

Appendix 1: Overview of the Grant Aid Programme – 2013/14

The adoption of the Grant Aid Strategy in November 2011 sought to bring about a number of significant changes in the way that Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) worked with the Voluntary and Community Sector. The grant aid application process (which was significantly over subscribed), led to the Authority awarding three year grants to the value of £2.2 million in each of the first two years - and just under £2m for the third year..

Over 130 Voluntary & Community Sector (VCS) organisations were successful and we also received a number of successful joint bids, for example, from the Citizens Advice Bureaux, the MIND Network and Infrastructure Organisations. In addition to this over 100 organisations and individuals were awarded grants under the sports, arts, & summer play schemes during 2013/14

The VCS continue to make a significant contribution to the wellbeing of Nottinghamshire residents – with over 350,000 people directly benefiting from a vast range of grant aided activities.

More than 28,000 people make an invaluable contribution by freely giving their time and skills to ensure that others benefit from the activities supported by NCC.

The sector is continuing to report challenges in meeting service user needs and sustainability at a time when financial sources are reducing. In December 2014, Third Sector magazine reported that: *“...the voluntary sector continues to live under clouds of uncertainty and negativity, and faces a number of challenges this year....”* – this further illustrates the importance of grant aid in making a crucial contribution to improving the lives of the Nottinghamshire people. Sadly, despite the support via grant aid, since the start of this grant aid round, 7 groups have closed – and a key infrastructure group has announced that they will be closing on 31 March 2015.

Some of the changes introduced with this round of grant aid included:

- § The centralisation of the grant aid process – all previous grant funds bought under the stewardship of a corporate team
- § Members initially through a Reference Group and more recently through the Grant Aid Committee being at the centre of decision making
- § Three-year grant aid agreements for most groups – to enable longer term planning
- § Proportionate monitoring and payment arrangements – reducing transactions by over 60%
- § Improved effectiveness and efficiency of monitoring arrangements and information management (e.g. by revising the monitoring questions, using online tools and introducing monitoring visits to over 50% of groups).

The following pages provide an overview of the volume of activity, outcomes and service user beneficiaries that the grant aid helps to support. The data provided, is just a snapshot – as there are many benefits to individual lives which cannot be quantified or measured.

We would like to thank Cathy Harvey and the Community & Voluntary Sector Team for their diligence in developing and managing the grant aid process under challenging circumstances – as well as the VCS groups and volunteers – for making a real difference to the lives of so many people across the County.

Cllr Joyce Bosnjak
Deputy Leader and Chair of Grant Aid Sub Committee

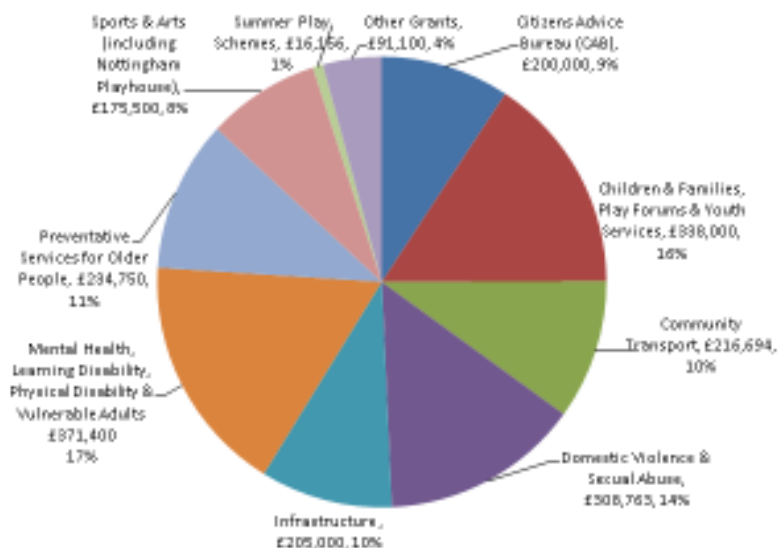
Cllr Martin Suthers OBE
Vice Chair of Grant Aid Sub Committee

January 2015

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Grant Aid – Expenditure Schedule 2013/14 – By Theme

	2013-14
Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB)	£ 200,000
Children & Families, Play Forums & Youth Services	£ 338,000
Community Transport	£ 216,694
Domestic Violence & Sexual Abuse	£ 308,763
Infrastructure	£ 205,000
Mental Health, Learning Disability, Physical Disability & Vulnerable Adults	£ 371,400
Preventative Services for Older People	£ 234,750
*Sports & Arts (including Nottingham Playhouse**)	£ 175,500
*Summer Play Schemes	£ 16,156
*** Other Grants	£ 91,100
	£2,157,363



