

**HEALTH AND PARTNERSHIPS  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
6 SEPTEMBER 2017**

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**VOLUNTARY SECTOR FUNDING**

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**SUMMARY REPORT**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. To update Scrutiny on the current position regarding the deployment of the MTFP Future Funds for the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS), and to provide an update regarding the key activity which has been undertaken with the VCS.

**Summary**

2. The MTFP contained a range of different Future Fund opportunities for Darlington VCS organisations in response to the funding reductions which occurred through the MTFP, and their potential associated impacts. This report provides an overview of the present position with these Future Funds, and the work which has been undertaken and is ongoing between Officers and the VCS.

**Recommendation**

3. It is recommended that Scrutiny note the contents of this report.

**Suzanne Joyner  
Director of Children and Adults Services**

**Background Papers**

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

Helen Watson: Ext 5866

S17 Crime and Disorder	There are no specific implications for Crime and Disorder
Health and Well Being	There are no specific implications for Health and Wellbeing
Sustainability	There is no carbon impact in relation to this report
Diversity	There are no specific diversity issues in this report
Wards Affected	There are no specific Wards which are affected by this report.
Groups Affected	The Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS)
Budget and Policy Framework	This report has no impact on the budget or policy framework as the funding was previously committed as part of the MTFP and has no further cost implication.
Key Decision	This report does not constitute a key decision
Urgent Decision	This report does not constitute an urgent decision
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	To provide a safe and caring community
Efficiency	This report does not impact on the Council efficiency agenda

### Key Work Undertaken and Ongoing with the VCS

4. The provider forum for local Voluntary and Community Sector organisations, the Strategic Implementation Group (SIG), continues to be a key forum for engagement between Council Officers and the VCS. The SIG meets on a six weekly basis, with administrative and co-ordination support being provided by Council Commissioning and Contracting officers. The SIG chair provides impartiality, as they work for an organisation not directly commissioned by either the Council or the CCG.
5. SIG meetings are attended by a core grouping of 15 provider organisations, and there is a widespread distribution list for members who are unable to attend, with minutes and all presentations / papers being circulated following each meeting (see membership in **Appendix 1**). Organisations attending SIG provide core support for families, adults and children.
6. Forthcoming funding opportunities are identified and discussed as part of a standing agenda item and again this information is circulated to all local organisations to ensure organisations unable to attend meetings are not disadvantaged.

7. A particular strength of the SIG is the way in which the group has established a process whereby representatives are nominated to attend topical events acting as a representative from the Voluntary and Community Sector. The nominated representatives then provide the group with a full update. Examples of this include, nominated representatives from the SIG attending the Darlington Partnership Board, Health and Wellbeing Board, SEND Steering Group and Children and Young People Plan Steering Group.
8. Although these arrangements effectively support the Voluntary and Community Sector in remaining fully engaged in strategic work being undertaken across the Borough, further work is required to strengthen and develop the SIG's 'strategic' activity and influence. Officers from the Council and the CCG are working alongside the SIG to support this development.
9. The Assistant Director of Commissioning, Performance and Transformation and the Director of Commissioning and Transformation from the CCG have both attended SIG meetings to provide an overview of commissioning intentions and key priority areas of work being undertaken across Health and Social Care.
10. An event was held on 14 June 2017 which focused on the learning from the National Cultural Commissioning Programme, in particular:
  - (a) to what extent the arts and cultural sector is 'commissioning ready'
  - (b) the training and development support required for commissioners and arts and cultural sector organisations
  - (c) how commissioning opportunities are currently promoted
  - (d) the evidence commissioners need to commission services
  - (e) how the arts and cultural sector could organise itself to meet the needs of commissioners
11. The event was attended by Tees Valley Health and Social Care commissioners, Voluntary and Community Sector organisations whose activities include cultural commissioning, and key arts groups including, but, not limited to: Helix Arts; Theatre Hullabaloo; Equal Arts, and Blue Cabin. SIG representatives were also in attendance at this event.
12. The Darlington Organisations Together (DOT) Network meets every three months, and encourages organisations providing services which support health & wellbeing to join together to discuss current events, news and service updates. It enables organisations to share information and encourages them to work collaboratively.
13. More formalised reporting mechanisms will be established between the SIG and the DOT, the North East Cultural Partnership and the Tees Valley Authority Culture Group. Work is also underway to strengthen commissioning knowledge within these organisations, and to provide training which will enable organisations to be market ready.

