

**REPORT OF TEMPORARY GROUP MANAGER SAFER AND ENGAGED
COMMUNITIES****OVERVIEW OF THE WORK OF THE GRANT AID SUB COMMITTEE****Purpose of the Report**

1. To provide an overview of the responsibilities and work of the Sub Committee

Information and Advice

2. The Corporate Grant Aid Strategy, agreed by full council in November 2011, underpins the work and responsibilities of this Committee. The Strategy was developed as part of the Council's response to a very difficult financial climate and focuses on ensuring that there is a clear and transparent framework for engagement with the Voluntary and Community sector [VCS] in Nottinghamshire and the allocation of the grant aid budget
3. The Strategy was developed by a cross party member's reference group and in consultation with the voluntary and community sector through focus groups, an engagement workshop and on line.
4. The Grant Aid budget, which has been approved by full council for 2012 - 2015 provides discretionary financial support to local VCS organisations who seek financial assistance to help them to provide services and support the residents of Nottinghamshire. Grant Aid is not designed to purchase services but provides a contribution towards the provision of non statutory services which support the Council's strategic priorities

Key Achievements

5. Key achievements have included:
 - The introduction of 3 year grant aid agreements – the majority of groups who now receive grant aid have a commitment from the council to provide funding from 2012 to 2015 subject to satisfactory monitoring and performance
 - A new cycle of funding which commences on July 1st and runs to June 30th - this allows for improved forward planning and greater stability in the VCS
 - A simplified application process – one streamlined process has been developed for the administration of grant aid which takes a proportionate approach to monitoring
 - A refreshed compact has been jointly agreed between the VCS and the County Council

- 131 Voluntary Groups are receiving grant aid covering a range of priorities including supporting vulnerable adults, tackling domestic violence, supporting children, young people and families, providing community transport, supporting sports and arts
- A number of collaborative consortium bids for grant aid have been supported including Citizens Advice Bureaus, Mental Health and VCS Infrastructure organisations such as Council's for Voluntary Service's, Rural Community Action Network, Community Accounting Plus and NAVO
- Joint working with other funders such as the Big Lottery to look at how the greater sustainability of the VCS in Nottinghamshire is supported
- Robust engagement with the VCS through quarterly Voluntary Sector Liaison Meetings
- Regular presentations to the Sub Committee from Voluntary and Community sector groups

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

6. This report is for information only and there are no recommendations to be made

Statutory and Policy Implications

7. 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.

RECOMMENDATION/S

It is recommended that the Committee notes the content of the report

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Constitutional Comments

Because the report is for noting only, no constitutional comments are required

Financial Comments (NDR 25.06.13)

There are no new financial commitments contained in 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