



SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL Cabinet Report

Report of: Chief Executive

Date: 27th February 2012

Subject: Voluntary Sector Grant Aid Investment 2013-14

Author of Report: Anne Giller (273 5126)

Summary: The purpose of this report is to seek approval for recommended awards from the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund for the period 1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014 and to operate a Lunch Clubs Fund.

Reasons for Recommendations:

The reason for the recommendations is to support the local voluntary sector by making awards of funding from the Council grant aid budget. The purpose of grant aid investment is

- to mobilise volunteering and promote active citizenship,
- to provide experience and training opportunities for local people and create jobs,
- to provide important services for local citizens and innovative responses to emerging social needs,
- to enable voluntary organisations to draw in external funding and boost the local economy.

Recommendations:

Cabinet is asked, having had due regard to the provisions of Sections 149 and 158 of the Equality Act 2010 and Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, and to the issues raised by those provisions, to approve the grant award recommendations listed in Appendix 1.

Cabinet is asked to endorse the award process described in Section 5 above and to approve the actions, arrangements and recommendations at Sections 6 and 12 above, and the following specific delegations:-

- (a) The Director, Policy, Partnership and Research is authorised:-
- (i) to administer the Lunch Clubs Fund as described in Appendix 1;
 - (ii) to agree the terms of and authorise the completion of all funding agreements relating to grants made from the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund and the Lunch Clubs Fund ('the Grant Funds'), together with any other associated

agreements or arrangements that he may consider appropriate, provided that if the terms of a proposed funding agreement involve the variation of any standard terms previously agreed by Internal Audit and / or Legal Services the agreement shall not be completed without the consent of the Chief Internal Auditor and the Director of Legal Services;

- (iii) where (a) a change of circumstance affects the ability of an organisation to deliver the purpose of the grant awarded, (b) the Director considers the performance of the organisation to be below an acceptable standard or (c) an organisation has breached any of the award conditions contained in their funding agreement, to review, adjust or suspend grant awards;
- (b) The Director, Policy, Partnership and Research, in consultation with Cabinet Member for Communities and Inclusion, is authorised:-
- (i) to carry out during the first six months of 2013-14 a review of the service provided by Shopmobility Sheffield and to decide the amount of grant (if any) to be awarded to Shopmobility Sheffield for the period from 1st October 2013 to 31st March 2014 and the terms on which this is paid;
 - (ii) to agree the amounts, purposes and recipients of any individual grants awarded in year from the Grant Funds including any additional sums received or returned or unpaid funds;
 - (iii) where (a) a change of circumstance affects the ability of an organisation to deliver the purpose of the grant awarded or (b) the Director considers the performance of the organisation to be below an acceptable standard or (c) an organisation has breached any of the award conditions contained in their funding agreement, to withdraw grant awards.

Background Papers: See attached report.

Category of Report: OPEN

Statutory and Council Policy Checklist

Financial Implications
YES Cleared by: Patricia Phillipson
Legal Implications
YES Cleared by: Andrew Bullock
Equality of Opportunity Implications
YES Cleared by: Adele Robinson
Tackling Health Inequalities Implications
NO
Human rights Implications
NO:
Environmental and Sustainability implications
NO
Economic impact
NO
Community safety implications
YES
Human resources implications
NO
Property implications
NO
Area(s) affected
Citywide
Relevant Cabinet Portfolio Leader
Cllr. Mazher Iqbal
Relevant Scrutiny Committee if decision called in
Safer, stronger communities
Is the item a matter which is reserved for approval by the City Council?
NO
Press release
YES

Voluntary Sector Grant Aid Investment 2013-14

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval for recommended investment in the voluntary and community sector for 2013-14 funded exclusively from the Council's core revenue budget. This budget is subject to approval of the Council budget for 2013-14 to be adopted at Council on 1st March 2013. The Council's Grant Aid budget is managed by a team within Policy, Partnership and Research, which is part of the former Deputy Chief Executive's portfolio. This report deals with the arrangements for the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund and the Lunch Clubs Fund in 2013-14. Individual recommendations for awards are contained in Appendix 1.
- 1.2 In 2013-14 the total proposed investment in grant aid is £2,538,000, which includes an amount of £49,000 transferring from the Communities portfolio to support the mental health priority of the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund *Building social inclusion and cohesion and fostering good relations* theme.
- 1.3 In reaching the recommendations proposed in Appendix 1 attention has been given to ensuring that the organisations to be funded are fit for purpose in terms of governance, service delivery and financial viability and that the investment represents good value in terms of outcomes for service users.

2.0 What does this mean for Sheffield people

- 2.1 The grants recommended in Appendix 1 of this report will support activities and services that will directly benefit a wide range of local citizens. Benefits for local people arising from the grants recommended in Appendix 1 include access to services for people experiencing domestic abuse, support for vulnerable adults, support for older people, opportunities for people from Black and ethnic minority communities and access to advice and advocacy services. Organisations awarded a grant will be asked to monitor service use, to provide a diversity profile of their service users and report how they manage their user consultation and involvement.
- 2.2 While the grants recommended in Appendix 1 will have a positive impact for a range of local people that use the organisations funded, the amount of funding available within the budget in 2013-14 will be at least £300,000 less than the budget in 2012-13. This constrains the decisions of the Grant Awards Recommendation Panel and means that amounts recommended may be lower than would otherwise have been and that fewer applications may be recommended for an award. Voluntary sector organisations usually rely on a variety of funding sources of which Council Grant Aid is only one, but other funding opportunities are also shrinking. As a result some organisations may need to reduce their service levels to manage within a reduced budget. Other organisations are looking at different ways of configuring their services to maintain their activities. Reductions in funding may mean job losses and reduced opportunities for volunteering.

- 2.3 The majority of the grants recommended in Appendix 1 will encourage significant opportunities for local people to contribute to the wellbeing of their communities by engaging in volunteering. They will support organisations providing quality training and the opportunity to gain experience that will enhance volunteers' skills and employability.
- 2.4 The grants recommended in Appendix 1 will enable local people to engage in active citizenship as trustees and management committee members shaping and guiding the development of these organisations and the services they provide.
- 2.5 The majority of the grants recommended in Appendix 1 will provide employment opportunities for local people by helping to sustain organisations that employ paid staff.
- 2.6 Included within the Grant Aid budget is an amount used to provide grants to a network of local lunch clubs. The majority of lunch clubs are small self-help groups run entirely by volunteers that encourage older people to participate in a range of activities that reduce social isolation and promote health and wellbeing in older age. Between 2,500 and 3,000 older people will benefit from attending these clubs in 2013-14.

3.0 Outcome and sustainability

- 3.1 Grants are a flexible and responsive way of providing support to local voluntary and community sector organisations. The grants recommended in this report will fulfil a number of functions, including sponsoring specific project work, providing core funding to sustain organisations where alternative income streams are not available and enabling organisations to lever in other funding.
- 3.2 As with all public funding we need to ensure that we achieve good value for money from this investment and that our spending in the voluntary sector helps to achieve wider efficiencies that are crucial at this time of reducing budgets. Each grant will be the subject of a funding agreement that will stipulate the specific outputs and outcomes to be achieved by the organisation in return for the grant. Performance will be monitored against this agreement during the grant period. Based on previous monitoring returns it is estimated that the activity delivered by the organisations recommended for funding will be enhanced by around 5,000 hours of volunteer input each week.
- 3.3 The current funding climate means that many organisations face having to make efficiency savings and consider radical changes to their operation in order to remain sustainable, while maximising their outputs and outcomes and delivering best value for money. During 2012-13 a number of important organisations in the city that provide infrastructure support to the voluntary and community sector in terms of capacity building and training and services such as HR, accountancy, volunteer recruitment, charitable and legal advice, finding funders and fundraising, etc. have come together to form a new partnership, known as FUSE. The aim of FUSE is to improve and streamline access to support for local groups and organisations and deliver efficiency

savings that will enable as much funding as possible to be focussed on frontline delivery rather than backroom costs. The partnership was successful in securing an award of £400,000 from the Government's Transforming Local Infrastructure (TLI) programme to provide financial support for this change process. The TLI funding ends in September 2013 and before this date we anticipate that there will be a number of significant developments. To take account of this and the impact it may have on how our grant aid might usefully be invested, it is proposed that awards made under the Infrastructure theme are for six months only. Progress will be reviewed prior to the end of September and further awards made in the light of this. There are currently 11 members in the FUSE partnership and 4 of these organisations are recommended for six months awards in Appendix 1 (page 23).