## Futures Funds

14. In recognition of the impact of the MTFP on local VCS organisations, a number of Futures Fund (FF) opportunities were established as part of the MTFP.

(a) **Housing Related and Outreach Support for Vulnerable Adults (£160,000)** - *(supplemented by a small amount of additional taper funding until 2018/19).*

This Future Fund was awarded in response to a £300,000 per annum reduction in the value of the Housing Related support contracts covering; Vulnerable Adults Floating Support, Drug and Alcohol Floating Support and Outreach Support for Victims of Domestic Abuse. This Future Fund award was apportioned across the affected contracts, to re-scope the services to ensure the safe and secure transitions to the new arrangements were achieved. The reduced value contracts commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2017, and have provision via the Future Fund and Taper Fund to continue until the natural end of the life of the contracts in January 2019, and March 2020 respectively.

Positively, the Council has been successful in two funding bids to the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) as follows:

- To be a Homelessness Trailblazer Authority, working with two local VCS providers to provide direct support to vulnerable individuals whose presenting needs place them at greater risk of becoming homeless. The individuals are identified via vulnerable adults alerts, which are received to the Council, and which do not meet the threshold for safeguarding, or require an intervention from Adult Social Care.
- Specialist Accommodation based support for victims of Domestic Abuse Services. This was part of a joint bid with Durham County Council and the four other Tees Valley Councils.

(b) **Crisis Support and Community Care Fund (£170,000)**

An external procurement exercise was undertaken with a contract being awarded and commencing 03 October 2016. The contract is for 18 months, with further options to extend by 2 x 12 months.

(c) **Financial and Debt Advice and Welfare Rights Services (£50,000)**

An external procurement exercise was undertaken a contract being awarded and commencing 03 October 2016. The contract is for 18 months with further options to extend by 2 x 12 months.

(d) **(Non-recurring) Match Funding to County Durham Community Foundation (£20,000)**

Darlington Borough Council funding of £20K was matched by the CCG, with a further funding contribution being made by CDCF. The amalgamated funding available was £72,000.

An open bidding exercise in relation to funding was undertaken in Autumn 2016. The aim of this fund was to enable the VCS organisations serving Darlington to be able to demonstrate that they have matched funding confirmed when submitting bids to external national and regional funding organisations. The wider principles of the fund have been detailed in **Appendix 2**.

Five expressions of interests were received, resulting in three awards being made. Awards were evaluated by representatives from each of the funding organisations. £28,000 of this fund remains unallocated.

Officers from the CDCF, the Council and CCG have considered the most effective use of the presently unallocated £28,000 and have determined that it would be beneficial to amalgamate this residual funding into the Voluntary Sector Development Fund detailed below.

(e) **Voluntary Sector Development Fund (£100,000)**

The Voluntary Sector Development Fund was disaggregated into two £50,000 lots. One lot focused on Transformation and Efficiency work within the Voluntary and Community Sector, with a focus primarily on collaborative working and supporting service sustainability. (Further detail on the funding criteria is contained within **Appendix 3**). The other lot focused on developing new initiatives to support vulnerable children.

One bidding round for the Transformation and Efficiency fund was held in Autumn 2016. Two awards were made for feasibility and business case work, and feedback was provided to unsuccessful applicants. This left an unallocated amount of £42,179, which added to the underspend on the CDCF Matched Fund opportunity presents £70,000 for allocation to future Voluntary and Community Sector Development Activity.

The allocation of funding in relation to activity to support vulnerable children has not commenced to date. This was due to the significant work which was taking place around Early Help, and the refresh of the Children's and Young People's Plan, to ensure that the funding is utilised as effectively as possible to address strategic priorities and outcomes.

The Strategic Implementation Group, (which is made up of local Voluntary and Community Sector providers), have been asked to consider how the amalgamated pot of money could be used to ensure maximum impact or improving outcomes for local people. Ideas and

suggestions will be discussed at the next meeting of the SIG, taking place on 7th September 2017. These ideas will then be carefully considered against the Council's Transformation Priorities, and a new round of bidding activity will be undertaken with the sector.

