



Derby City Council

COUNCIL CABINET
21 February 2012

Report of the Strategic Directors of Adults
Health and Housing, Neighbourhoods and
Children and Young People

ITEM 8

Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector Grant Aid Funding 2011 - 2015

SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Voluntary, Community and Faith (VCF) Sector Grant Aid Funding report approved by Cabinet on 27th September 2011 contained a recommendation to provisionally agree to no longer fund 19 currently funded organisations. A final decision on funding was to be taken following a detailed Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) and further consultation with these organisations, their service users and the wider community.
- 1.2 This report summarises the outcomes of the EIA and consultation process, making recommendations for future funding of 18 of these organisations. The remaining organisation shall be the subject of a further report as outlined at paragraph 1.3.
- 1.3 The Children and Young People's Grant Aid is available for one year from 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013 to the value of £150,000. NHS Derby City has also allocated an additional £89,950 to the voluntary and community sector for children's services in 2012/13. Council officers have worked in partnership to ensure this funding is complementary to Council funding and supports sustainability within the voluntary and community sector. Consultation is still ongoing with Osmaston Family project identified in the Cabinet report of 27 September 2011. The outcomes from this will be reported to Cabinet in March 2012.
- 1.4 A summary of the consultation response is included in Appendix 2. This document contains selected key consultation metrics and recommendations for future funding of organisations. It also contains an assessment of the impact and any mitigating actions that may reduce the impact.
- 1.5 Appendix 3 details the current funding and recommended future funding level for each organisation. The recommendation is to continue to fund 3 organisations: 2 for the full grant funding period, and 1 for the year 2012/13 only.
- 1.6 When making a decision on this matter Cabinet must have "due regard" to its duties under the Equalities Act 2010 which are set out in more detail in the Legal Implications in Appendix 1. In doing so Cabinet must take account of the impact the financial proposals could have on different equality groups and consider ways of mitigating or avoiding any adverse impact.
- 1.7 To assist Members make an informed decision on these matters a full Equalities Impact Assessment has been carried out and the results are set out in Appendix 4. A summary of the equalities impact assessment findings is contained in Appendix 1.

- 1.8 During the consultation period, four petitions were received containing 2404 validated signatures. Details are provided in Appendix 5
- 1.9 Appendix 6 is a list of correspondence to the Council from organisations and key individuals taking part in the consultation.
- 1.10 Appendix 7 is a report which summarises and presents the findings of the consultation exercise.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To approve the funding recommendations listed in Appendix 3 for individual organisations.
- 2.2 To approve the serving of 12 weeks notice on all organisations listed in Appendix 3 from week commencing 27th February 2012.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The consultation and equalities impact assessment carried out on the organisations listed in Appendix 3 has identified 3 services that are recommended for continued funding and 15 that are recommended for ending funding. Those services recommended for funding received a strong favourable consultation response, demonstrate good value for money, have a broad impact and support key adult social care and health outcomes in the Derby Plan
- 3.2 Where funding agreements are to be terminated, 12 weeks notice is required in accordance with the Derby Compact.
- 3.3 In order to put new agreements in place for the 3 organisations recommended for continued funding in Appendix 3, their current agreements need to be terminated with 12 weeks notice in accordance with the Derby Compact.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 The Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector Grant Aid Funding report approved by Cabinet on 27th September 2011 contained a recommendation to provisionally agree to no longer fund 19 currently funded organisations. A final decision on funding was to be taken following a detailed EIA and further consultation with these organisations, their service users and the wider community and, where appropriate, asking people to put forward options to reshape the service.