- 3.4 Appendix 1 includes recommendations for funding 16 local advice centres for the first six months of 2013-14 only (page 18). For the past two years local advice centres, through their consortium CLASSY, have been working together with Council officers to reshape the advice service delivery model across the city in order to take account of the changed funding landscape and to address some shortcomings in the current model. The new delivery model will have far-reaching consequences for existing organisations as it is intended to fund a standardised service delivered by a small number of larger and sustainable organisations. It is intended that this work will come to fruition during 2013-14. Three advice centres Sharrow CAB, Woodseats Advice Centre and Castle Advice Service merged in 2012 to form Sheaf Citizens Advice Bureau and some other centres are in advanced merger discussions. It is proposed that applications from advice centres to deliver to the new model from October 2013 onwards will be invited and determined prior to 1st October 2013 by the Director of Policy, Partnership and Research pursuant to the delegated authority sought from Cabinet in the recommendation in paragraph 13.2(b)(ii) of this report.

4.0 Reasons for the recommendations

- 4.1 The reason for the recommendations in Appendix 1 is to support the local voluntary sector by making awards of funding from the Council grant aid budget. The purposes of grant aid investment are
- to mobilise volunteering and promote active citizenship,
 - to provide experience and training opportunities for local people and create jobs,
 - to enable voluntary organisations to provide important services for local citizens and innovative responses to emerging social needs,
 - to enable voluntary organisations to draw in external funding and boost the local economy.

5.0 How the recommendations were reached

- 5.1 The Voluntary Sector Grants Fund was established by Cabinet in 2011 and the first awards were made from 1st July 2012. In line with the agreed processes consideration was given to the award of multi-year funding and 11

applicants were awarded a grant for a period of 21 months to 31st March 2014 (subject to a review of the actual amount to be awarded in 2013-14). Accordingly, applicants holding a 21 month agreement have not been required to reapply for funding in 2013-14 but the amounts recommended for payment to these organisations have been scrutinised by the Grant Awards Recommendation Panel in line with the reduced budget. The organisations concerned are Ben's Centre for Vulnerable People, City of Sanctuary, Languages Sheffield, Mental Health Action Group, New Beginnings (VAS), Sheffield Association for the Voluntary Teaching of English, Sheaf Citizens Advice Bureau, Sheffield Chinese Language School, Sheffield Credit Union, Sheffield Domestic Abuse Outreach Service and St Vincent de Paul Furniture Store.

- 5.2 The bidding round for the Fund for 2013-14 was advertised on the Council website and widely through various VCS networks in September 2012 with a closing date of 30th October. Funding was advertised under two themes that reflect aspects of the current priorities of the Council: *Building social inclusion and cohesion and fostering good relations* and *Supporting the local voluntary sector to thrive and deliver*.
- 5.3 It was decided not to advertise a third theme *Tackling poverty, promoting social justice and financial inclusion*, which is current in 2012-13 and will continue in 2013-14. The reason for this is that with two exceptions grants held under this theme in 2012-13 are all local advice providers; the two exceptions being Sheffield Credit Union and St Vincent de Paul Furniture Store, both of which hold 21 month agreements, which means that they were not required to reapply for funding for 2013-14. Given the uncertain future of the majority of the advice centres in their present form, as mentioned at paragraph 3.4 above it was decided that it would be unnecessarily burdensome and confusing to ask advice centres to make fresh applications for 2013-14. Instead a decision was taken to continue funding the currently funded advice services for 6 months to 30th September 2013. This means that the advice centres listed in Appendix 1 were not required to make an application for funding, but they were asked to indicate their desire to be funded from 1st April to 30th September 2013 and to comment on the impact of a funding reduction. This information was made available to the Grant Awards Recommendation Panel and is available for consultation by Cabinet members (contact Anne Giller, Voluntary Sector Liaison Team Manager). The amounts recommended for awards to these organisations in Appendix 1 were subject to consideration by the Grant Awards Recommendation Panel bearing in mind the reduced budget and the need to maintain an interim service while the arrangements for the new model are concluded.
- 5.4 In 2012 a review was conducted into the Sheffield Domestic Abuse Partnership, a multi-agency domestic abuse support service of which Sheffield Domestic Abuse Outreach Service is an integral part. The recommendations of the review that were agreed on 21st November 2012 by the Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Independent Living include changes to the future shape of service delivery and changes to existing funding arrangements involving the pooling of budgets across Council portfolios. In order to support the implementation of the review's recommendations it is proposed that the outcomes and outputs of the funding agreement with Sheffield Domestic

Abuse Outreach Service during the remainder of the 21 month period will become the responsibility of the Drugs and Alcohol and Domestic Abuse Co-ordination Team as part of the pooled budgets.

- 5.5 Applications to the VSGF were first checked by officers to ensure that they met the standard eligibility criteria. These criteria were formulated in September 2011 following consultation including consultation with the local voluntary and community sector. The Chair of the Grant Awards Recommendation Panel, the Cabinet member for Communities and Inclusion, was informed of any applications that did not meet the standard criteria and the reasons for this. Eligible applications went through an evaluation process involving an assessment comprising a series of judgement points covering strategic fit, quality of service and track record, approach to diversity and equality, financial risk and robustness and value for money. These judgement points were originally developed by the Director of Policy, Partnership and Research in consultation with the voluntary sector in September 2011 and were advertised as part of the application process.
- 5.6 The Grant Awards Recommendation Panel, chaired by the Cabinet member for Communities and Inclusion and comprised of two further elected members and the Director of Policy, Partnership and Research, met in November and December to formulate the recommendations to Cabinet listed in Appendix 1. The assessments and details of all applications were presented to the Panel. In formulating its recommendations the Panel took into account all relevant considerations including the equalities impact of the applications and statutory Best Value Guidance. It was guided heavily by the assessments and the quality of the applications. A report of the impact of these awards will be prepared after the end of the financial year 2014 and published on the Council website. The background papers for each application to the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund are available for consultation by Cabinet members (contact Anne Giller, Voluntary Sector Liaison Team Manager).
- 5.7 The Grant Awards Recommendation Panel decided to recommend awards to the following applicants based on the officer assessments: Ben's Centre for Vulnerable People, City of Sanctuary, Deaf Advice Service Sheffield, Emmaus Sheffield, Firth Park Advice Centre, Foxhill & Parson Cross Advice Centre, Haven House, Heeley Advice Centre, Heeley City Farm, Hillsborough & Area Advice Service, Langsett Advice Centre, Languages Sheffield, Mental Health Action Group Sheffield, New Beginnings, Northern Refugee Centre, Pakistan Advice and Community Association, Pitsmoor Citizens Advice Bureau, Pro-help, Roshni Asian Women's Resource Centre, Sheffield and District African-Caribbean Association, Sheffield Association for the Voluntary Teaching of English, Sheaf Citizens Advice Bureau, SHEBEEN, Sheffield Chinese Community Centre, Sheffield Chinese Language School, Sheffield Community Transport, Sheffield Credit Union, Sheffield Debt Support Unit, Sheffield Domestic Abuse Outreach Service, Sheffield Law Centre, Sheffield Mental Health Citizens Advice Bureau, Sheffield Rape & Sexual Abuse Counselling Service, Sheffield Women's Aid, Shopmobility Sheffield, South East Sheffield Citizens Advice Bureau, South Yorkshire Funding Advice Bureau, St Vincent de Paul Furniture Store, St Wilfrid's Centre, Tinsley Advice Service, Together for Regeneration, Voluntary Action Sheffield Lunch Clubs Support, Voluntary

Action Sheffield, Yemeni Community Association and Young Women's Housing Project.

