



Report of: Executive Member for Community Development

Meeting of:	Date	Agenda item	Ward(s)
Voluntary and Community Sector Committee	04.11.19		All

SUBJECT: Voluntary and Community Sector Partnership Grants Programme 2020-2024

1 Synopsis

- 1.1. The council's four-year VCS Partnership Grants programme is due to end on 31st March 2020.
- 1.2. The current grant budget totals £2,696,000 per annum.
- 1.3. Since the launch of the council's VCS Partnership Grants Programme 2016-2020, the council has developed a new Corporate Plan, agreed a series of Corporate Objectives and Corporate Values, and has undertaken significant work to enable us to become the best council at early intervention and prevention in the country.
- 1.4. The council's VCS Partnership Grants Programme is a key component of the council's efforts to support the development of resilient communities. This paper sets out details of the current programme and recommends that authorisation is given to initiate the programme within a framework set out below. It also recommends the overall budget for the programme to be included in the Council's budget setting.

2 Recommendations

- 1.5. To approve the development of the Council's VCS Partnership Grants Programme, enabling consultation and co-production of the programme with key stakeholders, including elected members, council departments, Islington CCG and VCS partners
- 1.6. To agree the outline timetable for the development and delivery of the 2020-24 grants programme as outlined in appendix 1.

- 1.7. To approve the undertaking of explorative work with Islington CCG, Islington Primary Care Networks and the Islington GP Federation to assess the feasibility of establishing a joint approach to funding navigation, sign-posting and social prescribing services in the borough.
- 1.8. To approve an extension to the current programme in line with the timetable detailed in appendix 1 and authorise letters to be sent to all current grant recipients notifying them of the extension.

3 Background

Corporate Priorities and VCS Funding Mapping

- 1.9. In 2018 the council launched its 2018-2022 Corporate Plan 'Building a Fairer Islington'. This corporate plan detailed seven clear objectives related to Homes, Jobs and Money, Safety, Children and Young People, Place and Environment, Health and Independence and a Well Run Council. The council's corporate plan provides the over-arching framework for our work and the partnerships that the council forms with the voluntary and community sector.
- 1.10. The council has set out ambitions to adopt an early intervention and prevention approach to improve community resilience. Through this work a 'prevention' pyramid was established, segmenting services into four levels; 'specialist', 'targeted', 'universal' and 'place-shaping'. Achieving our aspiration of being the best council in the country at delivering preventative work will require a reorientation towards community resilience and a rebalance of our current spend towards early intervention and prevention work at 'universal' and 'place shaping levels'.
- 1.11. Islington's VCS are key partners in delivering an interconnected system of preventative services in community settings across the borough.
- 1.12. The 2018 Corporate Peer Challenge, highlighted a need to build on strengths within communities to further empower them and enable more resilience. It also challenged the council to establish greater clarity on how we work with the voluntary sector, including addressing overlapping commissioning arrangements.
- 1.13. The council's Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy 2016-2020 will end in 2020 and work is underway to develop a new Communities Strategy that will seek to establish a co-produced strategic framework for the council and VCS – framing the whole council's work with the VCS. This strategy will seek to empower communities to enable resilience through our partnership with the borough's VCS.

VCS Partnership Grants Programme 2016-2020

- 1.14. £2.7 million of the council's current annual £44 million spend with the borough's VCS is allocated through the council's VCS Partnership Grants Programme 2016-2020, a programme that provides core funding to strategic VCS partners. This programme was designed around the council's Corporate Plan 2014-2018 and the council's Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy 2016-20, and the funding provides the foundation for a strong, vibrant and independent VCS in the borough.
- 1.15. Islington's VCS Partnership Grants Programme serves as an enabler, ensuring that the borough has a strong, independent VCS that is able to respond to the needs of our local

communities and to attract resource into the borough. In 2018, the sector brought in over £22.4 million in grant funding to Islington. The current grants programme will end on 31st March 2020 and work is required to reframe the programme in relation to the Corporate Plan 2018-2022 and the council's ambitions for early intervention and prevention.

1.16. The council's VCS Core Grants Programme 2016-2020 was designed and delivered corporately, with pooled funding, co-design and joint delivery. The Advice fund was co-designed and jointly funded with Islington CCG. In line with the recommendations of the council's external peer review, any future VCS Partnership Grants Programme will need to build on, and further develop collaboration across the council and with our partners.

