

FOR PUBLICATION

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

6 December 2021

**Report of the Managing Executive Director and
Report of the Executive Director for Adult Social Care and Health**

**VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR
INFRASTRUCTURE PROVISION**
(Health and Communities)

1. Divisions Affected

1.1 County-wide

2. Key Decision

2.1 This is a key decision because it is likely to result in the Council incurring expenditure which is, or savings which are significant having regard to the budget for the service or function concerned and it is likely to be significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more electoral areas in the County.

3. Purpose

3.1 To update Cabinet on the progress of the new funding approach to Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) infrastructure provision and to seek approval to extend VCS infrastructure grants for a period of twelve months from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023.

4. Information and Analysis

4.1 Background

On 30 July 2020, Cabinet approved proposals for the future approach and funding of voluntary and community sector infrastructure support provision, awarded for a twelve-month period, from 1 October 2021 to 30 September 2022.

A further report in July 2021 outlined the progress made implementing the new approach with providers and agreed a six-month extension from 1 October 2021 to 31 March 2022. This allowed for a full year's monitoring using the new outcomes framework and brought funding back into line with the financial year. Cabinet in July 2021 also agreed an additional £250,000 funding from Public Health, to ensure that there is adequate VCS infrastructure in place to provide ongoing support to Covid 19 response, recovery and potential resurgence.

4.2 Progress with the new approach

Over the past 18 months the Council has been continuing to progress the new shared approach for VCS infrastructure provision across Derbyshire, underpinned by the following:

- District level funding allocations, with providers working together where there are multiple providers within a district
- New Service Level Agreements (SLA) on an organisation/district basis, with a commitment from providers to deliver core VCS support through a shared outcomes framework, outlining the funding providers receive and how it is spent
- A comprehensive list of co-designed Key Performance Indicators with providers, understanding the impact and what is being achieved
- Active and frequent engagement with providers through monitoring and partnership meetings, embedding the approach and maintaining an understanding of the challenges relating to the Covid 19
- Regular meetings with Derby and Derbyshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), ensuring a consistent approach across the two organisations.

This strong platform of VCS infrastructure provision enabled Public Health to invest an additional £250,000 funding, as a one-off to ensure specialist VCS infrastructure support for Covid 19, linked to the new outcomes framework for those allocated the funding.

4.3 VCS Infrastructure work over the next year

When the Council committed to the future VCS infrastructure approach in July 2020, it made two future commitments which are still outstanding, which was to ensure a greater equity of provision across Derbyshire and to look at ways the Council could make longer-term funding arrangements with providers.

Whilst the Council has made significant progress on developing and embedding the new approach, it is not yet in a position to fulfil the above two commitments, mainly due to the ongoing nature of the pandemic. It has however, maintained funding at its current level and secured additional funding for providers outlined above, albeit for an interim period.

Given the ongoing nature of the pandemic and the sector's role in providing a vital community response, it is recommended that all current grant allocations are maintained at their current levels for an additional twelve-month period, until March 2023 (excluding additional one-off Public Health funding which is in place until 30 September 2022). Adult Care currently have 11 infrastructure support grant arrangements in place across the county, whilst Policy and Research have ten grant arrangements. The total cost of infrastructure support is currently £452,228. Further details of the current grant arrangements are set out in Appendix 2 (Table 1.0 and Table 2.0).

It is recommended that Cabinet notes the following work, necessary over the next year, to further develop and embed the approach, and fulfil the Council's previous commitments, as follows:

- Develop options for how the Council could allocate funding which ensures a greater equity of provision
- Look at ways the Council could make longer-term, multi-year funding arrangements with providers
- Work with infrastructure providers to further refine Key Performance Indicators and ensure the objectives in the shared outcomes framework are being met
- Work with funding partners to work towards a more consistent approach
- Work with Derby and Derbyshire CCG through the transition to the new Integrated Care System to ensure understanding and commitments are maintained.

Updates on the continued development and future plans for VCS infrastructure provision will be reported back to Cabinet in due course.

5. Alternative Options Considered

- 5.1 Alternative Option 1 Do Nothing – The Council could let current grant arrangements expire and end existing funding arrangements moving forward. This option is not desirable as it would not support the Councils commitments made to support VCS infrastructure provision in July 2020, recognising the crucial role of providers in supporting the sector. Any significant loss of funding could threaten VCS infrastructure provision and this in turn could harm the Councils ability to meet its strategic aims.
- 5.2 Alternative Option 2 Do Something Different – The Council could extend current arrangements whilst it undertakes a procurement exercise. Whilst significant progress has been made on the new approach and what the Council requires with this funding, this option is not desirable at this time as this current approach is still being embedded and further information would be required to undertake a procurement exercise, alongside engagement with current providers.