Notes

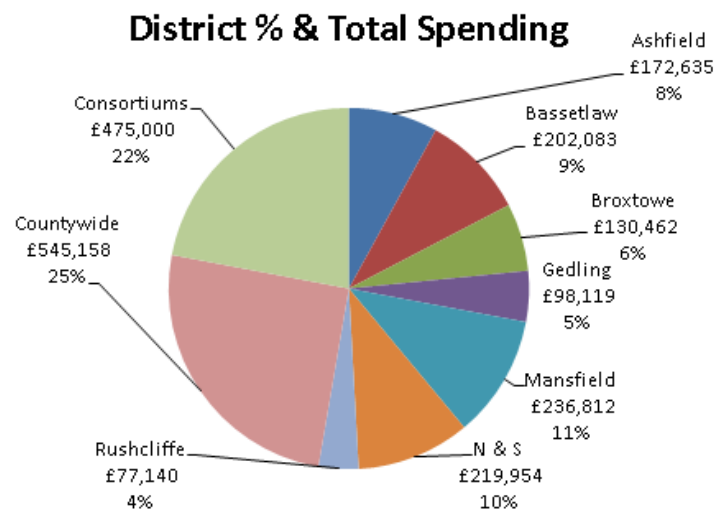
*These themes historically operate on an annual basis (as opposed to a 3-year programme).

**The Nottingham Playhouse agreement ceased on 30 June 2014.

*** Other grants cover in year additional grants.

Grant Aid – Expenditure 2013/14 – By Geographical Area

District	Number of grants awarded	£
Ashfield	28	172,635
Bassetlaw	31	202,083
Broxtowe	22	130,462
Gedling	30	98,119
Mansfield	31	236,812
Newark and Sherwood	37	219,954
Rushcliffe	40	77,140
Countywide	40	545,158
Consortiums	3	475,000
	262	2,157,363



Note:

* Countywide - this figure is so large because it includes a wide range of awards, which include Infrastructure, CAB Services, Domestic Violence, Sports, Arts and a proportion of several other award categories

** Number of grants includes Sports, Arts, Play Schemes and a small number of "in-year" awards outside the 3 year agreement arrangements.

Grant Aid – Number of Service Users, Volunteers and Volunteer Hours/Week 2013/14

Category	Number of service users*	Number of volunteers*	Number of volunteer hours/week*
Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB)	31,712	21,565	1,730
Children & Families, Play Forums & Youth Services	24,935	3,871	8,164
Community Transport	57,703	292	
Domestic Violence & Sexual Abuse	1,194	-	-
Infrastructure	126,779	1,876	-
Physical Disability, Learning Disability, Mental Health & Vulnerable Adults	9,340	561	1,498
Preventative Services for Older People	36,391	686	2,272
Sports & Arts	64,884	320	-
Summer Play Schemes	2,598	283	3,118
<i>Other Grants**</i>	-	-	-
Total	355,536	29,454	16,782

*Data provided by groups in their Interim Monitoring Report 2013/14 or in their 2013/14 Annual Report. Some categories may not have provided data due to historic differences in reporting requirements.

** Other grants cover one-off grants.

Citizens Advice Bureaux (CAB)

A consortium which includes all the Nottinghamshire CABs: Ashfield, Bassetlaw, Broxtowe, Mansfield, Nottingham and District and Ollerton and District

£200,000

31,712 clients helped with almost 86,000 problems

21,500 volunteers; (with over **200** new volunteers recruited & trained - and **over 50%** have gone on to paid work)

90,000 Volunteer hours per year (value of volunteer time: £1.6m)

6000 clients helped with **£64 million** of debt

£10.7 million of benefit gains for clients

Debt & Benefit account for **73%** of all enquiries

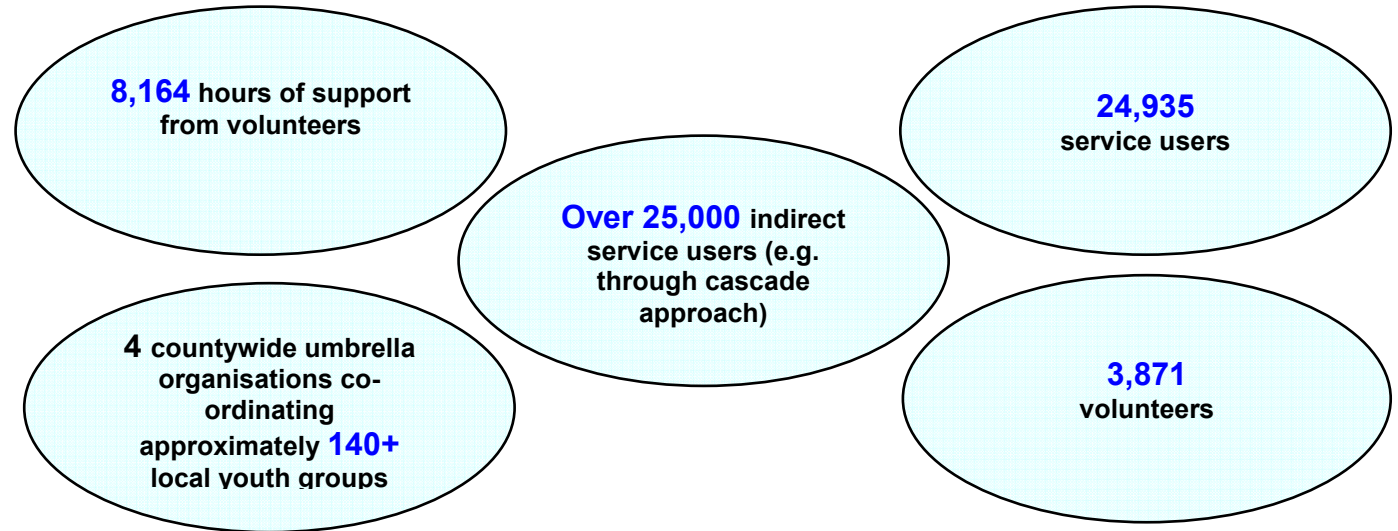
The grant aid agreement with the CAB is based on providing the following services:

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

Source: Citizens Advice Bureau, Annual Report 2013/14 and briefing 2013/14

CAB client survey as at June 2014

Description	% satisfied
Overall Service	100%
Would use service again	100%
Understood by advisor	99%
Expectations met	99%
Consultation time	99%
Location	99%
Advice understandable	98%
Easy to find	98%
Advice useful	98%
Would recommend to others	98%
Waiting times	95%
Know next move	95%
Opening times	94%



Case study: "...staff have been brilliant - they gave me the support I needed...I have just started a youth work apprenticeship which is my dream job..."

Jane (name change) was 16 when her mum met a new partner and moved to London - telling Emma that she had one month to find somewhere else to live. Emma was offered a place in a local hostel where she met workers from the project.

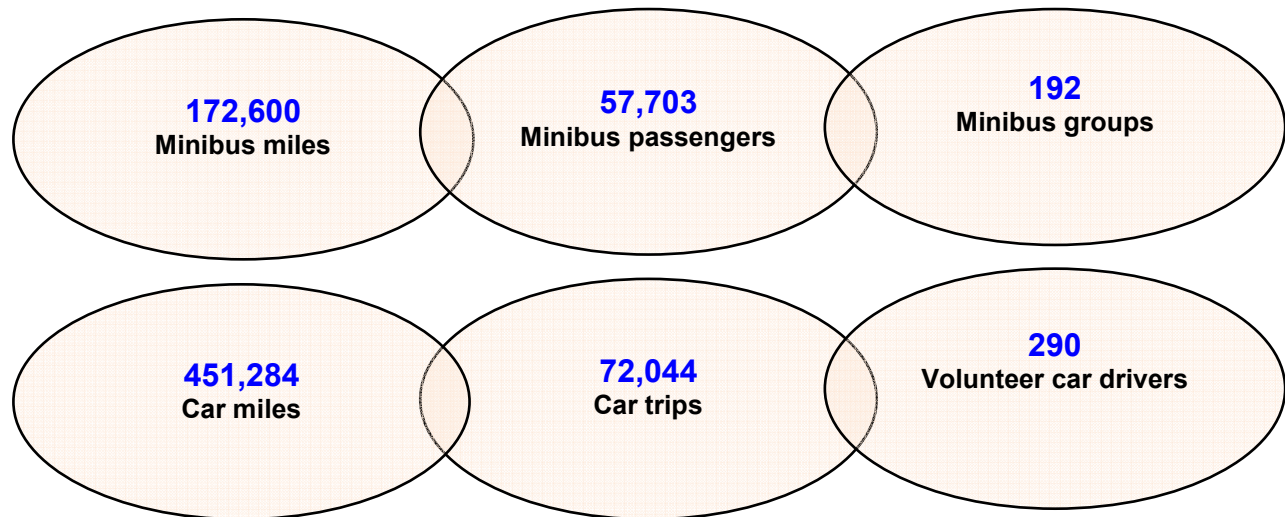
"Since becoming a peer educator I have gained a lot of confidence... I can now see what happened as a learning curve and not a disaster. From day one the BYH staff have been brilliant - they gave me the support I needed. If I hadn't become a peer educator I can definitely say that I would not be the person that I am today. I have just started a youth work apprenticeship which is my dream job, and I can still go into schools as a peer educator. I haven't been this happy in a very long while."

Case study: "He is now looking to complete the course and gain a job in IT."

Tim (name changed) was shy and introverted and didn't mix well when he first came to us. He has since learned wonderful interpersonal and social skills and is now able to relate well to others. This has helped him take up a college course and thrive in that environment. He is now looking to complete the course and gain a job in IT.