1.17. The 2016-2020 VCS Partnership Grants Programme provides funding to 50 VCS organisations, designed around five strands (Details of awards in appendix 2):

- Advice Strategic Partners Programme
- Neighbourhoods Strategic Partners Programme
- Borough-wide Strategic Partners Programme
- Volunteering Strategic Partners Programme
- Delivery Partners Programme

1.18. All partners were subject to a rigorous assessment process and ongoing monitoring as 'strategic partners'. Organisations are continuously assessed, monitored and supported through a Funder+ model in terms of; service delivery and outcomes for residents, governance, organisational management, financial management, fundraising capacity, communications, safeguarding, and data protection.

4 VCS Funding Mapping and VCS Grants Programme 2020-2024

1.19. The Council's VCS Partnership Grants Programme is a corporate undertaking, requiring collaboration across the organisation to ensure that that the programme responds to corporate priorities and the aims and objectives of different departments.

1.20. The VCS Partnership Grants Programme 2020-2024, will therefore require a 'whole-council' approach in terms of development, design, administration and monitoring.

1.21. In 2019, the council undertook a funding Mapping in partnership with Islington CCG to identify community-based early intervention and prevention services. This mapping highlighted £10.6million of VCS spend on services that can be broadly defined as community based early intervention and prevention services.

1.22. This mapping identified at least £990K of spend in navigation, sign-posting and social prescribing services at a time where NHS England has committed to building the infrastructure for social prescribing, with a 1,000 new Social Prescribing Link Workers in place, across the country by 2020/21. In Islington there will be one Social Prescribing Link Worker per PCN in 2019/20 (four Primary Care Networks (PCN) in Islington). The Council is committed to working with colleagues on health to ensure that resources in this area combine to give the best outcomes for residents.

1.23. The exact structure of the council's VCS Grants Programme 2020-24 will need to be co-designed and co-delivered, with involvement a range of Executive Members, directorates and external partners, including the CCG. Based on current arrangements and the opportunities identified through a mapping of grants and contracts that Islington CCG and the council hold with the borough's VCS, it is proposed that the future programme is structured around the following strands:

- Community Hubs
- Delivery Partners
- VCS Capacity Building
- Equalities and Cohesion Networks
- Volunteering
- Independent Advice
- Navigation and Social Prescribing

5 Financial Implications

- 1.24. The Council is committed to providing funding support to VCS organisations to a total of £2,696,000 per year over the period Financial Year 2020-2024. This will be reflected in the Budget Setting report to full Council in February 2020.
- 1.25. The Council are currently drafting a formal agreement to guarantee the funding of £119,000 from the CCG for the next four years. The CCG have indicated support for the agreement, but if the funding from the CCG is not available, the Council will require additional resources to support the programme.
- 1.26. It is intended that grant commitments will be protected for a four-year period although the award will be issued on a two-by-two-year basis as per the last grants programme.

6 Legal Implications

- 1.27. 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.
- 1.28. The Voluntary and Community Sector Committee is a sub-committee of the Executive and has delegated authority, in Part 5 of the Council's Constitution to 'oversee the Council's engagement with the Islington community and voluntary sector and to ensure value for money and fairness in the allocation of council resources to the sector' and to 'be responsible for the allocation off the Islington Community Fund including allocating the VCS Partnership Grants Programme.'
- 1.29. The provision of these grants is likely to be associated with state aid. The council can provide state aid in relation to 'services of general economic interest' (SGEI) as detailed in Article 106(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and Schedule 3 paragraph 4 of the Competition Act 1998.
- 1.30. Aid of up to €500,000 (approximately £435,000) may be provided to an organisation for SGEI so long as that organisation has not received de minimis aid from any other source in the last three fiscal years which would result in the total de minimis aid to that organisation

exceeding the €500,000 (Commission Regulation No 360/2012, the “de minimis Regulation”).

- 1.31. In the event that an organization has received other de minimis aid that takes it over the threshold of £435,000, there is an alternative regime for SGEI exemption for high value compensation that may be used. This was established by Commission Decision (2012/12/EU, the “Decision”) that came into force on 31 January 2012. Should this be necessary the detailed rules on calculation of cost and record keeping and reporting set out in the Decision will need to be complied with.

