

## REPORT TO ABERDEENSHIRE INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD – 30 AUGUST 2017

### ANNUAL GRANTS TO THIRD SECTOR ORGANISATIONS

#### 1 Recommendations

It is recommended that the IJB:-

- 1.1 note feedback from Area Committees on proposals to change the eligibility criteria and process for award of grants to organisations
- 1.2 agree that the new arrangement as detailed in this report be put in place for 2018-19

#### 2 Risk

- 2.1 IJB Risk 8 – Working with partner organisations  
IJB Risk 2 – Health and Social Care Policy  
IJB Risk 1 – Sufficiency of resources
- 2.2 The risks of not doing this are that we continue to fund the same organisations based on criteria that are out of date and with a process that does not give organisations any longer term financial security.

#### 3 Background

- 3.1 The Health and Social Care Partnership has a commitment to supporting Third sector organisations providing social care services throughout Aberdeenshire.

The annual Third Sector grants are one way in which this is done. In addition to the annual grants, funding is made available to Third sector organisations through the Integrated Care Fund and also through a commitment to a small number of organisations to provide funding for some health related services on a Grampian wide basis.

The Social Work and Housing Committee previously had responsibility for allocation of the annual grants to Third Sector Organisations. In February 2016, Committee agreed allocation of a budget of £425,000 to Third Sector Organisations and a transfer of £89,000 to Education and Children's Services for payment to Third Sector Organisations supporting children and families.

- 3.2 At the Social Work and Housing Committee, it was acknowledged that the current process for application and award of these annual grants is time consuming for the organisations, the Social Care Contracts Manager and

other staff who have to be involved in this process. In addition to this, the annual grants process does not offer organisations any long term financial security and historically the organisations receiving annual grants have been the same over the years so there has been very little opportunity for any new organisations to receive funding for anything new or more innovative.

- 3.3 The Third Sector Grants budget was transferred to be included in the combined health and social care budget on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 and it was recommended by Social Work and Housing Committee that the spend needed to be aligned to contributing to achievement of the 15 priorities in the Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership Strategic Plan.
- 3.4 Social Work and Housing Committee asked that a report be submitted to the Integration Joint Board (IJB) giving the background to the Third Sector Grants, current allocation and an outline of a plan to consult with current recipients to see how a more sustainable process could be put in place.
- 3.5 At the IJB meeting in June 2016, members agreed the following:
- To approve the plan to consult with relevant Third Sector Organisations regarding a new process of aligning spend with the priorities in the strategic plan and replacing the annual grants process with more sustainable, long-term funding, and in particular noted the requirement for risks and benefits to be clarified, an alignment of funding budgets and an assurance that there would be equitable access to the funding ,and
  - That the Chief Officer, Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership seek the views of the Council Area Committees on the consultation plan and report back to the IJB.
- 3.6 The annual Third Sector grants process starts in October with approval being given in February for the start of the new financial year. The Chief Officer progressed the grants for 2017/18, whilst this review was ongoing, with current grants being renewed with the same award as in 2016/17 plus a 1% uplift. Organisations were advised of this and informed that there will be consultation with them during 2017 regarding the future grant allocation process.
- 3.7 A summary of the funding to the organisations this financial year is attached as Appendix 1 to this Report and are categorised as follows:
- a) National organisations receiving a grant towards delivery of a service in Aberdeenshire – 9 organisations receiving a total of £140,937
  - b) Local organisations – 12 organisations receiving a total of £270,451.

Of these organisations:

Two are providing a service across Aberdeenshire	AVA and RVS
--	-------------

One organisation in the Buchan area	Buchan Dial a Community Bus
One organisation in Garioch	Newmachar Thursday Club
Two organisations in Banff and Buchan	North Aberdeenshire Learning Disability Forum and People First
Two organisations in Marr	Silver Circle and Forget me Not Club
Four organisations in the Kincardine and Mearns area	Weekend Respite, Mearns and Coastal Healthy Living Network, K&D Befriending and Crossroads Kincardine and Deeside

- c) Education and Children’s services – 3 national organisations receiving a total of £88,904. This is now the responsibility of Education and Children’s services to determine if the service provision is aligned with their strategic priorities.
- d) New applications that were received from organisations providing day care for older people following a decision by the appropriate section of social work not to continue to fund these from a core budget- 5 groups / organisations receiving a total of £17,780 (3 in Kincardine and Mearns, 1 in Garioch and 1 in Marr). Budget was transferred to cover this.