- 5.8 The Grant Awards Recommendation Panel decided to recommend an additional award at their own discretion to the following applicant: Creative Pathways. The reason that the Panel decided to make this recommendation is to allow Creative Pathways an extended period of time (max 6 months) to consider joining the FUSE partnership.

6.0 Proposed grant spending 2013-14

- 6.1 The Council Grant Aid budget including the awards from the VSGF and the Lunch Clubs Fund proposed in Appendix 1 will contribute towards the Council's corporate plan *Standing Up for Sheffield* and in particular the following outcomes: 'Better Health and Wellbeing', 'Tackling Poverty and Increasing Social Justice' and 'Safe and Secure Communities'.
- 6.2 Details of recommended awards from the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund are attached to this report as Appendix 1, which provides brief details of the amount and purpose of the award being recommended. Each grant included in Appendix 1 will be the subject of a Funding Agreement that sets out the outputs, outcomes, milestones and conditions on which the funding is granted together with a budget of how the grant will be spent. Every grant is subject to a set of standard grant conditions approved by Legal Services. It is proposed that responsibility for attaching additional conditions to a grant where these have been identified as appropriate during the grant assessment process be delegated to the Director of Policy, Partnership and Research.
- 6.3 The majority of the awards recommended are for a period of 12 months. The grant to Shopmobility Sheffield is for 6 months and further funding is contingent upon the outcome of a review of the service during the first 6 months. It is proposed that responsibility for carrying out and deciding the outcome of this review should be delegated to the Director of Policy, Partnership and Research in consultation with the Cabinet member for Communities and Inclusion. The awards recommended under the Infrastructure theme to the FUSE partners are for 6 months for the reasons outlined at paragraph 3.3 above. The awards to 16 advice centres are also for 6 months for the reasons outlined at paragraph 3.4 above.

7.0 Legal Implications

- 7.1 The legal power for the Council to establish, administer and make awards from the various grant funds as described in this report is provided by the general power of competence contained in Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011. Subject to certain statutory restrictions, none of which apply in this case, Section 1 gives the Council "power to do anything that individuals generally may do".
- 7.2 In considering this report Cabinet must be mindful of the requirements imposed by the public sector equality duty enacted in Section 149 of the

Equality Act 2010. Some of the proposals in this report involve the taking of action to assist persons sharing 'protected characteristics' within the meaning of the 2010 Act to overcome or minimise disadvantage or otherwise meet their needs. This is permitted by Section 158 of the Act 2010. More details are set out below in section 8 of this report.

- 7.3 Cabinet must also have due regard to the likely effect of the proposals on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder, the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances and re-offending in its area (Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998). More details are set out below in section 9 of this report.
- 7.4 The European Commission has considered the issue of whether public sector financial support for credit unions constitutes unlawful state aid and takes the view that in some circumstances it may do so. Sheffield Credit Union holds an award from the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund that runs to March 2014 and was agreed in June 2012. In making the original award agreed in June 2012, officers in Legal Services were of the view that the grant to Sheffield Credit Union would not be unlawful. The funding agreement that covers this grant contains appropriate provisions in relation to this issue agreed with Legal Services.

8.0 Equality Implications

- 8.1 Section 149(1), Equality Act 2010 (the 'public sector equality duty') places a statutory duty on the Council to 'have due regard' when exercising its functions to the need to:-
- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act;
 - (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
 - (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- 8.2 Section 149(3) goes on to provide that having due regard to the need to advance such equality of opportunity involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:-
- (a) remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
 - (b) take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it; and
 - (c) encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.
- 8.3 For the purposes of Section 149 the relevant protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

- 8.4 Section 149(6) recognises that compliance with the Section 149 duties may involve treating some persons more favourably than others. However, this does not to permit conduct that would otherwise be prohibited by or under the Act.
- 8.5 Section 158 provides that if the Council reasonably thinks that:-
- (a) persons who share a protected characteristic suffer a disadvantage connected to the characteristic,
 - (b) persons who share a protected characteristic have needs that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it, or
 - (c) participation in an activity by persons who share a protected characteristic is disproportionately low,
- then the Act does not prohibit the Council from taking any action which is a proportionate means of achieving the aim of:-
- (i) enabling or encouraging persons who share the protected characteristic to overcome or minimise that disadvantage,
 - (ii) meeting those needs, or
 - (iii) enabling or encouraging persons who share the protected characteristic to participate in that activity.
- 8.6 In considering the application assessments the Panel was mindful of earlier reports concerning the future shape of funding to the voluntary sector and the equality impact assessments completed in relation to these changes notably in February 2011 and September 2011. The grant application form asked applicants to identify potential users with protected characteristics and describe how they ensure open and equal access to their services. In formulating their recommendations to Cabinet and deciding whether or not to recommend an award, the Panel took into account the impact, including equalities impact of the decisions they were making.
- 8.7 Some of the proposed grants are to groups serving members of ethnic minority communities where the activity or service to be funded will enable ethnic minorities to overcome a disadvantage connected to their ethnicity or will encourage participation in an activity where engagement by Black and ethnic minority people is disproportionately low. Some of the proposed grants are to organisations that provide single gender services, namely Roshni Asian Women's Resource Centre, Sheffield Rape and Sexual Abuse Counselling Service, Haven House, Sheffield Women's Aid, and Young Women's Housing Project, where the needs of women in relation to men are different. The Director of Policy, Partnership and Research is satisfied that all these proposed grants fall within the ambit of the positive action provisions of Section 158, and would be not only in line with the public sector equality duty, but examples of the Council's active compliance with this duty.
- 8.8 An equality impact assessment has been completed for this report and a copy of this document is attached as Appendix 2 (page 26). The Grant Aid budget is specifically aimed at supporting the local voluntary sector and as such has a positive impact on the sector. However the budget overall is continuing to reduce by comparison with previous years, which means that there is less funding available for investment in the sector through grant aid at a time when other funding sources are also reducing. Fewer grants are recommended and the value of some of the grants recommended is less than might be the case if

the budget was larger. This inevitably has a negative impact on the sector. Demand is managed by identifying a limited range of priorities for the funding. These priorities are chosen to align with current Council priorities and are aimed to ensure that groups with protected characteristics are not excluded. Applicants are asked to identify in their application how they address the particular needs of groups with protected characteristics. In deciding which awards to recommend to Cabinet the Grant Awards Recommendation Panel took into account the overall funding position of the applicant and the likely impact of the award including the impact on people with protected characteristics. Attention was paid to applicants that could demonstrate a positive approach to managing services within a reduced funding environment including collaborations and mergers and other efficiency savings aimed at delivering best value for the money available. Despite the reduced level of investment, positive impacts have been identified among the range of awards recommended for older people, women, disabled people, Black and ethnic minority people, the voluntary sector, financial inclusion and cohesion in the city. No specific negative impacts have been identified although the majority of awards recommended are less than the amounts requested in the applications, which may in some cases result in lower levels of service.

- 8.9 Organisations funded from this budget will be asked to provide information about the equality impact of the grant awarded in their monitoring returns. This information will be collated and reported in an annual report for each fund. These reports will be published on the Council website and notice of their publication is circulated to all elected members.

9.0 Community Safety Implications

- 9.1 Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 imposes a duty on the Council to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment), the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances and re-offending in its area.
- 9.2 Among the awards recommended in Appendix 1 are awards to eight organisations that deliver services that have a positive impact on community safety. These are Ben's Centre for Vulnerable People that works with and provides a place of safety for street drinkers; Sheffield Domestic Abuse Outreach Service, Haven House and Sheffield Women's Aid that work with victims of domestic abuse and in the case of the latter two organisations provide a place of refuge; Sheffield Rape and Sexual Abuse Counselling Service and the Young Women's Housing Project that work with victims of sexual abuse including child sexual abuse; and City of Sanctuary that works to promote positive community relations between the host community and refugees and asylum seekers.
- 9.3 None of the proposed awards is considered likely to have a negative impact on community safety.