6. Implications

- 6.1 Appendix 1 sets out the relevant implications considered in the preparation of the report.

7. Background Papers

- 7.1 Report to Cabinet - Voluntary and Community Sector Review 30 July 2020
- 7.2 Report to Cabinet – Voluntary and Community Sector Review 29 July 2021

8. Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix 1 - Implications.
- 8.2 Appendix 2 – Infrastructure Support Grant Payments:
Table 1.0 Adult Care Payments
Table 2.0 Policy and Research Payments.

9. Recommendations

That Cabinet:

- a) Notes progress of the Council’s approach to the voluntary and community sector infrastructure core provision and agree the additional work to further develop and embed the future approach.
- b) Approves proposals to fund the voluntary and community sector infrastructure organisations totalling £452,228, from 1 April 2022 until 31 March 2023, as set out in the report.

10. Reasons for Recommendations

- 10.1 To ensure Cabinet is aware of the work that has been completed on the approach to VCS infrastructure provision, understand the reason for a one-year grant funding extension and the work that will take place before March 2023.
- 10.2 To ensure all infrastructure providers maintain their current levels of funding for an additional twelve-month period to allow the Council to develop options which move towards a greater equity of provision and a consistent approach with funding partners from March 2023.

11. Is it necessary to waive the call in period?

- 11.1 No

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This report has been approved by the following officers:

| | |
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| <p>On behalf of:</p> <p>Director of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer Director of Finance and ICT Managing Executive Director Executive Director(s)</p> | |
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Implications**Financial**

1.1 The tables below summarise the budget allocations for the twelve-month period April 2022 to March 2023 against each grant area.

1.2 Infrastructure Funding

| | Number | £'s |
|-----------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Adult Care Funding | 10 | 245,336 |
| Policy and Research Funding | 11 | 206,892 |
| Total | 30 | 452,228 |

All the proposed Adult Care and Policy and Research allocations are based on funding agreed in respect of the 2022-23 year and can be met from existing Adult Care and Policy and Research and Adult budgets.

Legal

2.1 The Council has power to provide grants to voluntary and community sector organisations under the general power of competence set out in section 1 of the Localism Act 2011.

Human Resources

3.1 The voluntary and community sector organisations currently funded by the Council as part of this report are independent of the County Council and therefore there are no human resources considerations.

Other

4.1 With regard to any organisation providing services to children or vulnerable adults, approval of financial support is conditional on the existence within these organisations of appropriate procedures assessing suitability to work with children or vulnerable adults.

Consultation

5.1 Not applicable. There has been no consultation on the proposals outlined in this report.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 6.1 The review of funding to the voluntary and community sector is a key priority outlined in the Council Plan. This will ensure that that resources allocated to the VCS support the Council's ambitions, will enable efficient and effective investment, support a fairer and more equitable allocation of funding and encourage the long-term sustainability of the sector.

Infrastructure Support Grant Payments

| 1.0- Adult Care Grant Payments for Infrastructure support | | |
|--|---|--------------------------------------|
| Organisation Name | Brief description of what the grant is provided for/activity it supports, including the type of service | April 2022 – March 2023 (£'s) |
| Amber Valley CVS | Provide information, support, guidance, training, funding advice for groups, support to recruit and manage volunteers, promote good practice and provide a VCS perspective to the statutory sector at strategic level forums. | 32,518 |
| Bassetlaw CVS (Bolsover District) | Provide information, support, guidance, training, funding advice for groups, support to recruit and manage volunteers, promote good practice and provide a VCS perspective to the statutory sector at strategic level forums. | 7,110 |
| Connex Community Support | Provide information, support, guidance, training, funding advice for groups, support to recruit and manage volunteers, promote good practice and provide a VCS perspective to the statutory sector at strategic level forums. | 27,236 |
| Derbyshire Dales CVS | Provide information, support, guidance, training, funding advice for groups, support to recruit and manage volunteers, promote good practice and provide a VCS perspective to the statutory sector at strategic level forums. | 21,515 |
| Derbyshire Voluntary Action | Provide information, support, guidance, training, funding advice for groups, support to recruit and manage volunteers, promote good practice and provide a VCS perspective to the statutory sector at strategic level forums. | 18,166 |
| Erewash Voluntary Action CVS | Provide information, support, guidance, training, funding advice for groups, support to recruit and manage volunteers, promote good practice and provide a VCS perspective to the statutory sector at strategic level forums. | 57,095 |
| High Peak CVS | Provide information, support, guidance, training, funding advice for groups, support to recruit and manage volunteers, promote good practice and provide a VCS perspective to the statutory sector at strategic level forums. | 4,124 |
| New Mills Volunteer Centre | Provide information, support, guidance, training, funding advice for groups, support to recruit and manage volunteers, promote good practice and provide a VCS perspective to the statutory sector at strategic level forums. | 21,513 |