- 4.2 Any changes in grant-funded services should have regard for the Best Value Statutory Guidance which sets out some reasonable expectations of the way authorities should work with voluntary and community groups and small businesses when facing difficult funding decisions.
- 4.3 A 12 week consultation period was held with the general public, those VCF organisations potentially losing funding and their service users. This consultation began on 3rd October 2011 and closed on 31st December 2011. In total over 1050 responses to the consultation surveys and 4 petitions with 2404 validated signatures were received.
- 4.4 In order to ensure the consultation was as cost effective as possible, given the current financial constraints that the Council faces, the main method used to gain feedback from respondents was four online and paper based surveys. These comprised
- A paper and online survey among the Council's Reach Out Citizen's Panel.
 - An online survey made available on the Council website to the general public.
 - A survey of the organisations involved.
 - A survey of users and stakeholders of the organisations.
- 4.5 However, it was felt that it was important that the users and stakeholders of services provided by the affected organisations should have an opportunity to have their say in a way that was not dependent on the language, literacy or IT skills required for completing a survey. This was particularly important as some organisations specialised in working with vulnerable or minority groups.
- 4.6 Therefore organisations were offered, should they wish, additional support from Derby City Council's consultation specialists to run workshops, focus groups or individual one-to-one interviews. Several organisations took up the offer of additional consultation and the findings from these activities are reflected in the report on the findings from the consultation exercise, appendix 7.
- 4.7 The analysis of the consultation feedback recognised that organisations that target small, localised communities will not be known to the wider public and this would be reflected in the consultation response from the public. The public response also reflected that organisations with a wider, national profile such as Relate were better known.
- 4.8 The grants budgets fund a range of services and activities to minority customer groups. The previous Cabinet Report on Voluntary Sector Grant Aid Strategy included an Equalities Impact Assessment and the process has therefore been mindful of equalities issues. A full Equalities Impact Assessment can be found at Appendix 4.
- 4.9 Following completion of the consultation and equalities impact assessment, officers have analysed the information and made recommendations on future funding for the organisations involved, except the Osmaston Family Project that will be the subject of a separate report.

Process Following Cabinet Agreement of Funding Recommendations

- 4.10 All organisations listed in Appendix 3 will be served with 12 weeks notice from week commencing 27th February 2012 in accordance with the Derby Compact.
- 4.11 During the notice period, officers will work with those VCF organisations recommended for funding to develop new agreements based on the funding level approved by Cabinet, incorporating any necessary changes and improvements.
- 4.12 During the notice period, officers will work with those VCF organisations recommended for cessation of funding to support them whilst they adapt to the loss of Council funding.
- 4.13 New grant funding agreements for those organisations receiving long-term funding will commence from week commencing 21st May 2012.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 To continue funding these organisations. However this would cause the Council to overspend its available budget requiring savings to be made from other areas,

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer Financial officer Human Resources officer Service Director(s) Other(s)	Stuart Leslie Toni Nash Liz Moore Perveez Sadiq Mike Brown, Hazel Lymbery, Ian Chennery
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For more information contact: Background papers: List of appendices:	Phil Bacon 01332 642740 e-mail phil.bacon@derby.gov.uk Voluntary Community and Faith Sector Grant Aid Funding 2011-2015 27 th September 2011. Appendix 1 – Implications Appendix 2 – Consultation Summary Appendix 3 – Financial Recommendations Appendix 4 – Equalities Impact Assessment – the appendices are on CMIS Appendix 5 – Petitions Received Appendix 6 – List of Consultation Correspondence Appendix 7 – Findings from the Consultation Exercise
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IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

- 1.1 Approval of the recommendations in this report will result in the achievement of savings identified in 2011/12 budget consultation process for Adults, Health and Housing Directorate of £510k.

Legal

- 2.1 The Public Sector equality duty consists of a general duty, which is set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 (the Act), and specific duties which are imposed by secondary legislation. The general equality duty came into force on 5 April 2011.
- 2.2 Those subject to the equality duty, such as the Council must, in the exercise of their functions, have **due regard** to the need to:
 - Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
 - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
 - Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 2.3 The Act effectively broadens and extends the positive equality duties and previously found in the Race Relations, Disability Discrimination Act so it now applies to cover age, sexual orientation, pregnancy and maternity, religion and belief.
- 2.4 In order to comply with this duty the Council must, when making decisions, assess the impact they will have on different members of the community and where possible and proportionate to mitigate the adverse effect on any disadvantaged group. This duty can best be discharged in cases of possible significant impact by undertaking an Equality Impact Assessment, as was done in this case.
- 2.5 The equality duties do not prevent a local authority, or other public body, from making difficult decisions but they must have “due regard” to these matters in the decision making process by properly assessing and considering the potential impact of the proposed change on different equality groups.

Personnel

- 3.1 The process provides for a 12 week notice period for those organisations not recommended for long term funding. This will allow the organisations to manage any personnel implications.

