
REPORT TO:	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM: 8
DATE OF MEETING:	21st JUNE 2017	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITIES AND PLANNING SERVICES	OPEN
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SUBJECT:	REVIEW OF FUNDING TO VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR ORGANISATIONS	REF:
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE:

1.0 Recommendations

1.1 To note the information on support to voluntary and community sector organisations.

2.0 Purpose of Report

2.1 To review funding and support to voluntary and community sector organisations by SDDC.

2.2 The report outlines the level of funding paid to voluntary sector organisation under service level agreements. A short summary of the organisations' area of work and how they work to add value to the corporate plan for SDDC is included.

The report identifies how these organisations contribute to communities in South Derbyshire and contribute to the themes of the corporate plan.

3.0 Detail

3.1 During 2016/17 SDDC funded nine organisations via service level agreements (SLAs) as outlined in the scoping document. The total revenue grant for 2016/17 equates to £294,010. Individual amounts paid during 2016/17 are as follows:

- South Derbyshire CVS - £89,834
- South Derbyshire CVS engagement of hard to reach groups - £20,000
- South Derbyshire CVS (Safer Homes) - £16,000
- South Derbyshire Citizen Advice Bureau (CAB) - £55,796
- Sharpe's - £26,645
- Sharpe's (Tourist Information Centre – contract for service) - £52,666
- People Express - £29,484
- South Derbyshire Home-Start - £12,619
- Rural Action Derbyshire - £4,784

- Shopmobility - £10,871
- Asian Over 60s - £6,821
- Next Step - £4,090

3.2 Grants to old peoples clubs - The Council currently makes grants to old peoples clubs to match those made by Derbyshire County Council. For 2016/17 11 clubs were supported to a total value of £1,728. £369 of this amount is matched by the grant to Asian over 60's included at 3.1. This gives a net value of £1,359 (**See Annex 1**).

3.3 In addition to revenue grants a number of charitable organisations also receive non-domestic rate relief. This is split in to mandatory relief for 129 buildings occupied by charitable organisations and 7 sports clubs amounting to a total of £1,244,821 and discretionary rate relief in respect of 12 buildings occupied by charitable organisations and 4 non-profit making bodies amounting to £73,714 (**See Annex 2 & 3**).

3.4 Our funding has a direct impact on the development of the voluntary and community sector. It supports not only the development of organisations themselves but also the direct delivery of projects that change people's lives in South Derbyshire. It contributes directly towards addressing our Corporate Plan delivering a range of services across the Progress, People and Place themes.

The District's relationship with the voluntary and community sector extends much further than a simple funding regime. The quality and value of the relationship has been recognised in many different forums.

3.5 **Specific details of funding are as follows:**

3.5.1 **South Derbyshire CVS - £89,834**

South Derbyshire CVS (Engagement of hard to reach groups) - £20,000

SDCVS (Safer Homes) - £16,000

SDDC fund approximately 15% of the income for SD CVS. In addition to a contribution towards core funding this enables two areas of discrete work, the safer homes project and work specifically targeted at hard to reach groups. The provision of this funding is a key element, providing matched funding to secure additional inward investment into the voluntary sector in South Derbyshire (Corporate Plan PR1 attract further inward investment). This has included funding from Derbyshire County Council, the Southern Derbyshire Clinical Commissioning Group, Public Health Locality Funding and monies from other national bodies.

The CVS is a core element of the District's strategy to support the voluntary sector in South Derbyshire. Although this is our largest contribution to one organisation it makes a valuable addition towards each of the themes of the Corporate Plan. Acting as an infrastructure organisation SD CVS support the sustainability of a wide range of local community groups and charities. The level of this was evidenced during consultation by DCC as they were looking at the impact of funding cuts within the sector. It carries out a number of roles in support of the sector through six core functions.

- **Development:** Identifying unmet need and help others meet that need through development of new services. An example of this is the work that has been undertaken at Castle Gresley, working with the Communities Team, to develop a community hub at Gresley Old Hall. This will enable a wider range of needs to be

met with increased efficiency, both in terms of staff time and financial resources, from a single venue in one of the more deprived areas of the District. (People, PE1, PE2 and Place, PL5). They have been the lead agency supporting the community centre in Gosely as it develops its extension plans. Has supported the work of the Communities Team with a project targeted at the community taking on the running of a disused County Council building at Hatton that will act as a village hall where none existed alongside a new housing development of 400 homes.

- **Supporting local voluntary and community groups:** Providing information, advice and support to both groups and individuals. Actively supports organisations to develop their corporate governance in accordance with Charity rules / legislation. (Although this is not the Districts governance it is as important for voluntary sector organisations that they have strong governance, without which they would not be sustainable. – Outcomes O2)
- **Liaison:** Enabling and encouraging people from different agencies and sectors to meet and develop links. This is most evident with the development of various forum that enable members of the sector to develop a broader understanding of the wider environment. In particular this is important for SDDC supporting them to maintain links with and consult harder to reach communities (Place, connecting with communities).
- **Enabling Representation:** Enabling the voluntary and community sector to put forward their views and act as a voice where appropriate. Acting as a lead agency with the District in communicating with and securing feedback from the wider voluntary sector. (People, PE2 protecting and supporting the most vulnerable.)
- **Partnership Work:** Encouraging local voluntary and statutory agencies to plan together for the benefit of the community. SD CVS have been a lead VS organisation to support the development of community infrastructure. Good examples would be the work towards the development of a community hub at Gresley Old Hall and support for the Goseley Community Centre through the development of plans towards the extension of the facility to meet local need.
- **Direct Services:** Providing services to support individuals where there is unmet need and no other organisation can provide this service, including the food bank and a social car scheme.