Community Transport

£216,694



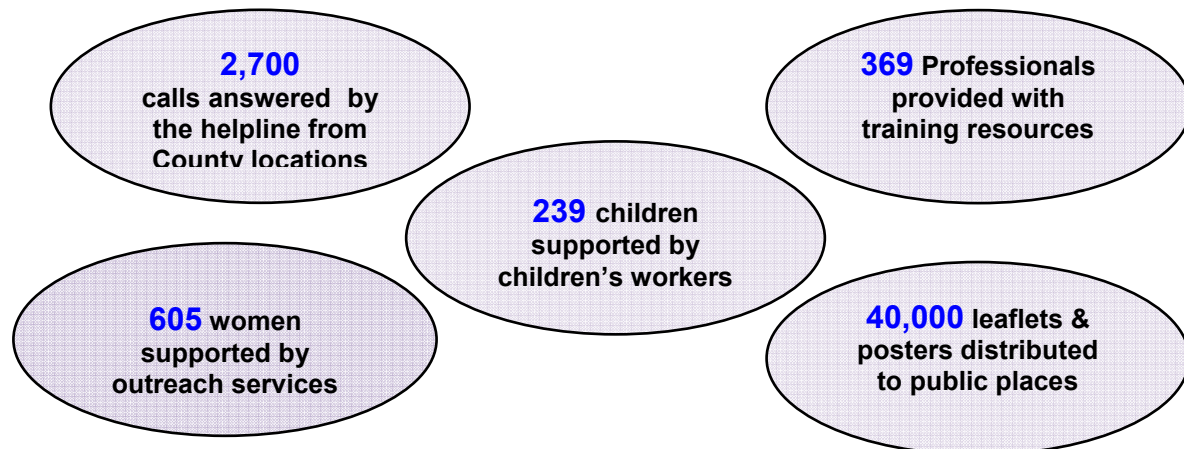
Note: Re: car miles – in the 2012/13 overview, 264,331 miles were reported; however, the actual figure was 425,401 miles in 12/13 and 451,284 miles in 13/14. This represents a 6% increase in car scheme mileage, partly attributable to the introduction in 13/14 of Car Scheme Plus wheelchair accessible services in the east of the county and the introduction of Ring & Ride services for individual bookings in Mansfield/Ashfield.

Minibus (group travel) activity shows a modest decrease which could be due to seasonal issues i.e. weather and also as a result of the introduction of the Ring & Ride style services for individual bookings.

Domestic Violence & Sexual Abuse

(previously known as 'Domestic Violence')

£308,763



Note: Seven specialist domestic violence organisations were supported and grant aid provided a contribution towards the costs of the 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 will also transfer to Public Health on 01 July 2015.

Infrastructure

(NAVO Infrastructure Consortium
& Self-Help Notts)

£205,000

£1,248,711 of
additional funding
secured on behalf of
groups

3,265,204 website hits
& **120** e-bulletins sent to
1,282 subscribers

8,860 people recruited
to new volunteering
opportunities

1,838 Voluntary
organisations offered
practical support

274 volunteers directly
supporting the
consortium delivering
415 volunteer
hours/week

79 public consultations
supported and
responded to

NAVO is a county wide registered charity that promotes, connects and represents the community sector throughout Nottinghamshire. NAVO is the lead body for the Infrastructure consortium which includes the following partners: 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), Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire (RCAN) and Community Accounting Plus. The Infrastructure consortium supports services to the Nottinghamshire VCS achievements during the 2012/13 Grant Aid year include:

Delivery and/contribution to at least 33 Forums, Networks, Task Groups, Boards and Funding Fairs across the County – including representation (by NAVO) on the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board, the Nottinghamshire Children's Trust Board and the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Adults Board.

Volunteer Markets, Volunteer Awards Ceremony & Altogether Healthier Conference in Mansfield

Volunteers Week event, Bassetlaw Big Breakfast, Bassetlaw Big Day Out, Young People's Market Place & Princes Trust event, Launch of 'Men in Sheds' in Bassetlaw

Volunteers Week, Charity Market, and Make A difference Day in Ashfield

The launch of the Rushcliffe Voluntary Sector Forum has 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

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 from 90 organisations and networks and organised its 6th Annual Event, 'Five Ways to Rural Health & Well Being'.

RCAN reported that:

- IT Community Champions secured funding from the Lottery for £120,000 for the next three years to deliver training to 1250 learners across the county.
- Build, Grow, Cook and Eat : created new community garden built by beneficiaries at Hope Beeston. Produce grown will be used to help teach cooking skills to families. Another piece of land has been donated to this project which will be used to extend the scale of activities
- The oil members saved a total of £15,952.56 over the year between them.

Note that:

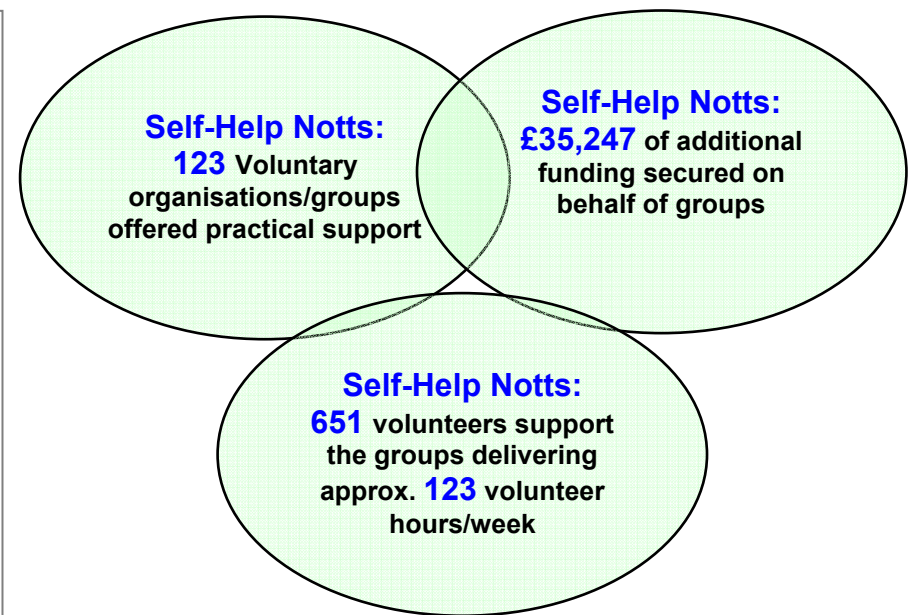
- *The boards of Gedling, Newark & Sherwood and Rushcliffe CVS unanimously agreed to merge into one organization on 1st April 2015, subject to due diligence and the approval of members.*
- *In October 2014, NAVO's Executive Board announced that NAVO would formally close on 31st March 2015. The announcement letter and further information about NAVO can be found at: <http://www.navo.org.uk/>*