Equalities Impact

- 4.1 A full Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) is attached at Appendix 4. Appendix 2c to the EIA contains a summary analysis on an organisation by organisation basis. The main impacts from this assessment are summarised below;
- 4.2 The impact on older people from the African, Indian and Pakistani communities will be either the loss of a number of lunch and social clubs or having to pay attendance fees in line with Council grant funding recommendations to enable the services to continue.
- 4.3 The impact of not funding Business in the Community on voluntary sector organisations will be a potential reduction in the level of one source of business expertise and volunteer support provided by local private sector organisations. Alternatively voluntary sector organisations will be charged for the service.
- 4.4 There will be an impact on all people from all BME communities through the loss of a service to support victims of race harassment. Although only a very small number of cases are directly supported by this service annually. In addition, there will be a loss of support to statutory and other agencies to ensure that their services are accessible to people from BME communities. Support to victims of race harassment has been identified as a service gap and, in conjunction with the Minority Communities Diversity Forum, a suitable replacement service shall be considered. The Council itself has achieved the highest level of attainment in the local government equality framework and the Equality Act 2010 strengthens legislation in this area, to which organisations must comply. All grant funded organisations will be required to submit an equalities action plan to the Council.
- 4.5 People of all ages, genders and sexual orientation from all communities who are on low incomes will be impacted by the loss of one source of low cost furniture and white goods. The environment may also be impacted by an increased amount of furniture and white goods going to landfill. Low cost furniture and white goods may be obtained from other sources in the private or voluntary sectors.
- 4.6 There will be an impact on people of all ages, genders and sexual orientation from the West Indian community through the potential loss of a focal point for the community, the organisation also runs the annual Caribbean carnival. In addition, there will be loss of social, cultural, educational and recreational activities. Alternatively, people will have to pay more to receive these services.
- 4.7 There will be an impact on physically disabled men, women and children from all communities by the loss of, or reduction in the number of sessions provided by, a wheelchair-based sporting organisation. To maintain the service, people will either have to support the organisation by using their Personal Budgets, or pay increased fees themselves.
- 4.8 There will be an impact on all women by the loss of one organisation providing a range of services including counselling, pregnancy testing, complimentary therapies and legal advice. Some of these services are available through other organisations including the NHS.

- 4.9 There will be an impact on families, schools, children's centres, statutory groups, uniformed groups and voluntary sector organisations by the loss, reduced opening hours, or increased charges of a creative arts, office furniture and paint recycling organisation.
- 4.10 There will be an impact on older and disabled people, by the loss or reduction in a free delivery service from an organisation that delivers vegetables and other healthy foods to people with mobility difficulties. To maintain the service, users can choose to pay a delivery charge, or the organisation may have to use volunteers to deliver the goods.
- 4.11 There will be an impact on adults with learning disabilities from all communities by the potential loss of a performing arts organisation. To maintain the service, users may have to pay a higher voluntary contribution per session or access via use of their Personal Budgets.
- 4.12 The impact on people who are deaf/hard of hearing will be minimal in the short to medium term. The continuation of funding to Communication Unlimited tapered over a 12 month period will ensure that people from the deaf community can continue to access services through the use of subsidised BSL interpreters. During this period, a grant funded awareness raising project will be undertaken to highlight the access needs of this community and the responsibilities of organisations that interact with deaf people to provide appropriate services. This awareness raising work will continue to be funded for the remaining years of this grant aid round.
- 4.13 Continued funding to Relate Derby & Southern Derbyshire but at a reduced value will minimise the impact on all customer groups on low incomes that require access to their counselling services.
- 4.14 There will be no impact on customers of Sinfin & Stenson Fields Asians Over 60 Social & Welfare Club as funding is recommended to continue at the current level. There is good evidence that this organisation provides a valuable drop in day service in this part of the city for older Indian men that includes elderly men with complex needs. There are no other services or community bases available in this part of the city.
- 4.15 There will be an impact on all people from all communities by the loss of an organisation that promotes performances by major jazz artists. The organisation could maintain the service by securing funding from the Small Arts Grant budget.
- 4.16 There will be an impact on children and young people from the South Asian communities by the loss of a low cost music and dance arts group. The organisation is currently undertaking a project to define a new strategic role and programme of activity for itself. Future funding may subsequently be secured for this programme, but in the meantime the Small Arts Grant budget could be accessed.
- 4.17 Further details about these impacts, including scale and mitigation are contained within the full Equalities Impact Assessment at appendix 4.

Health and Safety

- 5.1 The grant application process included a consideration of whether VCF sector organisations are taking appropriate measures to ensure that grant-aided services are safe for service users. A requirement to take appropriate action, depending upon the type of service, service user group and scale of the funding will be included in grant agreements and reviewed on an annual basis.

Environmental Sustainability

- 6.1 The report recommends ending of grant funding to a recycling organisation. This may lead to reduced recycling and increased landfill.

Asset Management

- 7.1 No implications arising directly from this report.

Risk Management

- 8.1 No implications arising directly from this report.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 9.1 The report supports all the areas of work of the Derby Plan.