3.8 During February and March 2017, informal workshop sessions were held at each of the six Area Committees. Members were invited to a brief presentation covering the background to the annual Third Sector Grants process, information on current recipients of the grants, details of the issues and some suggestions for the way forward.

Feedback from the workshop sessions is detailed in the table below:

1. Support from all Area Committees that the current eligibility criteria for allocation of the Third Sector Grants is out of date and needs to be updated to reflect the priorities for the Health and Social Care Partnership
2. Support from all Area Committees that the current annual process does not give organisations any long term financial security
3. Concern from all Area Committees as to what will happen with organisations that do not meet the revised criteria given they have been dependent on the annual grant for a considerable number of years.
4. Concern from specific Area Committees that there were either very few or no organisations receiving grant funding in their areas and how successful the advertising process was for informing organisations that this funding was available.
5. Concern from specific Area Committees that they would not want to see the organisations in their areas lose this funding and therefore not be in a position to provide a service
6. Request that funding for AVA be considered out with the annual grants process as it provides a different service-Third Sector

Interface and also hosting of posts on behalf of the Health and Social Care Partnership.
7. Comment from one Area Committee that the amount of funding currently available is not sufficient to meet the request from current recipients therefore unless the Partnership has significant resources to add to the total amount available then there could be many organisations that will apply and not receive funding
8. Comment that could the allocation of funding be done on a geographical basis rather than based on general eligibility criteria

3.9 The following action plan is suggested for approval by the IJB:

August 2017	Annual Grant Funding to Third Sector organisations changes to become Health and Social Care Partnership Grant Funding to reflect better the relationship with third sector organisations as part of the Partnership. The £429,347 available to the Partnership this year forms the basis of the grant funding allocation for next financial year. New eligibility criteria will be developed by the Health and Social Care Partnership strategy team which will focus on meeting outcomes from the revised themes from the Health and Social Care Partnership Strategic Plan. Approval route for this will be through the Partnership's senior management team
August/September 2017	Communication with current recipients of the grant awards during August and September to inform them and involve them in discussion regarding the new proposals for grant funding.
September	A new process for advertising the funding opportunity to be developed, new paperwork to be developed based on the eligibility criteria and a new process will be agreed for consideration of applications.
October 2017	Once the total amount of funding for 2018-19 has been confirmed and the

	<p>application process identified then the opportunity will be advertised. The request for applications will include a focus on encouraging applications for new projects and will look to redress the geographical imbalance of the funding.</p>
December 2017	<p>This will be the deadline for funding applications to be received. All applications will be assessed against the new eligibility criteria.</p>
January 2018	<p>A group will be identified to evaluate applications against the eligibility criteria and agree which projects will receive funding. This group will include representatives from the strategy team, finance and commercial and procurement.</p>
February 2018	<p>A report will be taken to the IJB with recommendations for allocation of funding. It is recognised that this report will need to contain a Direction from the IJB to the Council to pay the amounts specified from that budget.</p>
April 2018	<p>Funding will be awarded and these grants will be for a period of 3 years. Year 1 will be approved and years 2 and 3 will be indicative based on achieving the stated outcomes and the single year settlement for NHS/Council and IJB</p>

- 3.10 The Chief Officer, along with the Chief Finance Officer and the Legal Monitoring Officer within Business Services of the Council have been consulted in the preparation of this report and their comments have been incorporated within the report.

#### 4 Equalities, Staffing and Financial Implications

- 4.1 An equality impact assessment is attached with this report.
- 4.2 There are no staffing implications from this report. Staff within the strategy team have been identified to undertake work to have the new paperwork and process in place.