Self Help Nottingham and Nottinghamshire is a unique organisation which helps to create, support and promote self-help groups – and bridges the gap between self-help groups and health and social care professionals.

Self Help Nottingham and Nottinghamshire has a number of partnerships with local public and private sector organisations as well as colleagues in the voluntary and community sector. Self Help Nottingham and Nottinghamshire is also involved with the self-help European experts forum, which meets every two years. Source: <http://www.selfhelp.org.uk/nottinghamshire>

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

- Delivery of 22 events and 15 training sessions (which created valuable networking opportunities)
- Development of all training materials, briefing sheets and a new work book style starter pack (for new self-help groups)
- Development of service to deliver support to groups to start up online (alongside training and one to one support using social media).



**Mental Health
Learning Disability
Physical Disability
Vulnerable adults**

£371,400

9,340 service users benefit from
a wide range of services including:

home assessments for equipment and adaptations,
benefits advice for disabled clients, one-to-one
support for people with mental health issues, skills-
based training, arts & crafts, personal development
and social activities.

561
volunteers

77,896 volunteer
hours per year;
(**1,498** volunteer
hours per week)

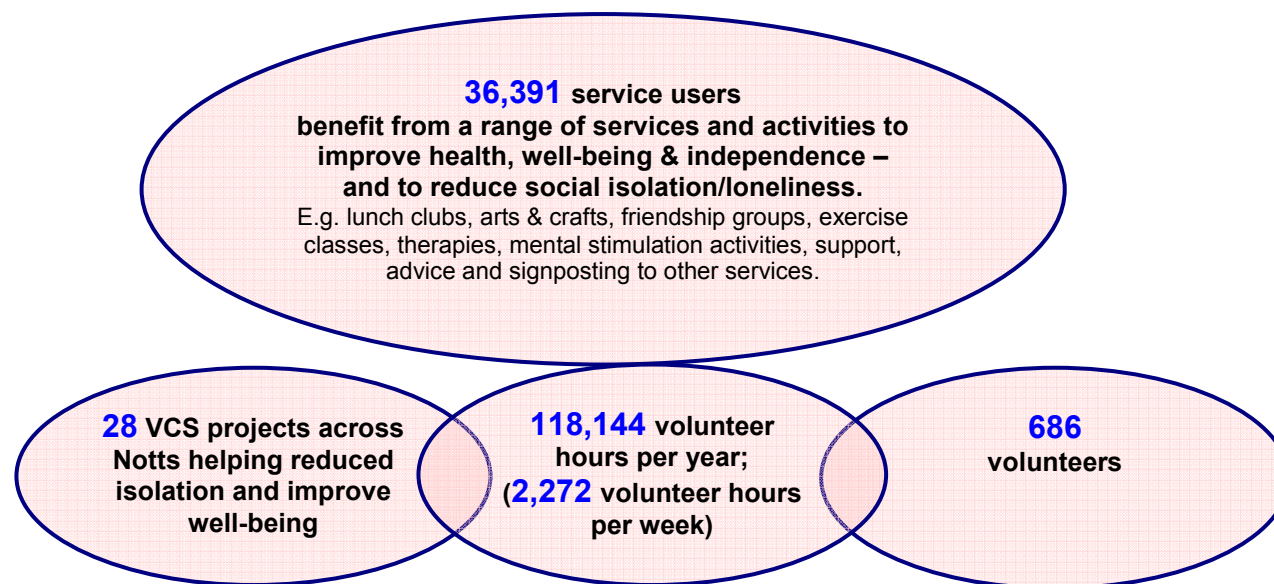
21 VCS projects
across Notts helping
reduced isolation and
improve well-being

Case study: “His self-esteem has increased enormously and his mental health has improved significantly...”

Richard (name changed), is 22 and has Asperger's. Having left college he had moved into his own flat accessing housing benefit. When he came to us, it transpired that Richard had no meaningful or productive activity apart from three hours each week in a local pub where he supported a Karaoke disco. Richard had no food and no money (Richard was not receiving his benefits which were being diverted to a parent in another county who was experiencing their own personal issues). We also found out that Richard's flat had no carpets, no cooker, was poorly decorated and dirty.

We worked with Richard to have his benefits correctly directed to his own bank account. Whilst waiting for his benefits to come through, we ensured that he had adequate food and acquired a small amount of emergency funding. We introduced him to a wide range of activities that we organise which provided him with a variety of things to do and a new social circle. He now volunteers each week to support less able service users. His self-esteem has increased enormously and his mental health has improved significantly. We have also supported him to secure some work for a few hours each week within the town.