10.0 HR Implications

- 10.1 Grant management including assessment, monitoring and reporting and the provision of advice and support to funded organisations will be undertaken within existing staff resources in 2013-14. There are no other additional Council human resource implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

11.0 Environmental Implications

- 11.1 There are no specific environmental implications arising from this report.

12.0 Financial Implications

- 12.1 The core budget for grant aid for 2013-14 has been prepared on the basis of the budget allocated to grant aid by Council at its meeting on 9th March 2012 after any in-year cash limit adjustments and minus 7.5%. As part of the Council's budget setting process an equality impact assessment was completed in November 2012 and consulted upon in January 2012 in relation to this budget reduction. The action plan associated with this equality impact assessment identified that a robust and transparent assessment process would be used to ensure that applications for Grant Aid offer value for money and fit with the Council's current priorities. Wherever relevant we will support local VCS organisations in their applications to other external funders. We will continue to make funding available to support infrastructure services that help local VCS organisations to identify and apply for external funding. We will make every effort to ensure that when decisions are made about the award of grants from the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund account is taken of other funding to the organisations from elsewhere in the Council and the level of any reductions being applied to that funding.
- 12.2 The financial implications arising from the proposals contained within this report can be summarised as follows:

	£
Proposed Provisional budget (includes £49,000 to transfer from Communities)	2,538,000
VSGF Grants recommended in Appendix 1	1,643,698
Lunch Club Fund	170,000
Balance including ringfenced sums to be allocated in year	724,302
Proposed total expenditure	2,538,000

- 12.3 An amount of £49,000 will be transferred as a cash limit adjustment from the Communities portfolio to support grants awarded under the mental health priority of the *Building social inclusion and cohesion and fostering good relations* theme.

12.4 Other sums may be received in year from other parts of the Council or other partners to be managed as part of the grant aid process to fund local voluntary sector activity. It is recommended that decisions to award grants in year from the grant aid budget, including any additional sums, returned or unpaid funds, be delegated to the Director of Policy, Partnership and Research in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Communities and Inclusion.

13.0 Recommendations

13.1 Cabinet is asked, having had due regard to the provisions of Sections 149 and 158 of the Equality Act 2010 and Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, and to the issues raised by those provisions, to approve the grant award recommendations listed in Appendix 1.

13.2 Cabinet is asked to endorse the award process described in Section 5 above and to approve the actions, arrangements and recommendations at Sections 6 and 12 above, and the following specific delegations:-

(a) The Director, Policy, Partnership and Research is authorised:-

(i) to administer the Lunch Clubs Fund as described in Appendix 1;

(ii) to agree the terms of and authorise the completion of all funding agreements relating to grants made from the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund and the Lunch Clubs Fund ('the Grant Funds'), together with any other associated agreements or arrangements that he may consider appropriate, provided that if the terms of a proposed funding agreement involve the variation of any standard terms previously agreed by Internal Audit and / or Legal Services the agreement shall not be completed without the consent of the Chief Internal Auditor and the Director of Legal Services;

(iii) where (a) a change of circumstance affects the ability of an organisation to deliver the purpose of the grant awarded, (b) the Director considers the performance of the organisation to be below an acceptable standard or (c) an organisation has breached any of the award conditions contained in their funding agreement, to review, adjust or suspend grant awards;

(b) The Director, Policy, Partnership and Research, in consultation with Cabinet Member for Communities and Inclusion, is authorised:-

(i) to carry out during the first six months of 2013-14 a review of the service provided by Shopmobility Sheffield and to decide the amount of grant (if any) to be awarded to Shopmobility Sheffield for the period from 1st October 2013 to 31st March 2014 and the terms on which this is paid;

(ii) to agree the amounts, purposes and recipients of any individual grants awarded in year from the Grant Funds including any additional sums received or returned or unpaid funds;

- (iii) where (a) a change of circumstance affects the ability of an organisation to deliver the purpose of the grant awarded or (b) the Director considers the performance of the organisation to be below an acceptable standard or (c) an organisation has breached any of the award conditions contained in their funding agreement, to withdraw grant awards.

John Mothersole
Chief Executive

Voluntary Sector Grants Fund

Proposed awards 1st April 2012-31st March 2014

The proposed awards are grouped alphabetically by name of organisation under three funding themes

Theme 1: Building social inclusion and cohesion and fostering good relations

Ben`s Centre for Vulnerable People (Sheffield)

Charitable limited company founded in 1996 and based in premises on Orange Street off West Street. Managed by a Committee of 5. Provides a service for street drinkers 4 days a week offering a safe accessible environment where users can get food, clean clothes and information and advice about access to other services. Also provides activities and support to enable users to develop skills and become rehabilitated into the community.

Recommendation

To award a grant from the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund of £54,000 for the period 1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014 as a contribution towards work with vulnerable street drinkers in line with outputs, outcomes and budget to be specified in a funding agreement.

City of Sanctuary

Charitable limited company founded in 2005 and based in Victoria Hall on Norfolk Street. Managed by a Committee of 7. Provides awareness raising and cross cultural activities with the help of refugee and asylum seeker volunteers to encourage a culture of welcome, hospitality and mutual understanding.

Recommendation

To award a grant from the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund of £25,000 for the period 1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014 as a contribution towards work to promote cohesion in line with outputs, outcomes and budget to be specified in a funding agreement.

Emmaus Sheffield

Charitable limited company and affiliate member of Emmaus UK founded in 2000 and based in Sipelia Works on Cadman Street. Managed by a Committee of 10. Runs a self-supporting community for homeless people in Sheffield. The community offers a home, employment and a sense of belonging to residents, who refurbish and sell donated goods through an on-site shop.

Recommendation

To award a grant from the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund of £27,000 for the period 1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014 as a contribution towards the community companions project for homeless people in line with outputs, outcomes and budget to be specified in a funding agreement.

Haven House Project

Charitable limited company founded in 1975 and based in housing association premises. Managed by a Committee of 5. Services include supported accommodation, advice on benefits, housing and legal rights, emotional support, resettlement and outreach, therapeutic support for children and young people, in-house activities for women and an outreach service.

Recommendation

To award a grant from the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund of £10,600 for the period 1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014 as a contribution towards therapeutic work with children in line with outputs, outcomes and budget to be specified in a funding agreement.

Heeley City Farm

Charitable limited company founded in 1981 and based at Council owned site on Richards Road. Managed by a Committee of 5. Runs an urban farm with training and educational activities including vocational courses for unemployed adults, an environmental education service and specific programmes for volunteers, young people and adults with learning disabilities. Houses the South Yorkshire Energy Centre.

Recommendation

To award a grant from the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund of £31,560 for the period 1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014 as a contribution towards maintaining volunteering opportunities for vulnerable people in line with outputs, outcomes and budget to be specified in a funding agreement.

Languages Sheffield

Charitable limited company formed in 2007 and based at The Circle, Rockingham Lane. Managed by a Committee of 8. Supports and develops complementary language schools across different ethnic minority communities within the city. Also takes a lead on improving cultural and linguistic awareness across the city.

Recommendation

To award a grant from the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund of £35,000 for the period 1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014 as a contribution towards developing and maintaining the standards of local complementary language schools in line with outputs, outcomes and budget to be specified in a funding agreement.

Mental Health Action Group

Registered charity founded in 1992 and based in Council owned premises at Castle Market. User-led organisation managed by a Committee of 12. Runs a drop-in centre offering group activities and support for people with severe mental health problems.

Recommendation

To award a grant from the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund of up to £12,000 for the period 1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014 as a contribution towards running a self help organisation for mental health service users in line with outputs, outcomes and

budget to be specified in a funding agreement. The full amount of this grant will only be paid if the organisation moves out of Castle Markets as planned and needs a contribution towards higher rent and running costs.

Roshni Asian Women`s Resource Centre

Registered charity founded in 1992 and based in own shop front premises on London Road. Managed by a committee of 7. Provides a resource centre for Asian women across the city where women of all ages can access a varied programme of services and activities, including a mentoring service, information, advice and support sessions, advocacy, training, youth provision, cultural events and health and well-being activities.