4.3 Financial implications have been identified in the body of the report.

**Mike Ogg**  
**Partnership Manager**  
**Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership**

Report prepared by Sheena McIntosh  
Date: 14 August 2017

	2017/18
ARC	10,667
Chest Heart & Stroke	14783.79
Deafblind Scotland	21,924
PAMIS	18,857
Quarriers	23,230
Rape and Abuse Support	7,467
Samaritans	10,880
Scottish Huntingtons Association	17,288
Victim Support	15,842
Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action	97,454
Buchan Dial a Community Bus	7,882
Crossroads Kincardine & Deeside	4,853
Forget Me Not Club	59,516
Kincardine & Deeside Befriending	25,278
Mearns & Coastal Health Living Network	9,387
Newmachar Thursday Club	934
North Aberdeenshire Learning Disability Forum	437
People First, Fraserburgh	9,120
Silver Circle	19,990
Weekend Respite Project	13519.61
RVS	22,080
Avenue Confidential	67,787
Childline	1,205
Who Cares	20,801
Inverbervie Day Centre	5,656
Invercarron Resource Centre	5,050
Mid Deeside Day Centre	5,050
Newmachar Senior Citizens	657
St Cyrus Friendship Group	1,545
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>519,140</b>

## EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Stage 1: Title and aims of the activity (“activity” is an umbrella term covering policies, procedures, guidance and decisions).	
Service	Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership
Section	Strategy and Business Services
Title of the activity etc.	Annual Third Sector Grants programme and Integrated Care Funding
Aims of the activity	Streamline the grant funding available to organisations through the Health and Social Care Partnership, update the eligibility criteria in line with the Strategic Plan, simplify the application process and look to extend the grant period from 1 to 3 years
Author(s) & Title(s)	Laura Buchan, Strategic Development Officer

Stage 2: List the evidence that has been used in this assessment.	
Internal data (customer satisfaction surveys; equality monitoring data; customer complaints).	Copies of previous applications that have been awarded funding. financial information from current recipients of grants, internal data on numbers of people accessing services – for example older people’s day care
Internal consultation with staff and other services affected.	Discussion with the Social Care Contracts Manager in commercial and procurement who administer the grants programme, discussions with day care staff who are involved in the centres where some of the services operate,
External consultation (partner organisations, community groups, and councils).	Discussion with local Area Committees and discussion with the Integration Joint Board
External data (census, available statistics).	Population projections, GP practice population statistics

## Appendix 2

Other (general information as appropriate).	None
---	------

### Stage 3: Evidence Gaps.

Are there any gaps in the information you currently hold?	Through updating the eligibility criteria and process, would like to invite new organisations and groups to apply for funding, at this stage we do not have information on who these groups may be and what type of projects they might wish to apply for funding for.
---	--

### Stage 4: Measures to fill the evidence gaps.

What measures will be taken to fill the information gaps before the activity is implemented? These should be included in the action plan at the back of this form.	Measures:	Timescale:
	Discussions with CHiP workers and other third sector partners may identify gaps in the market which could potentially influence where new projects may emerge	1 month

### Stage 5: Are there potential impacts on protected groups? Please complete for each protected group by inserting "yes" in the applicable box/boxes below.

	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Unknown
Age – Younger	yes			
Age – Older	yes			
Disability	yes			
Race – (includes Gypsy Travellers)			yes	
Religion or Belief			yes	
Gender – male/female			yes	
Pregnancy and maternity			yes	

## Appendix 2

Sexual orientation – (includes Lesbian/ Gay/Bisexual)			yes	
Gender reassignment – (includes Transgender)			yes	
Marriage and Civil Partnership			yes	

Stage 6: What are the positive and negative impacts?		
Impacts.	Positive (describe the impact for each of the protected characteristics affected)	Negative (describe the impact for each of the protected characteristics affected)
Please detail the potential positive and/or negative impacts on those with protected characteristics you have highlighted above. Detail the impacts and describe those affected.	Older people, people with a disability and some younger people will benefit from the changes because the new process will make it easier for organisations to apply for grants. This is expected to increase the number of applications which would therefore increase the range of activities and services available to people. The funding award is to change from being for 1 year to for 3 years which will help to make the groups more sustainable therefore giving security to the groups/projects and the people that use them.	