Preventative Services for Older People £234,750



Case study: “She is like the daughter I never had....she’s my lifeline, a treasure to me.”

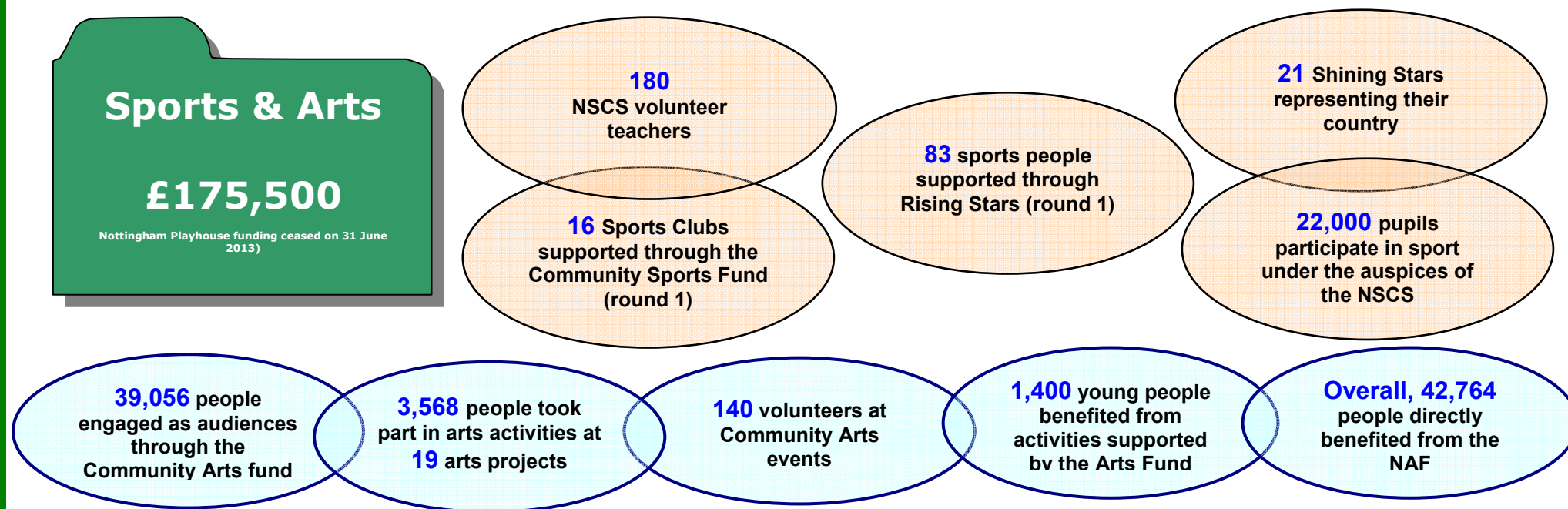
Mrs H is 86 years old and lives alone. Mrs H has poor vision and after a fall, she had low confidence and became a little forgetful. Mary (name change) is a volunteer who had taken early retirement but wanted to ‘keep busy’. Mary and Mrs H were matched up and quickly connected. They found some common interests and mutual topics of conversation. After a couple of months Mary asked if she could increase the number of visits she was making to Mrs H as they were getting on so well and consequently, Mary now makes two visits each week.

Mrs H’s eye sight has deteriorated even more, leaving her mostly housebound. Therefore, Mary now includes a short walk each week as part of her support, takes Mrs H shopping and occasionally they go for lunch. Mrs H says of her volunteer visitor: *“She like the daughter I never had....she’s my lifeline, a treasure to me”*.

Case study: “The effect of his healthier regime was sufficient that his diabetes has improved to the point where he no longer has to inject.”

A 73 year old man has been attending sessions since the start of the project. His GP had concerns about his lifestyle and had seen publicity about our healthy living activities and referred him to our group. The impact wasn’t instantaneous but having seen the benefits that others were experiencing, and with the group’s encouragement, he embarked on a more nutritious eating regime and increased the level of exercise that he undertook. The effect of his healthier regime was sufficient that his diabetes has improved to the point where he no longer has to inject.

Grant Aid themes that run on a different funding cycle to the corporate Grant Aid programme:



Note:

Grants made under the **Community Sports Fund** are for projects with specific outcomes, such as engaging more people in sport, with defined beginning and end dates. In this way, Grant Aid invests in groups to act as a catalyst for new and appealing activities, but it does not make groups reliant on this funding. The result is a sustainable sports sector more able to adapt and respond to opportunities.