Recommendation

To award a grant from the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund of £54,420 for the period 1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014 as a contribution towards work to develop opportunities and support services for Asian women in line with outputs, outcomes and budget to be specified in a funding agreement.

SHEBEEN

Charitable limited company founded in 2003 and based in rented space at the SYAC building on the Wicker. Managed by a committee of 4. Provides environmental activities in Sheffield that engage BME people of all ages in environmental activities in which they are under-represented.

Recommendation

To award a grant from the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund of £23,600 for the period 1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014 as a contribution towards work to develop a programme of activities in line with outputs, outcomes and budget to be specified in a funding agreement.

Sheffield & District African Caribbean Community Association

Charitable limited company founded in 1955 and based in Council owned premises on the Wicker. Managed by a Committee of 20. Provides a base for activities to benefit the African-Caribbean community citywide.

Recommendation

To award a grant from the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund of £70,000 for the period 1st July 2012 to 31st March 2013 as a contribution towards services to the African Caribbean community in line with outputs, outcomes and budget to be specified in a funding agreement.

Sheffield Association for the Voluntary Teaching of English

Charitable limited company founded in 1999 and based at Scotia Works. Managed by a Committee of 7. Recruits and trains volunteers to teach English as a second language. Provides individual tuition for people unable to access mainstream provision and supports learners to progress from one-to-one tuition to group based learning.

Recommendation

To award a grant from the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund of £48,600 for the period 1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014 as a contribution towards the delivery of pre-ESOL language tuition in line with outputs, outcomes and budget to be specified in a funding agreement.

Sheffield Chinese Community Centre

Registered charity founded in 1995 and based in own shop front premises on London Road. Managed by a Committee of 9. Provides a point for access to services and a focus for social, cultural and educational activities for the Sheffield Chinese community. Runs three main projects concentrating on health, mental health and youth participation. Also houses an outreach advice service from Sharrow Citizens Advice Bureau for the Chinese and Vietnamese community.

Recommendation

To award a grant from the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund of £30,000 for the period 1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014 as a contribution towards the delivery of services to the Chinese community in line with outputs, outcomes and budget to be specified in a funding agreement.

Sheffield Chinese School

Charitable limited company formed in 1973. The school is managed by a sub-committee of 11 as part of Sheffield Chinese Association. Runs a large complementary language school open to all and catering for all age ranges up to A level standard at King Edward VII School on Glossop Road.

Recommendation

To award a grant from the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund of £8,400 for the period 1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014 as a contribution towards the delivery of a complementary language school in line with outputs, outcomes and budget to be specified in a funding agreement.

Sheffield Community Transport

Industrial and provident society founded in 1988 and based in privately rented premises in Montgomery Terrace Road. Managed by a Committee of 6. Runs a Community Car Scheme that uses volunteer drivers to transport disabled people.

Recommendation

To award a grant from the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund of £24,000 for the period 1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014 as a contribution towards the delivery of a volunteer car transport scheme in line with outputs, outcomes and budget to be specified in a funding agreement.

Sheffield Rape & Sexual Abuse Counselling Service

Registered charity founded in 1980 and based in own premises. Managed by a Committee of 6. Provides a citywide counselling service for self-referred women who have experienced sexual abuse.

Recommendation

To award a grant from the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund of £52,000 for the period 1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014 as a contribution towards counselling services for women and girls in line with outputs, outcomes and budget to be specified in a funding agreement.

Sheffield Women`s Aid

Charitable limited company, affiliated to national organisation, founded in 1974 and based in privately owned premises. Managed by a Committee of 7. Provides emergency safe accommodation for women and children leaving situations of domestic violence. Also provides aftercare and resettlement support and an outreach service for non-resident women living in violent situations.

Recommendation

To award a grant from the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund of £13,200 for the period 1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014 as a contribution towards therapeutic work with children in line with outputs, outcomes and budget to be specified in a funding agreement.

Shopmobility Sheffield

Charitable limited company based at Westhill Lane Municipal Car Park off West Street. Managed by a Committee of 12. Runs a scooter and wheelchair loan scheme.

Recommendation

To award a grant from the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund of £14,000 for the 6 month period 1st April 2013 to 30th September 2013 as a contribution towards the provision of a scooter and wheelchair loan scheme in line with outputs, outcomes and budget to be specified in a funding agreement. An amount of up to £14,000 will be ringfenced within the budget to support similar activity during the second six months of 2013-14. Award of this funding will be contingent on the outcomes of a review of this service to be carried out during the first six months of 2013-14.

St Wilfrid's Centre

Registered charity administered by the Diocese of Hallam Trust and based in its own premises on Queen's Road. Managed by a committee of 10. Provides welfare support and a wide range of activities for homeless and vulnerable people the majority of whom have mental health problems.

Recommendation

To award a grant from the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund of £52,000 for the period 1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014 as a contribution towards welfare and development support for people with mental health problems in line with outputs, outcomes and budget to be specified in a funding agreement.

Voluntary Action Sheffield (New Beginnings)

Charitable limited company founded in 1925 and based in its own premises at The Circle, Rockingham Lane. Managed by a committee of 13. Provides a range of

infrastructure support services for voluntary, community and faith sector groups and organisations across the city. New Beginnings is a project developed by the VAS Volunteer Centre to assist the integration of refugees and support them to contribute to the life of the city by engaging in volunteering opportunities with local community organisations.

Recommendation

To award a grant from the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund of £17,400 for the period 1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014 as a contribution towards the delivery of a volunteer programme for refugees in line with outputs, outcomes and budget to be specified in a funding agreement.

Young Women`s Housing Project

Charitable limited company founded in 1983 and based in Council owned premises. Managed by a Committee of 5. Offers safe accommodation and support to 16-25 year old women survivors of sexual abuse or violence. Provides a support service including life skills training to enable residents to move towards independent living. Offers outreach and continuing support to former residents.

Recommendation

To award a grant from the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund of £28,000 for the period 1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014 as a contribution towards therapeutic support for young women in line with outputs, outcomes and budget to be specified in a funding agreement.

Sheffield Domestic Abuse Outreach Service (SDAOS)

Charitable limited company founded in 1994 and based in privately owned premises. Managed by a Committee of 7. Operates a citywide support service for individuals who have experienced domestic abuse. Services include Power to Change programme, one to one safety planning and emotional support and self-help groups.

Recommendation

To award a grant from the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund of £145,000 for the period 1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014 as a contribution towards the delivery of a community based outreach service for people experiencing domestic abuse. This funding will be transferred to be managed by the Drug, Alcohol and Domestic Abuse Action Team as part of a pooled budget in line with recommendations agreed following a review of the Domestic Abuse Partnership in 2012. The grant will be used to fund the delivery of outputs, outcomes and budget to be specified in a funding agreement that reflects the redesigned service to be launched in April 2013.

Theme 2: Tackling poverty, promoting social justice and financial inclusion

Deaf Advice Service Sheffield

Charitable limited company founded in 1985 and based in premises rented from Voluntary Action Sheffield at The Circle on Rockingham Lane. Managed by a Committee of 11. Provides a city-wide advice service for Deaf and hearing impaired people and their families in Sheffield.

Recommendation

To award a grant from the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund of £18,708 for the period 1st April 2013 to 30th September 2013 as a contribution towards the delivery of advice services in line with outputs, outcomes and budget to be specified in a funding agreement.

Firth Park Advice Centre

Registered charity founded in 1982 and based in own premises in Stubbin Lane. Managed by a Committee of 16. Provides neighbourhood based advice service and participates in the delivery of the citywide Advice Sheffield telephone line.

Recommendation

To award a grant from the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund of £28,284 for the period 1st April 2013 to 30th September 2013 as a contribution towards the delivery of advice services in line with outputs, outcomes and budget to be specified in a funding agreement.

Foxhill and Parson Cross Advice Service Ltd.

Charitable limited company founded in 1988 and based in own premises on Wordsworth Avenue. Managed by a Committee of 9. Provides neighbourhood based advice service and participates in the delivery of the citywide Advice Sheffield telephone line.