Stage 7: Have any of the affected groups been consulted?	
If yes, please give details of how this was done and what the results were. If no, how have you ensured that you can make an informed decision about mitigating steps?	The groups that already receive funding know that the process is being looked at and are to be consulted in more detail once approval has been granted by the IJB to evaluate and improve the current process.

Stage 8: What mitigating steps will be taken to remove or reduce negative impacts?		
These should be included in any action plan at the back of this form.	Mitigating Steps	Timescale
	N/A	

Stage 9: What steps can be taken to promote good relations between various groups?	
These should be included in the action plan.	Good communication between all stakeholders will help to remain good relations. It will be important to be open and honest about any changes with the groups who already receive funding and how they may be effected.

Stage 10: How does the policy/activity create opportunities for advancing equality of opportunity?

There will be increased opportunities for new groups/projects to emerge. This will hopefully increase the different client groups who can benefit from the funding. Simplifying the application process may encourage new organisations to apply – perhaps smaller organisations who support a niche group in the market who would have previously been put off by a long and complicated application process.

Stage 11: What equality monitoring arrangements will be put in place?

These should be included in any action plan (for example customer satisfaction questionnaires).

Any organisation who receives funding will be expected to provide a return which details the success of their project – this will include detail on equalities.

Stage 12: What is the outcome of the Assessment?

Please complete the appropriate box/boxes	1	No negative impacts have been identified –please explain.
	No negative impacts have been identified, this exercise will increase the number of people who can benefit from groups, activities and projects through the grant funding programme.	
	2	Negative Impacts have been identified, these can be mitigated - please explain. * Please fill in Stage 13 if this option is chosen.
	3	The activity will have negative impacts which cannot be mitigated fully – please explain. * Please fill in Stage 13 if this option is chosen

\* Stage 13: Set out the justification that the activity can and should go ahead despite the negative impact.

Stage 14: Sign off and authorisation.

Sign off and authorisation.	1) Service and Team	Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership, Aberdeenshire Council Social Work Services		
	2) Title of Policy/Activity	Annual Third sector Grants programme and Integrated Care Fund		
	3) <b>Authors:</b> I/We have completed the equality impact assessment for this policy/activity.	Name: Laura Buchan Position: Strategic Development Officer Date: 26.7.17 Signature: <i>L Buchan</i>	Name: Position: Date: Signature:	
		Name: Position: Date: Signature:	Name: Position: Date: Signature:	
	4) Consultation with Service Manager	Name: Sheena McIntosh Date: 26/07/2017		
	5) Authorisation by Director or Head of Service	Name: Position: Date:	Name: Position: Date:	
	6) If the EIA relates to a matter that has to go before a Committee, Committee report author sends the Committee Report and this form, and any supporting assessment documents, to the Officers responsible for monitoring and the Committee Officer of the relevant Committee. e.g. Social Work and Housing Committee.			Date:
	7) EIA author sends a copy of the finalised form to: eia@abdnshire			Date:

## Appendix 2

<p>(Equalities team to complete) Has the completed form been published on the website? YES/NO</p>	<p>Date:</p>
---	--------------

## Appendix 2

Action Plan							
Action	Start	Complete	Lead Officer	Expected Outcome	Resource Implications		
Meet with people responsible for current projects and service users	August 2017	October 2017	Laura Buchan, Strategic Development Officer	Understanding of what would make the application process easier for people to follow. Understanding of the benefits people get from the various projects and groups.	Staff time		
Consultation with any staff involved with the centres where the projects run	August 2017	October 2017	Laura Buchan, Strategic Development Officer	Understanding of how effectively these groups operate and how they might operate more effectively.	Staff time		