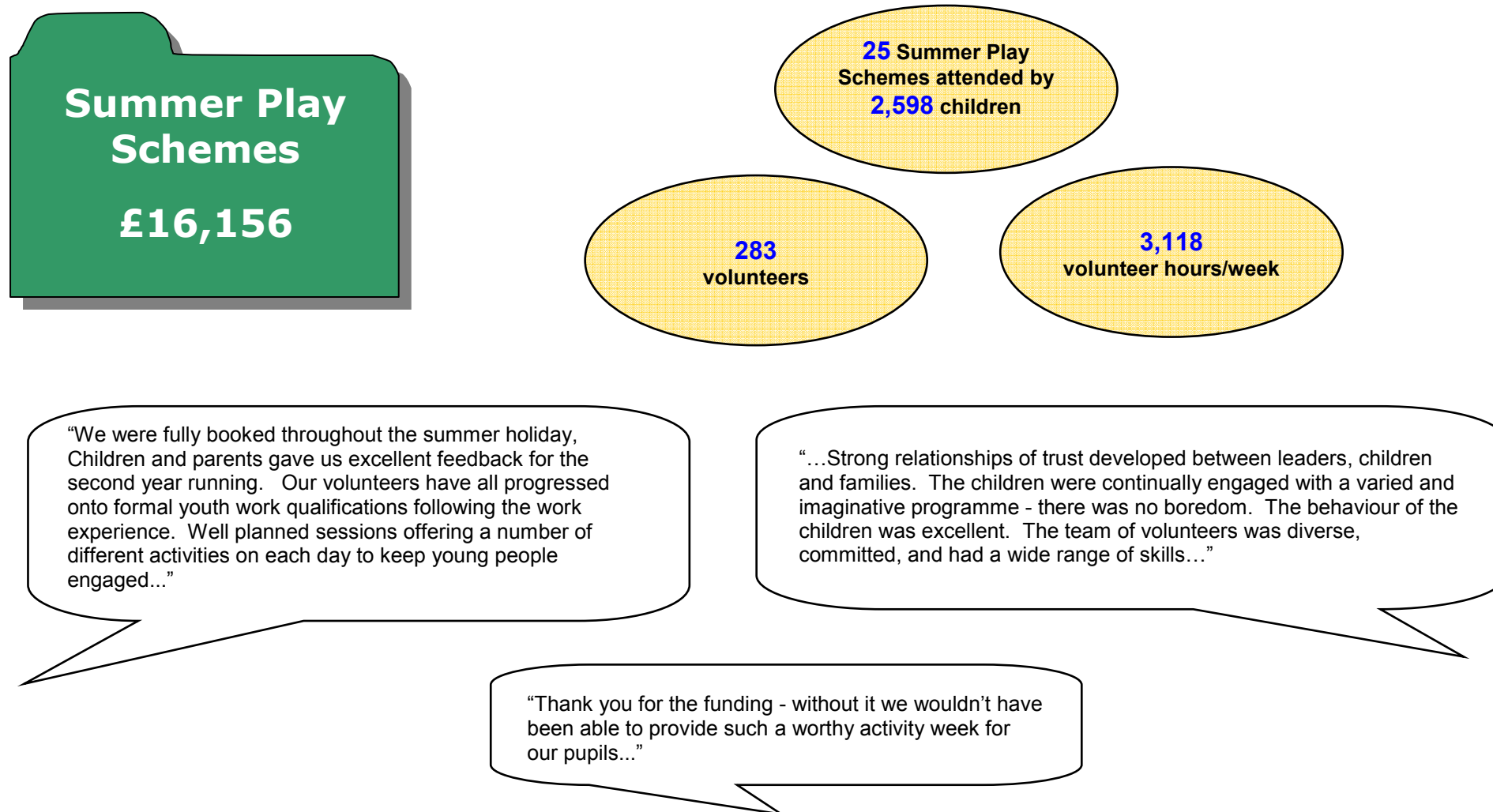
Evaluation and monitoring undertaken from the 13 projects which concluded in January 2013 have evidenced that sports participation levels and volunteering had increased. In total over 700 participants benefited from the Community Sports Fund with approximately 100 new people engaging in sport as a direct result of the funding. The projects also included up-skilling over 50 of the volunteering workforce through various leadership programmes.

The aim of **'Rising Stars'** is to support talented young athletes at a National level who are resident in Nottinghamshire and in full-time education, with costs such as travel, training and accommodation. There is a maximum award of £400.

The aim of **'Shining Stars'** is to support talented athletes who are currently performing at an international level within their sports. The maximum award is £1,500 for tier one athletes, with a reduced amount being made to second tier athletes. Shining Stars has one round which opens for applications in the autumn each year. This grant scheme was initially conceived in the run up to London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games. This will be the last award and the grant scheme is to be closed.

The **Nottinghamshire Arts Fund** provides grants for between £500 and £2,500 to support arts activities that are led locally, deliver a range of outcomes and secure additional external partnership funding. The projects must be specific and time limited, ensuring that they do not become seen as revenue grants. It is anticipated that the arts projects will secure an additional £35,616 of external match funding Nottinghamshire arts.

Grant Aid themes that run on a different funding cycle to the corporate Grant Aid programme (continued):



Note:

- There is one Summer Play Scheme round per year – schemes must be delivered during the school summer holidays
- Most Summer Play Schemes reported a deficit but were able to fill this via voluntary donations and other grants
- All groups were visited whilst their schemes were running.