Recommendation

To award a grant from the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund of £51,507 for the period 1st April 2013 to 30th September 2013 as a contribution towards the delivery of advice services in line with outputs, outcomes and budget to be specified in a funding agreement.

Heeley Advice Centre

Charitable limited company founded in 1981 and based in Heeley Green Centre. Managed by a Committee of 13. Provides neighbourhood based advice service.

Recommendation

To award a grant from the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund of £8,230 for the period 1st April 2013 to 30th September 2013 as a contribution towards the delivery of advice services in line with outputs, outcomes and budget to be specified in a funding agreement.

Hillsborough and Area Advice Service

Charitable limited company founded in 2004 and based in premises at the Baptist Tabernacle off Hillsborough Corner. Managed by a Committee of 13. Provides neighbourhood based advice service and participates in the delivery of the citywide Advice Sheffield telephone line.

Recommendation

To award a grant from the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund of £28,190 for the period 1st April 2013 to 30th September 2013 as a contribution towards the delivery of advice services in line with outputs, outcomes and budget to be specified in a funding agreement.

Langsett Advice and Area Resource Centre

Charitable limited company founded in 1979 and based in Council premises at Creswick Street Children`s Centre. Managed by a Committee of 11. Provides neighbourhood based advice service.

Recommendation

To award a grant from the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund of £14,665 for the period 1st April 2013 to 30th September 2013 as a contribution towards the delivery of advice services in line with outputs, outcomes and budget to be specified in a funding agreement.

Northern Refugee Centre

Charitable limited company founded in 1983 and based at Scotia Works and Castle Market. The charity has a geographical remit beyond the city and is managed by a committee of 11. In Sheffield it provides a range of support services for refugees, asylum seekers and new arrivals, including city-wide advice and support services.

Recommendation

To award a grant from the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund of £18,513 for the period 1st April 2013 to 30th September 2013 as a contribution towards the delivery of advice services in line with outputs, outcomes and budget to be specified in a funding agreement.

Pakistan Advice and Community Association

Registered charity founded in 1993 and based in privately rented accommodation on Pagehall Road. Managed by a Committee of 9. Provides advice and advocacy service, citizenship classes and other cohesion activities.

Recommendation

To award a grant from the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund of £17,741 for the period 1st April 2013 to 30th September 2013 as a contribution towards the delivery of advice services in line with outputs, outcomes and budget to be specified in a funding agreement.

Pitsmoor Citizens Advice Bureau

Charitable limited company formed in 1975 based in own shop front premises on Spital Hill. Managed by a Committee of 8. Provides neighbourhood based advice service and participates in the delivery of the citywide Advice Sheffield telephone line.

Recommendation

To award a grant from the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund of £78,742 for the period 1st April 2013 to 30th September 2013 as a contribution towards the delivery of advice services in line with outputs, outcomes and budget to be specified in a funding agreement.

Sheaf Citizens Advice Bureau

Charitable limited company formed in 2012 from the merger of Castle Advice Service, Sharrow Citizens Advice Bureau and Woodseats Advice Centre and based in rented premises on Duke street, London Road and Chesterfield Road. Managed by a Committee of 9. Provides neighbourhood based advice service and participates in the delivery of the citywide Advice Sheffield telephone line.

Recommendation

To award a grant from the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund of £133,300 for the period 1st April 2013 to 30th September 2013 as a contribution towards the delivery of advice services in line with outputs, outcomes and budget to be specified in a funding agreement.

Sheffield Citizens Advice Bureau Debt Support Unit

Charitable limited company founded in 1988 and based in privately rented premises in the Old Dairy on Broadfield Road. Managed by a Committee of 5. Provides training for advice workers on a range of social welfare law topics and citywide debt consultancy service for neighbourhood advice centres. Manages the Financial Inclusion Fund project in Sheffield increasing debt advice across the city. Also participates in the delivery of the citywide Advice Sheffield telephone line.

Recommendation

To award a grant from the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund of £46,064 for the period 1st April 2013 to 30th September 2013 as a contribution towards the delivery of advice service training (£34,700) and debt advice services in line with outputs, outcomes and budget to be specified in a funding agreement.

Sheffield Credit Union

Industrial and provident society founded in October 2004 and based in privately rented premises on Commercial Street. Managed by a Committee of 10. Provides a citywide credit union and financial services.

Recommendation

To award a grant from the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund of £50,000 for the period 1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014 as a contribution towards three projects to develop customer services in line with outputs, outcomes and budget to be specified in a funding agreement.

Sheffield Law Centre

Charitable limited company founded in 1984 and based in privately rented premises off the Wicker. Managed by a Committee of 8. Provides a citywide legal advice service primarily in employment, immigration, anti-discrimination and housing law and training for advice centres and other community groups.

Recommendation

To award a grant from the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund of £56,095 for the period 1st April 2013 to 30th September 2013 as a contribution towards the delivery of legal advice and representation in line with outputs, outcomes and budget to be specified in a funding agreement.

Sheffield Mental Health Citizens Advice Bureau

Charitable limited company founded in 1980 and based in NHS owned premises at the Carlisle Centre, Nether Edge Hospital. Managed by a Committee of 11. Provides a city-wide advice and advocacy service for mental health service users living in hospital and in the community.

Recommendation

To award a grant from the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund of £25,392 for the period 1st April 2013 to 30th September 2013 as a contribution towards the delivery of advice services in line with outputs, outcomes and budget to be specified in a funding agreement.

South East Sheffield Citizens Advice Bureau

Charitable limited company founded in 1979 and based in its own shop front premises in Mosborough. Managed by a Committee of 12. Provides neighbourhood based advice service and a citywide advice service for the Gypsy and Traveller community. Also participates in the delivery of the citywide Advice Sheffield telephone line.

Recommendation

To award a grant from the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund of £51,480 for the period 1st April 2013 to 30th September 2013 as a contribution towards the delivery of advice services in line with outputs, outcomes and budget to be specified in a funding agreement.

St Vincent de Paul Furniture Store

Local branch of international charity founded in 1986 located in diocese owned premises on Queens Road. Managed by a Committee of 9. Provides free furniture to families in need across the city. Referrals are accepted from registered statutory and voluntary sector organisations, including the Council, advice centres and GPs.

Recommendation

To award a grant from the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund of £71,000 for the period 1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014 as a contribution towards the delivery of a furniture

recycling service for people in need in line with outputs, outcomes and budget to be specified in a funding agreement.

Tinsley Advice Service

Registered charity founded in 1984 and based in rented premises in a community building on Bawtry Road. Managed by a Committee of 11. Provides neighbourhood based advice service.

Recommendation

To award a grant from the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund of £24,000 for the period 1st April 2013 to 30th September 2013 as a contribution towards the delivery of advice services in line with outputs, outcomes and budget to be specified in a funding agreement.

Yemeni Community Association Sheffield

Charitable limited company founded in 1984 and based at the Yemeni Economic and Training Centre on Attercliffe Road. Managed by a Committee of 8. Provides a range of services to the local Yemeni community including an advice service from a base at the Firvale Centre.

Recommendation

To award a grant from the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund of £8,507 for the period 1st April 2013 to 30th September 2013 as a contribution towards the delivery of advice services in line with outputs, outcomes and budget to be specified in a funding agreement.

Theme 3: Supporting the local voluntary sector to thrive and deliver

Voluntary Action Sheffield (Lunch Clubs)

VAS is delivering a support and development service for the network of lunch clubs across the city including around 65 clubs that receive Council funding. This work replaces services formerly provided by the organisation Agewell and Lunch Clubs in Sheffield.

Recommendation

To award a grant from the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund of £53,500 for the period 1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014 as a contribution towards the development and support of older people's lunch clubs and activity groups in line with outputs, outcomes and budget to be specified in a funding agreement.