(f) **Fund to Promote Public Sector Volunteering (£50,000)**

Considerations are presently being made regarding the development of a volunteering across Durham this will be complementary to other key work streams within the Council including; Social Care demand management strategies, and the development of a single resource directory. The activity undertaken through this fund will be complementary to that of the Voluntary Sector Development Fund.

## Appendix 1 – SIG Membership to add

Service Name / Organisation
700 Club
DISC
Family Help
Foundation
Harbour
Keyring
Tees Valley YMCA
Humantics
Alzheimers Society
Darlington for Culture
RSACC
Healthwatch
Morrisons Trust
Victim Support
Darlington Credit Union
Darlington MIND
Age UK
Headway
British Red Cross
ECCDS
Groundwork

Relate North East
Darlington Action on Disability
Royal Voluntary Service
Darlington Citizens Advice Bureau
4 Motion Darlington
Tees Valley Rural Community Council
First Stop Darlington
JJ's Cafe
Parents & Children Together North east



## **Appendix 2**

### **(Non-recurring) match funding to CDCF (£20,000)**

#### **The principles of this fund are:**

- Activity is aimed at reducing demand on Health and Social Care services, and targeted at those people who are at risk of requiring statutory services in the near future unless interventions take place.
- Interventions supported through this fund need to be evidence based, including upon best practice elsewhere, but applied to Darlington. Both clinicians and commissioners need to be clear that outcomes will reduce service demands.
- Invest to save is a principle for scoping of the pilot programmes, and there should be an agreement at the outset that public sector bodies will support this by providing data and information for cost benefit analysis.
- The VCS will use the cost / benefit information to seek external funding, develop trading options for longer term sustainability of these services, or to make a business case to commissioners.
- Partnership pilots will be particularly welcome, as a number of external funders are now building this into their grant criteria.

#### **For applications wishing to apply for match funding:**

- The lead organisation must be operating extensively in Darlington and be able to demonstrate that the focus of the organisation's activities benefits communities in Darlington Borough.
- It is acceptable for the match request to be towards an element of a project that has a wider geographical remit than Darlington, BUT the match request can only be sought against the elements of the larger bid that are related to delivery in Darlington.
- Submitting an expression of interest (and being allocated an award) does NOT preclude the applicant from applying to other County Durham Community Foundation grant funding streams. Nor does submitting an expression of interest preclude the organisation securing other funding streams / contracts awarded from DBC, or Darlington CCG.
- It is anticipated that the major bid will be for an amount in excess of £100,000 (typically awarded over more than one year). A lower amount may be considered by the panel in exceptional circumstances.
- Only one expression of interest can be received from an organisation acting in the capacity of 'lead organisation'. It is permissible for an organisation to submit an expression of interest as the 'lead organisation', and be cited as a partner organisation on another expression of interest.

## Appendix 3

### Guidance notes and Expression of Interest form for £50k VCS Transformation and Efficiencies Fund

This fund is aimed at enabling the sector to investigate actions that will make them more efficient, and more able to meet the changing environment in which they work. The submission deadline for this fund was 31<sup>st</sup> October 2016, shortlisting completed by panels held in November, and final decisions will be made by 30<sup>th</sup> December 2016.

The principles are:

- Feasibility work with Trustees and Chief Executives to explore, merger or restructuring to a leaner organisation
- Shared buildings, or down-sizing and looking at shared rental properties
- Shared posts, or jointly procured services, including bid writers and finance / HR to maximise income and reduce costs
- Development of supply chains or skill share within the sector
- Ensuring they are contract ready, and addressing issues in relation to PQQ requirements of health and social care commissioning
- Developing new models of delivery, including partnerships, consortia, lead contractor models, prime contractor models
- Developing trading models as individual organisations, or through shared activity
- Support to bring in more funding to Darlington, by supporting development of fundraising strategies and new models of fundraising. (Please note matched funding is not included as there is a separate fund for this)
- Explore and develop the evidence of need, best practice and new approaches to meeting those needs, including the exploration of Social Impact Bonds, and develop examples in relation to social prescribing
- Ensure IT systems are information governance and data protection compliant, as required for the use of NHS numbers etc.
- How to evidence outcomes through the use of cost / benefit analysis, and evidencing social impact and added value in a robust manner, to have the best chance of sustainability