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|----------------|
| South Derbyshire CVS | Provide information, support, guidance, training, funding advice for groups, support to recruit and manage volunteers, promote good practice and provide a VCS perspective to the statutory sector at strategic level forums. | 36,884 |
| The Bureau (Volunteer Centre Glossop) | Provide information, support, guidance, training, funding advice for groups, support to recruit and manage volunteers, promote good practice and provide a VCS perspective to the statutory sector at strategic level forums. | 19,175 |
| | Total | 245,336 |

2.0 Policy and Research grant payments for Infrastructure support

| Organisation Name | Brief description of what the grant is provided for/activity it supports, including the type of service | April 2022 – March 2023 (£'s) |
|-----------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Amber Valley CVS | Provide information, support, guidance, training, funding advice for groups, support to recruit and manage volunteers, promote good practice and provide a VCS perspective to the statutory sector at strategic level forums. | 15,378 |
| Bassetlaw CVS (Bolsover District) | Provide information, support, guidance, training, funding advice for groups, support to recruit and manage volunteers, promote good practice and provide a VCS perspective to the statutory sector at strategic level forums. | 34,390 |
| Chesterfield Volunteer Centre | Provide information, support, guidance, training, funding advice for groups, support to recruit and manage volunteers, promote good practice and provide a VCS perspective to the statutory sector at strategic level forums. | 23,471 |
| Derbyshire Dales CVS | Provide information, support, guidance, training, funding advice for groups, support to recruit and manage volunteers, promote good practice and provide a VCS perspective to the statutory sector at strategic level forums. | 15,378 |
| Derbyshire Voluntary Action | Provide information, support, guidance, training, funding advice for groups, support to recruit and manage volunteers, promote good practice and provide a VCS perspective to the statutory sector at strategic level forums. | 5,305 |
| Erewash Voluntary Action CVS | Provide information, support, guidance, training, funding advice for groups, support to recruit and manage volunteers, promote good practice and provide a VCS perspective to the statutory sector at strategic level forums. | 15,378 |

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|-------------------------|---|----------------|
| High Peak CVS | Provide information, support, guidance, training, funding advice for groups, support to recruit and manage volunteers, promote good practice and provide a VCS perspective to the statutory sector at strategic level forums. | 15,378 |
| Links CVS | Provide information, support, guidance, training, funding advice for groups, support to recruit and manage volunteers, promote good practice and provide a VCS perspective to the statutory sector at strategic level forums. | 36,058 |
| South Derbyshire CVS | Provide information, support, guidance, training, funding advice for groups, support to recruit and manage volunteers, promote good practice and provide a VCS perspective to the statutory sector at strategic level forums. | 15,378 |
| Rural Action Derbyshire | Provide information, support, guidance, training, funding advice for groups, support to recruit and manage volunteers, promote good practice and provide a VCS perspective to the statutory sector at strategic level forums. | 15,378 |
| BME Infrastructure | Provide information, support, guidance, training, funding advice for groups, support to recruit and manage volunteers, promote good practice and provide a VCS perspective to the statutory sector at strategic level forums. | 15,400 |
| | Total | 206,892 |

Report Sign Off and Version Control

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|---|---------------------------------------|
| Report Title | Voluntary and Community Sector Review |
| Author | Robert Lowe |
| Meeting and Date | Cabinet 6 December 2021 |
| Version | 0.1 |
| Key Decision (published) | Yes |
| Exempt item (notice of private meeting published) | N/A |

| Implications | Name and Comments | Date Approved |
|--|---|---------------|
| Finance | | |
| Legal | | |
| Human Resources | | |
| Information Technology | NA | - |
| Equalities | Simon Macdonald Preston. To be considered further prior to the next report. | |
| Corporate Objectives and priorities for change | Robert Lowe | |
| Consultation | | |
| Other – please specify | Robert Lowe | |

Author's Directorate Sign Off

| | | Date |
|--|---|------|
| Managing Executive Director/Executive Director | Helen Jones – Executive Director Adult Social Care & Health | |
| DMT – if applicable | NA | |
| CMT – if applicable | Helen Jones – Executive Director Adult Social Care & Health | |
| Cabinet Member briefed | Carol Hart – Health and Communities | |
| Other – please specify | | |