Joint application from the FUSE partnership

FUSE is a partnership of 11 support services for frontline voluntary and community sector organisations across Sheffield. The partnership led by Voluntary Action Sheffield was formed following the award of £400,000 from the Government's Transforming Local Infrastructure (TLI) programme. The TLI project, which ends in September 2013 provides funding for the partnership to reconfigure their services to deliver an infrastructure offer for the city that is streamlined, accessible, customer efficient, value for money and affordable

Recommendation

To ring-fence up to £150,000 from the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund to support infrastructure services to be delivered by the FUSE partners in 2013-14. To make four awards from this ringfenced amount as detailed below for the first six month period. To review progress before the end of September 2013 and make awards for the second six month period in line with the legacy of the TLI project, Council priorities and value for money. Awards recommended for the period 1st April to 30th September 2013 are as follows:

1) South Yorkshire Funding Advice Bureau

Charitable limited company founded in 1990 and based in privately rented premises on Paternoster Row. Managed by a Committee of 7. Provides funding information, advice and training to front-line voluntary and community groups in Sheffield and across South Yorkshire. Also delivers cost effective information using the Internet and email.

Recommendation

To award a grant from the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund of £21,000 for the period for the period 1st April 2013 to 30th September 2013 as a contribution towards a funding advice service for the Sheffield voluntary, community and faith sector in line with outputs, outcomes and budget to be specified in a funding agreement.

2) South Yorkshire ProHelp

Part of Business in the Community, a charitable limited company founded in 1982. South Yorkshire ProHelp is based in premises provided by Yorkshire Water on Newton Chambers Road. Managed by a Committee of 11. Supports voluntary and community groups to develop their skills and capacity by providing access to pro

bono professional expertise in areas such as law, finance, architecture, public relations, marketing and management.

Recommendation

To award a grant from the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund of £5,000 for the period 1st April 2013 to 30th September 2013 as a contribution towards the development of pro bono support from the business community for Sheffield voluntary sector organisations in line with outputs, outcomes and budget to be specified in a funding agreement.

3) Together for Regeneration

Charitable limited company founded in 1999 as a project within the Diocese of Sheffield. Based in diocese premises on Effingham Street and managed by a Committee of 5. Provides infrastructure support to build the capacity of voluntary community and faith sector organisations in South Yorkshire.

Recommendation

To award a grant from the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund of £1,500 for the period 1st April 2013 to 30th September 2013 as a contribution towards infrastructure support for Sheffield voluntary, community and faith organisations in Sheffield in line with outputs, outcomes and budget to be specified in a funding agreement.

4) Voluntary Action Sheffield

Charitable limited company founded in 1925 and based in its own premises at The Circle, Rockingham Lane. Managed by a committee of 13. Provides a range of infrastructure support services for voluntary, community and faith sector groups and organisations across the city, including payroll, accountancy, community development and volunteering opportunities. Also provides a training programme across a range of topics relevant to the voluntary sector. The Circle offers rented office space for organisations and meeting and training rooms for hire. VAS runs a Volunteer Centre that provides a brokerage service putting potential volunteers in touch with volunteering opportunities in the city and works with organisations to improve the quality of volunteer placements.

Recommendation

To award a grant from the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund of £41,500 for the period 1st April 2013 to 30th September 2013 as a contribution towards the provision of a volunteer centre and infrastructure support services including community accountancy and small group development for the Sheffield voluntary, community and faith sector in line with outputs, outcomes and budget to be specified in a funding agreement.

Creative Pathways

Charitable limited company founded in 2010 based in rented premises at Spartan House on Carlisle Street. Managed by a committee of 3. Provides infrastructure capacity building services to BME organisations and community development support for BME residents.

Recommendation

To award a grant from the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund of £15,000 for the period 1st April 2013 to 30th September 2013 as a contribution towards the provision of infrastructure support services including fundraising, financial management,

governance and legal advice for Sheffield voluntary, community and faith sector organisations in line with outputs, outcomes and budget to be specified in a funding agreement.

Lunch Clubs Fund

The purpose of this fund is to promote the Council's strategy to support the independence, health and wellbeing of older people by making available a fund offering grants to lunch clubs. Evidence shows that an active and positive old age reduces the likelihood of reliance on statutory services. The majority of lunch clubs are self-help groups run by and for older people and provide a forum to socialise, share a meal and undertake group activities. Membership comprises mainly people aged over 70 and increasing numbers of people aged in their 80s and 90s including a few aged over 100. The clubs take self-referrals and referrals from relatives and health and social care professionals. In 2011-12 over 2,500 older people attended a lunch club and the clubs delivered over 80,000 hot meals.

Applications to the Lunch Clubs Fund are invited from clubs on a year on year basis in advance of each financial year. All awards are under £10,000 and decisions are delegated to the Director, Policy, Partnership and Research on the recommendation of a Grant Awards Recommendation Panel convened for the purpose. Authority is delegated to the Director, Policy, Partnership and Research to determine how the grants are calculated and to vary awards from this Fund during the year because of a change in a lunch club's circumstances and to make new awards from any unallocated spend within the budget to clubs setting up. A full report of the awards made from this Fund is produced after the end of each financial year. This is circulated to elected members and published on the Council's website.

Recommendations

To allocate a Lunch Clubs Fund of £170,000 (plus any additional sums which may be received by the Council specifically for this purpose) for the period 1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014.

To confirm the delegated powers to administer the Fund set out above.

Sheffield City Council Equality Impact Assessment



[Guidance for completing this form is available on the intranet](#)

Help is also available by selecting the grey area and pressing the F1 key

Name of policy/project/decision: Council Grant Aid Investment 2013-14

Status of policy/project/decision: New

Name of person(s) writing EIA: Anne Giller

Date: 12th November 2012

Service: Policy Partnership and Research

Portfolio: Deputy Chief Executive's

What are the brief aims of the policy/project/decision? To agree awards from the Grant Aid budget 2013-14. The budget has reduced from the amount available in 2013-14 by around £300,000.

Are there any potential Council staffing implications, include workforce diversity? No

Under the [Public Sector Equality Duty](#), we have to pay due regard to: "Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations." [More information is available on the council website](#)

Areas of possible impact	Impact	Impact level	Explanation and evidence (Details of data, reports, feedback or consultations. This should be proportionate to the impact.)
Age	Positive	Medium	Evidence collected from 46 organisations awarded a Revenue Grant in 2011-12 delivering a wide range of different services showed that 19% of beneficiaries were aged over 60 and 6% were aged under 20. The report includes a recommendation to continue to provide a Lunch Clubs Fund which will support around 65 different lunch clubs that operate in localities around the city. The clubs are self-help groups run by and for older people. Between 2,500 and 3,000 older people will benefit from attending a lunch club during the year. This includes numbers of older people aged in their 80s and 90s for whom attendance is sometimes their only regular outing. Clubs take self-referrals and referrals from relatives and social and health care workers who refer older people recovering from illness, bereavement, etc. Among the VSGF grants being recommended is a grant to fund development support

Appendix 2

Areas of possible impact	Impact	Impact level	Explanation and evidence (Details of data, reports, feedback or consultations. This should be proportionate to the impact.)
			for the lunch clubs, to help them expand their activities and ensure that they are able to manage challenges such as succession planning, transport failure, etc. 2 grants recommended will support therapeutic work with children in families that have experienced domestic abuse. 1 grant will support therapeutic work with young women who have experienced domestic and sexual abuse. All organisations awarded a grant will be asked to collect diversity monitoring for their users, staff and management committee and report this in their grant monitoring returns. This information will be collated and reported annually on the Council website and used to evaluate the effectiveness of the grants and the fund in reaching people of different ages.
Disability	Positive	-Select-	Among the grants recommended are 2 grants to organisations that run schemes for disabled people with mobility difficulties. 6 grants are recommended to organisations working with people with mental health problems. All organisations awarded a grant will be asked to collect diversity monitoring for their users, staff and management committee and report this in their grant monitoring returns. This information will be collated and reported annually on the Council website and used to evaluate the effectiveness of the grants and the fund in reaching local disabled people. Evidence collected from 46 different organisations awarded a Revenue Grant in 2011-12 delivering a wide range of different services showed that 28% of total beneficiaries reported a disability or long-term health problem.
Pregnancy/maternity	Neutral	-Select-	
Race	Positive	-Select-	Among the grants recommended are 12 grants to organisations whose services are aimed particularly at BME people. This includes 7 BME-led organisations some of which deliver services to specific communities of interest. All organisations awarded a grant will be asked to collect diversity monitoring for their users, staff and management committee and report this in their grant monitoring returns. This information will be collated and reported annually on the Council website