Grant Aid themes that run on a different funding cycle to the corporate Grant Aid programme (continued): One-Off Grants

Members also approved a small number of additional grants for 2013/14 with a total value of £91,100

Organisation	Theme	District	Amount Awarded 2013/14
Mansfield Woodhouse Community Development Group	One Off Grant	Mansfield	£5,000
Nottingham Credit Union	One Off Grant	Countywide	£22,000
The Manton Centre for Sport & Learning	One Off Grant	Bassetlaw	£10,000
The Tin Hat Centre	One Off Grant	Ashfield	£10,000
The Roosevelt Scholarship	Two Year Agreement	Countywide	£5,000
The Nottinghamshire Council for School Sports	One Year Agreement	Countywide	£39,100
			£91,100

Group closures

Four groups closed in 2012/13 and three closed in 2013/14. The reasons for closure were lack of funding or loss of a key worker leading to unsustainability of the project / service. Groups were asked to repay the due proportion of unspent grant after the closure.

GA Year of Closure	Organisation	Theme	District	Date of Closure	Grant Aid	Notes
2012-13	Community CentrePoint Ltd	Community Transport	Ashfield	28 Jan 2013	£ 3,899.00	Closed due to unsustainable finances
2012-13	Roshni NAWA Ltd	Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse	Nottingham City	31 Jan 2013	£ 10,000.00	Closed due to unsustainable finances
2012-13	Christ Church PCC	Youth Services	Bassetlaw	01 Jun 2013	£ 2,500.00	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	03 Jun 2013	£ 560.00	The group did not provide a reason for closure
2013-14	Tap Youth Ltd	Youth Services	Ashfield	05 Feb 2014	£ 1,000.00	The group experienced difficulties retaining staff and closed as a result
2013-14	Gedling CVS (Befriending Scheme)	Older People	Gedling	20 Mar 2014	£ 2,500.00	Be-friending coordinator suffered ill health and a suitable replacement could not be found.
2012-13	Home Start Dukeries	Children and Families	Mansfield	30 Jun 2013	£ 17,640.00	Closed due to unsustainable finances

Interim Monitoring Report 2014:

- An overwhelming majority of groups reported that they **achieved what they set out to achieve** during the first two years of their Grant Aid Agreement.
- 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.
- Almost 80 groups reported that they had **received recognition** at a local, regional or national level for their work. For example:

"...we helped to promote awareness of issues faced by disabled people in the local media...We have also helped Nottinghamshire CC develop pilot projects (brokerage and support planning), advised statutory organisations on improving access to buildings/facilities and nationally fed into DWP (Dept of Work & Pensions) consultations on changes to welfare benefits..."

"Mind is at the forefront of campaigning for and designing mental health services at District and County level as well as feeding into National Mind strategies and developments across the East Midlands Region - including the development of an assessment toolkit for people with dementia and associated mental health issues and reporting on the introduction of personalised services..."

"....volunteers are encouraged to put forward ideas at a National Level. The County is going forward with an iMOVEit project which encourages Young People to take up senior volunteering roles both at a County Level and National Level..."

"As a result of the unique work that we carry out, we have worked closely with professionals that influence local, regional and national policy. Macmillan recently funded us to provide support to children whose parents were affected by cancer as this was not a service directly offered by them. Although this funding has now come to an end and was deemed successful we continue to work with Macmillan and challenge existing policies based on information that we continuously gather. We provide data to the Childhood Bereavement Network to enable them to gather the information they need to improve national policy and practice for bereaved families nationally."

Other key achievements:

Over 70 groups reported that they had experienced **other key achievements** since the start of their Grant Aid Agreement. Examples of these achievements include:

"... as a result of our Butterfly Campaign we gained 1080 volunteering hours from a number of local businesses who became involved in our work..."

"We developed a pilot telephone befriending service to reduce waiting lists and remove geographical boundaries, working with volunteers from Experian."

"In October 2012 following an assessment we were awarded the Approved Provider Standard from the Mentoring and Befriending Foundation which is held until October 2015."

"...we have recently produced a video promoting Nottingham Nightstop to aid with recruitment. This has been a joint project alongside film and cultural students from Nottingham Trent University..."

"Our in-house City & Guilds accredited training centre has been awarded 'Direct Claims' status....This recognises the thorough process that is followed...(and) also supports applications for additional funding for this programme..."

"We moved premises in Nov 2013 to reduce overheads and increase our sustainability, developed a drop-in advice service in Mansfield and created a new website which is more interactive and comprehensive."

General comments

As part of our **continuous review and development**, we invited groups to provide feedback on the service provided by the C&VS team. Here are some examples of the comments shared:

"We have found the Community & Voluntary Sector team very helpful and supportive."

"I have always had any queries answered promptly and found staff to be very helpful."

"I think that the visit to the projects recently undertaken by delegated officers is an excellent idea. It gives us a chance to show off our project whilst also ensuring compliance with grant terms and conditions."

"There was good communication between the CVS team and ourselves around the changes to the Monitoring Report."

"Thank you for the kind attentions of the officers in helping to resolve any issues that have arisen...they have been of great assistance."

"Payments are always received in a timely fashion which is much appreciated. It was nice to meet the officer who came on a monitoring visit in February 2014. He immediately put us at our ease as he could see we were anxious about his visit. The advice and information received by him was valuable."

"Payments were always made on time and reminders sent through regarding accounts and reports which are always really helpful."

"Very satisfied with the review and payment process."