7 Environmental Implications

- 7.1 The grant programme in itself has minimal environmental impacts, being limited to those associated with the office use of the staff involved. However, the grants will be used to fund activities that are likely to have a range of environmental impacts. These impacts will be considered during the award process and detailed in the VCS Committee report.

Appendices

- Appendix 1: Voluntary and Community Sector Partnership Grants Programme 2020–2024
- Appendix 2: VCS Organisations Funded through the VCS Partnership Grants Programme 2016-202

Background papers: none

Final report clearance:

Signed by:

Date: 24th October 2019



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Appendix 1: Voluntary and Community Sector Partnership Grants Programme 2020–2024

Proposed Timeframe

Detail	Key Dates
▪ VCS Committee – To approve budget, framework of programme (strands and budget allocations) and timetable	04 November 2019
▪ Consultation and engagement with the VCS	November and December 2019
▪ Launch of the grants programme	06 January 2019
▪ Closing date for applications	15 March 2019
▪ VCS Committee – Decisions on final grant awards	01 June 2020
▪ Notification of end of grant awards to existing recipients	June 2020
▪ Start of grant awards	September 2020

Appendix 2: VCS Organisations Funded through the VCS Partnership Grants Programme 2016-2020

Organisation	Strand	Funding Per Annum
Help on Your Doorstep	Advice	£229,000
Islington Law Centre	Advice	£460,000
Citizens Advice Bureau	Advice	£470,000
Islington People's Rights	Advice	£230,000
Evelyn Oldfield Unit - Islington BAMER Advice Alliance	Advice	£25,000
Camden LGBT Forum	Borough-wide	£25,000
Islington Pensioners Forum	Borough-wide	£10,000
Every Voice	Borough-wide	£25,000
Islington Refugee Forum	Borough-wide	£20,000
Manor Gardens Welfare Trust	Borough-wide	£25,000
Octopus Community Network Limited	Borough-wide	£35,000
Voluntary Action Islington	Borough-wide	£40,000
Disability Action Islington	Borough-wide	£40,000
Islington Faiths Forum (IFF)	Borough-wide	£25,000
All Change	Delivery	£20,000
Alone in London	Delivery	£20,000
Asian Women Lone Parent Association (AWLPA)	Delivery	£15,000
Centre 404	Delivery	£20,000
Community Language Support Services	Delivery	£20,000
Copenhagen Youth Project	Delivery	£15,000
Eritrean Community UK	Delivery	£20,000
Healthy Generations	Delivery	£5,000
Holloway Neighbourhood Group	Delivery	£20,000
IMECE Women's Centre	Delivery	£20,000
Islington Bangladeshi Association	Delivery	£20,000
Islington Centre for Refugees	Delivery	£15,000
Islington Chinese Association	Delivery	£15,000
Islington Community Theatre	Delivery	£15,000
Islington Somali Community	Delivery	£20,000
Kurdish and Middle Eastern Women's Organisation	Delivery	£15,000
Light Project International	Delivery	£15,000
Little Angel Theatre	Delivery	£15,000
One True Voice	Delivery	£15,000
The Parent House	Delivery	£15,000
The Pilion Trust	Delivery	£20,000
The Stuart Low Trust	Delivery	£20,000
Tollington Parish Church	Delivery	£20,000
Caledonian Ward Neighbourhoods – Help on Your Doorstep	Neighbourhood	£27,000
Hanley Crouch Community Association Ltd	Neighbourhood	£60,000
Highbury Roundhouse	Neighbourhood	£50,000
Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust	Neighbourhood	£40,000
Hilldrop Area Community Association	Neighbourhood	£40,000
Holloway Neighbourhood Group	Neighbourhood	£40,000
Hornsey Lane	Neighbourhood	£40,000
Mildmay Community Partnership	Neighbourhood	£60,000

Muslim Welfare House	Neighbourhood	£40,000
Peel Institute	Neighbourhood	£40,000
St Luke's Parochial Trust	Neighbourhood	£60,000
Caxton House Community Centre	Neighbourhood	£40,000
Whittington Park Community Association	Neighbourhood	£60,000
Voluntary Action Islington	Volunteering	£35,000
Other – Unallocated		£10,000
	Total	£2,686,000