Hard to reach groups.

Funding targeted specifically at consultation with and accessing hard to reach groups on behalf of the District is a key part of our consultation with this segment of the community. This has included working with ethnic minorities, LGBT groups and others to review our policies to ensure that we do not build in discrimination. Working to identify barriers to teenagers volunteering in civil society. Undertaking specific consultations to ensure community involvement. (People PE1, enabling people to live independantly, PE2 protect and serve the most vulnerable and PE4 increasing the levels of participation).

Safer Homes (funded through the safety partnership)

The scheme works by providing a security check on the house and garden of victims of domestic crime and installing necessary home security equipment free of charge (including door or window locks / alarms, door chains and spy holes). The scheme will also offer a 'sanctuary provision' to medium risk victims of domestic abuse to help them remain in their current property.

Referrals into the scheme will come from individuals themselves and from other agencies such as Derbyshire County Council Adult Care, South Derbyshire District Council, Derbyshire Police, Health Professionals, Housing Associations, Citizens Advice Bureau, and South Derbyshire CVS.

In addition to the standard security visits, the 'operative will assists the 'Partnership' and police with crime prevention initiatives such as installing shed security items and alarms in hotspot areas, visiting victims of dwelling burglary, running number plate security operations and attending property marking events. They will also install Neighbourhood Watch and other signage on request and assist in leaflet drops in areas where crime spikes have occurred. 270 properties were secured during 2016/17. (Place PL4 Connect with our communities helping them feel safe and secure)

3.5.2 South Derbyshire Citizen Advice Bureau (CAB) - £55,796

This is core funding for the principle advice bureau in South Derbyshire. Much of the support offered across the community is targeted at financial inclusion and this area of work has seen a rapid increase over the last 12 months. (People PE1 Enabling people to live independently, PE2 Protect and support the most vulnerable, including those affected by financial challenges, PE6 Develop the workforce of SD to support growth.)

The objective of the CAB is to provide free, confidential, impartial and independent advice to enable local residents to deal with a wide range of issues, including benefits, housing, money advice, employment, consumer, relationships, taxation and many more. The nature of the assistance provided will depend on a client's needs, and ranges from the provision of information to formal representation.

Services are offered from a number of sites across the District, including GP surgeries and the offices of SDDC.

While SDDC provides core funding, SDCAB has been successful in attracting project funding that has greatly increased its work in the District. This has included the highly regarded DigIT project that supports people develop IT skills to enable them to participate in the digital community including finance, civil society as well as commercial activity.

It currently works closely with Housing to provide advice to tenants to support them to remain in their homes.

3.5.3 Sharpe's - £26,645

Sharpe's (Tourist Information Centre – direct contract for service) - £52,666

Sharpe's Pottery Museum was fully 'accredited' in March 2009 by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA).

As well as providing an archive, it helps to provide a link between the South Derbyshire of today and its roots in heavy industry. Younger generations will have grown up with no visible connection to the District motto "From the Earth our Wealth".

Alongside this, the buildings host a number of other organisations that not only add value to the museum, but also add value to the development of the voluntary sector and tourism within the District, including the Magic Attic.

The tourist information centre supports tourism and the general leisure industry as a whole, working closely with the Economic Development team at SDDC.

The ancillary rooms also act as a "village hall" allowing groups central to Swadlincote to rent space for short periods of time at an affordable price.

(People PE1 Enabling people to live independently, Place PL5 support provision of cultural facilities)

3.5.4 People Express - £29,484

The organisation works in partnership with the voluntary, statutory and business sectors, researching the current needs of the local community, encouraging people to find ways around the barriers that prevent their participation, building trust and developing and facilitating work of a high standard in a range of arts skills.

People Express conducts development work with older people (in particular, work with older housebound people) and users of the mental health services. Projects that cover a wide range of art forms are set up and developed, and an excellent track record has been built up of making digital arts accessible to community groups.

The development of participatory arts with community groups through the use of joint steering groups leading to power sharing, community ownership, filtering through skills, increasing capacity and long-term sustainability is core to this group. This is demonstrated with a current project in Hatton that is using arts to explore the heritage of the community and working with a number of groups from the village to support community development. This project has secured more than £100,000 of external funding to provide a lasting sculpture trail.

Additional core funding for People Express is provided by Arts Council England. They have confirmed that a primary motivator for the continued investment in this scheme is the fact that it continues to attract support from the District Council.