Appendix 2

Areas of possible impact	Impact	Impact level	Explanation and evidence (Details of data, reports, feedback or consultations. This should be proportionate to the impact.)
			and used to evaluate the effectiveness of the grants and the fund in reaching local BME people. Evidence collected from 46 different organisations awarded a Revenue Grant in 2011-12 delivering a wide range of different services showed that 43% of total beneficiaries were of BME origin.
Religion/belief	Neutral	-Select-	Support to faith based groups will be provided via the grants recommended to the FUSE partnership whose membership includes an organisation that specifically targets faith based groups. This organisation will be working during April- September 2013 to ensure that mainstream
Sex	Positive	Medium	Among the grants to be awarded are 5 grants to organisations whose services are exclusive to women. In making these recommendations to Cabinet the Grant Awards Recommendation Panel has taken notice of the Equality Act 2010, which makes it unlawful for the Council, when exercising a function, to do any act which constitutes discrimination or harassment within the meaning of the Act. The Grant Awards Recommendation Panel is satisfied that grants to be awarded to single gender services fall within the exemption provisions of the legislation which permit this. All organisations awarded a grant will be asked to collect diversity monitoring for their users, staff and management committee and report this in their grant monitoring returns. This information will be collated and reported annually on the Council website and used to evaluate the take up by men and women of services supported by the grants. Evidence from monitoring provided in 2011-12 suggests that more women than men present as beneficiaries of the services supported by the grants. 52% of total beneficiaries were women and 44% were men. Gender information was not disclosed for 4% of users.
Sexual orientation	Neutral	-Select-	None of the applicants identified LGB people as their

Appendix 2

Areas of possible impact	Impact	Impact level	Explanation and evidence (Details of data, reports, feedback or consultations. This should be proportionate to the impact.)
			target beneficiaries although LGB people are likely to make use of some of the services funded by the awards recommended. All organisations awarded a grant will be encouraged to include questions about sexuality in their diversity monitoring for their users, staff and management committee and report this in their grant monitoring returns. This information will be collated and reported annually on the Council website and used to evaluate the effectiveness of the grants and the fund in reaching local LGB people. The Council also endeavours to support LGB people through a range of other initiatives.
Transgender	Neutral	-Select-	None of the applicants identified Trans people as their target beneficiaries. All organisations awarded a grant will be encouraged to include questions about gender in their diversity monitoring for their users, staff and management committee and report this in their grant monitoring returns. Where appropriate organisations will be advised to monitor in line with relevant legislation. This information will be collated and reported annually on the Council website and used to evaluate the effectiveness of the grants and the fund in reaching local Transgender people.
Carers	Neutral	-Select-	The Council has recently concluded a tender exercise to award a contract for carer support in the city and services to carers were not a priority for this funding. None of the applicants identified carers as their target beneficiaries although carers are likely to make use of some of the services funded by the awards recommended.
Voluntary, community & faith sector	Positive	High	All the grants recommended are to local voluntary sector organisations. The availability of grant aid funding is an important and positive boost to the local voluntary and community sector but the fact that the budget for 2013-14 will be at least £300,000 less than

Appendix 2

Areas of possible impact	Impact	Impact level	Explanation and evidence (Details of data, reports, feedback or consultations. This should be proportionate to the impact.)
			<p>was available in 2012-13 will have an impact on the sector in that fewer grants may be recommended and the amounts awarded will be lower than might otherwise have been. The grants awarded will contribute towards core costs, support jobs and volunteering opportunities in the voluntary sector in Sheffield. 4 grants awarded will contribute to strengthening the infrastructure of the local voluntary sector. All organisations awarded a grant will be asked to collect diversity monitoring for their users, staff and management committee and report this in their grant monitoring returns. This information will be collated and reported annually on the Council website.</p>
<p>Financial inclusion, poverty, social justice:</p>	<p>Positive</p>	<p>-Select-</p>	<p>18 grants awarded will contribute towards outcomes related to tackling poverty, promoting social justice and financial inclusion. During the first 6 months of 2013-14 changes will be made to the funding of advice provision. These changes will aim to get the maximum benefit for people in advice need in the city by streamlining existing services and reducing the number of providers. As far as possible funding will be directed towards front-line advice provision, which remain important to local citizens at a time of sweeping welfare reforms. 1 award recommended will support projects delivered by the Credit Union and aimed at helping local people on low incomes manage some of the impacts of the government welfare reforms. Outcomes and outputs will be monitored at the end of the grant period. This information will be collated and reported annually on the Council website.</p>
<p>Cohesion:</p>	<p>Positive</p>	<p>-Select-</p>	<p>24 of the grants recommended will contribute to outcomes related to building social inclusion and cohesion and fostering good relations. 8 grants have been identified as having a positive impact on community safety. Outcomes and outputs will be</p>

Appendix 2

Areas of possible impact	Impact	Impact level	Explanation and evidence (Details of data, reports, feedback or consultations. This should be proportionate to the impact.)
			monitored at the end of the grant period. This information will be collated and reported annually on the Council website.
Other/additional:	-Select-	-Select-	

Overall summary of possible impact (to be used on EMT, cabinet reports etc):

If you have identified significant change, med or high negative outcomes or for example the impact is on specialist provision relating to the groups above, or there is cumulative impact you **must** complete the action plan.

Review date:

Q Tier Ref

Reference number:

Entered on Qtier: -Select-

Action plan needed: -Select-

Approved (Lead Manager): Anne Giller

Date: 12th November 2012

Approved (EIA Lead person for Portfolio): Adele Robinson **Date:**

Does the proposal/ decision impact on or relate to specialist provision: yes

Risk rating: -Select-

Action plan

Area of impact	Action and mitigation	Lead, timescale and how it will be monitored/reviewed
All groups	Positive impacts have been identified for older people, women, disabled people, Black and ethnic minority people. No negative impacts have been identified arising from the awards recommended. However it must be noted that the overall reduction in the grant aid budget will mean that fewer awards are recommended and amounts awarded are lower than the amounts requested in most cases. This will impact on service beneficiaries of voluntary sector organisations that include people with protected characteristics. In making their applications, applicants are asked to provide evidence of how they address issues of diversity and equality and this information is taken into account when assessing the applications and considering the award recommendations.	Anne Giller - reviewed quarterly during the grant period 2013-14 and diversity information collected and collated after end of grant period.

Appendix 2

Area of impact	Action and mitigation	Lead, timescale and how it will be monitored/reviewed
	<p>Attention is also paid to the likely or reported impact of reduced funding on groups with protected characteristics. Organisations funded from this budget will be asked to provide information about the equality impact of the grant awarded in their monitoring returns. Monitoring information will be collected after the end of the award period (31st March 2014). This will be reviewed for each award in the light of outcomes and outputs identified in the individual Funding Agreements. The information will be collated across the organisations funded and reported in an annual report that will be published on the Council website and circulated to elected members.</p>	
Sexual orientation	<p>We will encourage organisations awarded a VSGF grant to consider how they ensure they are inclusive of LGB people. This will be included in discussions with individual organisations when drafting the Funding Agreement prior to the payment of the award. Organisations that collect this information will be asked to report it.</p>	<p>Anne Giller Before 1st April 2013 Diversity information reported May 2014</p>
Trans	<p>We will encourage organisations awarded a VSGF grant to consider how they ensure they are inclusive of Trans people. This will be included in discussions with individual organisations when drafting the Funding Agreement prior to the payment of the award. Organisations that collect this information will be asked to report it.</p>	<p>Anne Giller Before 1st April 2013 Diversity information reported May 2014</p>

Approved (Lead Manager): Anne Giller **Date:** 12th November 2012

Approved (EIA Lead Officer for Portfolio): Adele Robinson **Date:** 24th January 2013