

FOR PUBLICATION

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

12 January 2022

Report of the Executive Director for Place

**VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR
INFRASTRUCTURE PROVISION 2023/24**
(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 funding approach to Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) infrastructure provision and to seek approval to secure VCS infrastructure grants for a period of twelve months from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024.

4. Information and Analysis

4.1 On 30 July 2020 Cabinet agreed to establish a new approach with providers of VCS infrastructure support across Derbyshire following a review. This approach is underpinned by:

- 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, outlining the funding providers receive and how it is spent with a commitment from providers to deliver core VCS support through a shared outcomes framework
- A comprehensive list of co-designed Key Performance Indicators with providers, which seek to understand and measure impact and what is being achieved.

4.2 In December 2021, Cabinet secured VCS infrastructure support provision totalling £452,228 with funding in place until 31 March 2023. Cabinet, at its meeting on 29 July 2021 had previously approved an additional £250,000 one off Public Health funding for specialist VCS infrastructure support for Covid 19 response, recovery and potential resurgence, between 1 October 2021 and 31 September 2022.

Current Position

4.3 In December 2021, Cabinet agreed that additional work was required to further develop and embed this new way of working as follows:

- Explore opportunities to 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 were being met
- Work with funding partners towards a more consistent approach and to develop options for ensuring further equity of provision across the county
- Work with Derby and Derbyshire CCG through the transition to the new Integrated Care System to ensure understanding and commitments are maintained.

4.4 To achieve the aims outlined above the Council has continued to work with providers, through monitoring and participation in meetings with key partners and stakeholders, to embed the approach. In addition, regular meetings with Derby and Derbyshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), now the NHS Derby and Derbyshire Integrated Care

Board (ICB), have taken place to ensure a consistent approach is applied across the two organisations.

- 4.5 As a result of the ongoing challenges relating to the pandemic and the cost of living crisis for both the public and voluntary and community sector, alongside the establishment of the new Integrated Care Board and its relationship with providers and the wider sector going forward, more work is needed to explore and further develop sector support before a longer term commitment can be made.
- 4.6 A working group, led by the ICB, has recently been established which includes representatives from Strategy and Policy, Adult Care and a number of current infrastructure providers. The purpose of the working group is to:
- Explore the needs of the VCS in Derbyshire
 - Ascertain whether sector needs are being met by the current infrastructure offer
 - Identify how any gaps can be met
 - Strengthen the relationship with all partners.
- 4.7 Undertaking this work over the coming months should form a basis to support discussions within the Council, with other funders as well as the sector on a longer-term approach for infrastructure provision and sector support and overcome any existing challenges.

Moving forward

- 4.8 To ensure that infrastructure provision is maintained during the forthcoming period, it is recommended that all current grant allocations are maintained at their current levels for an additional twelve-month period, until March 2024 (excluding additional one-off Public Health funding which was in place until 30 September 2022), whilst work with providers and partners continues.
- 4.9 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). Allocating an additional £98,000 towards the priorities identified above would take the total funding for infrastructure provision in Derbyshire to £550,228 for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024.

- 4.10 Derby and Derbyshire ICB are also considering securing provision over the same period and therefore extending grant funding on this timeframe would also continue to align the two funding streams.
- 4.11 It is recommended that Cabinet approve proposals as set out above and receive further updates on developments and future plans for VCS infrastructure provision 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 Council’s commitments made to support VCS infrastructure provision in, 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 Council’s 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 improving the Council’s understanding of the outcomes it wishes to support, this option is not desirable at this time as the 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 on the development and implementation of the Council's voluntary and community sector (VCS) infrastructure approach over the last twelve months.
- b) Approves proposals to further develop and embed the approach as outlined in the report.
- c) Approve proposals to maintain existing funding to voluntary and community sector infrastructure organisations, as set out in the report, totalling £452,228 until 31 March 2024.

10. Reasons for Recommendations

- 10.1 To ensure Cabinet is aware of progress made on the development of the approach to VCS infrastructure provision over the last year.
- 10.2 To inform Cabinet of proposals to further develop the approach and ensure that there is a shared understanding of activity that will be required over the forthcoming twelve months to further develop the approach.
- 10.3 To ensure all infrastructure providers maintain their current levels of funding for an additional twelve-month period.

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

- 11.1 No

Report Author: Robert Lowe
robert.lowe@derbyshire.gov.uk

This report has been approved by the following officers:

On behalf of:

Director of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer
Director of Finance and ICT
Managing Executive Director
Executive Director(s)

Implications

Financial

1.1 The tables below summarise the budget allocations for the twelve-month period April 2023 to March 2024 against each grant area.

1.2 Infrastructure Funding

	Number	£'s
Adult Care Funding	10	245,336
Policy and Research Funding	11	206,892
Additional funding for allocation	NA	98,000
Total	30	550,228

1.3 All the proposed Adult Care and Policy and Research allocations, including the additional funding are based on funding agreed in respect of the 2023-24 year and can be met from existing Adult Care and Policy and Research budgets.

1.4 Moving forward, the budgets for infrastructure provision will be brought together into one corporate budget, to simplify arrangements and improve monitoring practices.

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 resource considerations.

Equalities Impact

4.1 The Council invests in 12 organisations across eight districts, High Peak district has four organisations for example, and Chesterfield has three.

4.2 A key outcome for the VCS review was to support a fairer and more equitable allocation of Council funding. Whilst equity of provision does not necessarily mean uniform funding, more work is needed to develop

a model for ensuring allocation of funds for VCS infrastructure is clear, proportionate to need and evidence-based.

- 4.3 This funding also provides specific, specialised infrastructure provision to support the rural and BME voluntary and community sector organisations across the County.

Other

- 5.1 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

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

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 7.1 The review of funding to the voluntary and community sector is a key priority outlined in the Council Plan. The review will ensure that resources allocated to the VCS support the Council's ambitions, 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 Grants

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 2023 – March 2024 (£'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 2023 – March 2024 (£'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

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