(Place PL5 Support the provision of cultural facilities and activities throughout the District)

3.5.5 South Derbyshire Home-Start - £12,619

South Derbyshire Home-Start supports families that have a child of pre-school age, helping to increase the confidence and independence of families by:

- Visiting families in their own homes to offer support, friendship and practical assistance
- Reassuring parents that their childcare problems are not unusual or unique.
- Encouraging parents' strengths and emotional well-being for the ultimate benefit of their children.
- Trying to get the fun back into family life.

This is achieved by recruiting and training volunteers to visit families.

The support of the core grant funding from SDDC has been a contributing factor in the organisation securing Big Lottery funding to pay for a four-year project that will support parents that have poor mental health.

(People PE1 Enable people to live independently, PE2 Protect and help support the most vulnerable.)

3.5.6 Rural Action Derbyshire - £4,784

Rural Action Derbyshire (RAD) is an independent organisation and registered charity operating across the county.

RAD aims to improve the life of those living and working in rural Derbyshire.

RAD's objectives are:

- To support rural community development.
- To address rural disadvantage and counter the effects of isolation.
- To improve access to services for people living in rural communities.

Rural Action Derbyshire has been a key supporter in the development of neighbourhood and parish planning programme in South Derbyshire. It has helped to set up and facilitate initial meetings and provided specialist advice throughout the process.

It has also been a source of specialist advice for the numerous village halls around the District. This has been central to the continued development of local services for communities across South Derbyshire.

(People PE1, PL2 Enhance understanding of the planning process, PL5 Support the provision of cultural facilities)

3.5.7 Shopmobility - £10,871

Swadlincote is the urban core for the District. It still offers a range of local retail opportunities for people who live in or visit the area. With the introduction of pedestrian areas, it has become increasingly difficult to access all areas of the town if you have impaired mobility.

Until 2016/17 Shopmobility actively encourage inclusion and equality by providing wheelchairs, power-chairs and power scooters for people to use. The grant was used to support the core running costs of operating the scheme. This includes contributing to the salary of the project officer

As a result of ill health and age the trustees of this organisation have had to stop volunteering resulting in the cessation of the organisation in March 2017. Recognising the continued importance of disability access to the centre of Swadlincote the aim is to continue the service via an alternative provider. Work towards this is ongoing.

3.5.8 Asian Over 60's - £6,821

Core funding is given to the group to support a range of activities including a luncheon club, health walk programme and community activity. The group also receive funding from Derbyshire County Council.

This group is based at Stenson Fields and supports the largest Sikh community in South Derbyshire.

3.5.9 Next Step - £4,090

Next Step delivered a domestic abuse service for the District, providing free support and services for anyone in South Derbyshire affected by domestic abuse, including family members and friends of victims and perpetrators.

It provided:

- A confidential helpline - a confidential service that offered help, advice, information and support for those suffering from domestic abuse. It offered a caring, non-judgmental ear for anyone who had experienced domestic abuse and related issues at any time in their lives. The helpline service also located refuge space locally and nationally if this is what was required.

- Drop-in and Advice Centre - A drop-in provided a safe, comfortable space where people could talk in confidence about their experience of abuse and receive information about a range of issues including housing, finances, personal safety.
- Children's & Young Peoples Domestic Abuse Service - This service supported children and young people affected by domestic abuse, listening and assessing needs, referring to appropriate services in the community that met needs and liaising with other services on people's behalf.
- Men's Advice line - providing support and advice for men affected by domestic abuse.

Following the removal of funding from Derbyshire County Council, the organisation has now ceased to operate. Some of the services have been included within a county wide contract.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 None arising directly from this report.

4.2 Financial details for registered charities can be accessed via the Charity Commission website:

<http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/showcharity/registerofcharities/RegisterHomePage.aspx>

5.0 Corporate Implications

5.1 The revenue grant funding has a direct impact on the achievement of key aims within the corporate plan.

People – Enable people to live independently, protect and support the most vulnerable, increasing participation.

Place – Facilitation and delivery of community infrastructure, enhancing understanding of the planning process (neighbourhood planning), connecting with communities, provision of cultural facilities, delivering services that keep the District healthy.

Progress – Attracting inward investment, working to develop tourism, promote financial inclusion, including in rural areas.

5.2 Employment Implications – The funding that is provided is primarily core funding and supports employment at all of the organisations concerned

6.0 Community Implications

6.1 Between them the organisations that are funded support all themes of the Sustainable Community Strategy:

- Healthy Communities
- Safer Communities
- Sustainable Development
- Vibrant Communities
- Children and Young People

These groups act in partnership with the District as well as undertaking a wide range of additional projects based upon locally identified need.

7.0 Conclusions

- 7.1 The funding that is invested in these groups has a direct impact on the main themes of the Corporate Plan. It has a direct impact on the development of the voluntary and community sector and supports not only the development of organisations themselves but also the direct delivery of projects that change people's lives in South Derbyshire.

8.0 Background Papers

Annex 1 - Grants to Old people's Clubs

Annex 2 - Non Domestic Rate Relief (Mandatory)

Annex 3 - Non Domestic Rate Relief (Discretionary)