 March 2017****Agenda Item: 4****REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR PLACE****GRANT AID SUMMER PLAY SCHEMES 2016/17****Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to provide an update to Members about the Grant Aid Summer Play Scheme 2016/17.

**Information and Advice**

2. At the Grant Aid Sub-Committee meeting in March 2015, the Grant Aid Sub-Committee agreed a grant aid fund totalling £1,750,000 per year from 2015-18 to contribute to supporting the delivery of services and activities by the Nottinghamshire Voluntary & Community Sector (VCS). Within this budget, £16,000 per year is allocated to the provision of summer play schemes.
3. In previous years, VCS summer play schemes could apply for up to £1,000 per year to deliver play schemes during the school summer holidays. In October 2015, the Grant Aid Sub-Committee agreed to a refreshed Grant Aid programme, to bring the Summer Play Scheme programme in line with the overall three-year funding round.
4. Consequently, a new Summer Play Scheme round was launched in mid-January 2016 in the local press, on social media and on the NCC webpage. Previous applicants and other relevant groups, e.g. the Nottinghamshire Voluntary Sector Partnership and the Play Forums, were informed about the launch.
5. Applicants were invited to apply for up to £2,000 to deliver play schemes for Nottinghamshire children aged 5-14 years during the 2016 and 2017 school summer holidays.
6. Twenty applications were received, requesting a total of £37,762 of Grant Aid funding. All applications were assessed against the published eligibility and assessment criteria. Particular considerations during the assessment included:
  - Whether or not the proposed activity is additional to what the groups would normally deliver.
  - How their proposed Summer Play Scheme would contribute to Nottinghamshire County Council Strategic Priorities.
  - How the proposed Summer Play Scheme would provide safe, high quality and varied play opportunities.

- The geographical area served and the extent of other similar provision in the area.
  - The number of different children and young people (CYP) aged 5-14 years that were expected to benefit from the Summer Play Scheme.
  - How the needs of minority, diverse and excluded groups would be addressed during the Summer Play Scheme.
  - How the target community would be involved.
  - Governance and management arrangements.
  - The cost of delivering the proposed Summer Play Scheme, funding from other sources and sustainability plans for the Scheme (or other similar, related activities for the benefit of Nottinghamshire children and young people aged 5-14).
  - Value for money using a 'cost per child' formula (which was also used to calculate the recommended amount of funding).
  - How the Grant Aid would be used (i.e. was the proposed expenditure within the Grant Aid guidelines).
7. The Community & Voluntary Sector (C&VS) Team moderated the assessments, resolved any queries with the assessors and agreed the recommendations with the Council's Youth Service.
  8. The recommendations were presented at the May 2016 Grant Aid Sub-Committee and 17 Summer Play Schemes were approved by Members for Grant Aid funding totalling £25,330 (over two years, 2016 & 2017), as listed in **Appendix 1**. The approvals were subject to an annual 'pre-start' visit by Council officers. All Summer Play Schemes met the 'pre-start' requirements for 2016. Pre-start visits will be repeated before the Summer Play Schemes commence in 2017.
  9. **Appendix 1** also includes the three applications that did not meet the criteria for funding and consequently, were not approved by Members. The applicants not approved for funding were sent a letter by the C&VS team, outlining the reason(s) why their application was not approved and were offered support from both the C&VS and Youth Service teams.
  10. Monitoring information for the 2016 Summer Play Schemes can be found in **Appendix 2, Table 1**, (which also includes some comparative data for 2015). In summary:
    - a. All Summer Play Schemes completed their End of Project report and confirmed that their Scheme either 'achieved' or 'exceeded' what it set out to deliver, that their Scheme was delivered in accordance with the terms of the Grant Aid agreement and that the organisation used the Grant Aid for the purpose(s), as specified in the Grant Aid agreement.
    - b. Grant Aid represented approximately 30% of the Summer Play Scheme total delivery cost in 2016 (a reduction of 8% compared to 2015). Groups reported that the full cost of delivering the Summer Play Schemes was met by securing other funding and by using some reserves. It is noted that the total delivery cost does not include the financial value of the contribution made by volunteers (estimated to be

at least £43,858 in 2016) – over 3 times the amount of Grant Aid awarded for that year.

- c. In 2016, the number of hours delivered by Summer Play Schemes increased by almost 13% compared to 2015, whereas the number of different CYP attending in 2016 decreased by almost 13% compared to the previous year.
- d. The number of volunteers supporting the Summer Play Schemes in 2016 decreased by 7% (compared to the previous year); however, the number of volunteer hours increased by just over 2%.

11. Monitoring visits were carried out by Youth Services officers to see the Summer Play Schemes in action. Visits were well received by all projects in receipt of funding. There was a range of high quality provision to promote the health, wellbeing and learning. The visits also provided an opportunity to gain constructive feedback from staff, families and children. Any recommendations were discussed during these visits and recorded.
12. **Appendix 2, Table 2** to this Report shows the calculations based on the cost per child, cost per hour and cost per child/per hour. In all 3 calculations, costs have decreased which suggests more efficient delivery of Summer Play Schemes by the VC – and consequently, better value for money for the Council.
13. Case studies provided by the Summer Play Schemes 2016 are available in **Appendix 3** to this Report. The case studies exemplify how the Summer Play Schemes contribute to the Councils Strategic Plan, Vision and Values by:
  - Supporting safe and thriving communities by providing a range of activities in a safe environment, encouraging teamwork between the children, facilitating community cohesiveness between family members and families.
  - Promoting health and well-being priorities, e.g. through active play, healthy food and helping to improve the confidence and self-esteem for some children.
  - Supporting the growth and development of children and young people by providing opportunities for them to learning new skills, crafts and about the local area.
  - Protecting the environment (e.g. through using recycled materials and learning about the local history).
  - Providing good value for money for families by making the Summer Play Schemes affordable for local people.
14. Positive relationships have been developed with the Summer Play Schemes and appropriate support and assistance continues to be offered to them. This, includes a general health check and help with exploring ways to reduce costs and generate income.

## **Financial Implications**

15. This report is for information only, therefore, there are no financial implications.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

16. 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)**

17. That Members note how Summer Play Schemes contribute to the Councils Strategic Plan, Vision and Values as highlighted in this report.

## **Reasons for Recommendations**

18. This report is for information.

**Adrian Smith**

**CORPORATE DIRECTOR PLACE**

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## **Constitutional Comments (SLB 07/02/2016)**

This report is for information only.

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

## **Financial Comments (SES 07/02/17)**

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