



Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council

A Borough to be proud of

SCRUTINY COMMISSION

22 August 2019

WARDS AFFECTED: All Wards

VOLUNTARY & COMMUNITY SECTOR COMMISSIONING OUTCOMES 2017/18

Report of Director Community Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1.1 To update members on outcomes arising from the 2017/18 round of Voluntary & Community Sector (VCS) Commissioning, via a presentation from commissioned VCS providers and beneficiaries.
- 1.1.2. Please note this report relates to the outcomes of the commissioning round October 2017 to October 2018. The outcomes of the commissioning round October 2018 to October 2019, will be reported in 2020.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To note the positive impact in improving the quality of life for communities, resulting from the ongoing direct commissioning of front line services via our local VCS commissioning arrangements.

3. BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT

- 3.1 The Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) partnership is a collaboration between the local authority and the VCS, and has been in place since 2013, with the overall aim of helping to sustain and grow the vital work delivered by the VCS and its many volunteers. HBBC commissions Next Generation (one of the Borough's leading VCS organisations), to oversee the development and delivery of our local VCS support arrangements, which includes:

- overseeing the VCS Development Forum, which meets regularly, enabling learning and development, networking and collaboration, and acts as a key link with the community
- supporting the VCS Commissioning Board, which provides a robust and fair mechanism through which the council and other sectors, can commission services from the VCS
- maintaining a comprehensive VCS database, through which the different community groups can share information with each other, and a key mechanism

for HBBC and other key partners to communicate, engage and consult with the VCS

- overseeing the development and delivery of an online and drop in volunteering service, a central point of contact within the Borough where organisations can promote their volunteering opportunities and the community can find out about volunteering

3.1.1. The Borough Council's Community Planning team works in partnership with Next Generation to deliver the overall aims of the partnership, support its ongoing development, as well as undertaking an ongoing monitoring role. However, it is important to note the ongoing development of our local arrangements is enabled through the commitment of VCS representatives often in a volunteer capacity, who continue to give considerable time to help deliver this model of working.

3.1.2. In addition HBBC annually ring fences funding to directly commission services via our VCS, this funding has increased from £20,000 in 2013/14 when we were testing the model, rising to £45,000 for 2016/17 and 2017/18, and £70,000 in 2018/19 and for 2019/20. The VCS Commissioning Board made up of 8 VCS representatives and 2 HBBC Executive Members (Councillor Keith Lynch and Councillor Martin Cartwright from May 2019) assess applications and allocates funding following a robust assessment process.

3.2. VCS Commissioning 2017/18

3.2.1. The VCS is particularly well placed to support the Borough's health and wellbeing priorities, providing cost effective and practical frontline services, which compliments statutory provision. They are often closest to the community, and based on this insight, have the flexibility to tailor their approach to meet diverse needs in a timely way, not always afforded by the statutory sector, and specifically in relation to:

- Reducing the impact of social isolation and loneliness, and
- Helping maintain good mental health and wellbeing within our communities

Therefore the focus for commissioning during 2017/18 reflected these two themes.

3.2.2. Whilst we continue to encourage new, and both larger and smaller VCS organisations to benefit from commissioning funds, it is important that we continue to support our more established VCS projects, to enable them to become self sustaining longer term. Therefore the work commissioned in 2017/18 reflects a mix of both new and established projects.

3.2.3. **Appendix 1** provides a summary of the projects commissioned in 2017/18, funds allocated, key outcomes delivered, and numbers of direct (and indirect) beneficiaries.

3.2.4. **Appendix 2** provides a summary of feedback from some of the beneficiaries and those involved in delivering the projects.

3.2.5. The VCS Commissioning Board, undertake a rigorous assessment process, only applications which fully meet the criteria are successful in receiving funds. Any remaining commissioning funds are ring fenced and carried forward for the next commissioning round, including a small contingency pot to fund any emerging developments i.e. hosting a consultation event for the development of the Volunteering Strategy.

- 3.2.6. To demonstrate this further a number of VCS organisations, together with beneficiaries have been invited to present to the Scrutiny Commission meeting on 22nd August, in order that members can hear first hand, about how this provision is positively impacting on the quality of life for our communities.

3.3. Ongoing development of our local VCS arrangements

- 3.3.1. As previously indicated the HBBC Community Planning team work in partnership with Next Generation, to continually improve our local offer to the VCS and its volunteers, and therefore 2017/18 saw the introduction of the following arrangements:

A new VCS partnership website, accessible at <http://nextgenhinckley.org/> with new branding, profiling all of the work delivered by the partnership

The introduction of a Volunteering Hub, offering a one point of contact service for anyone wanting to volunteer within the Borough, and for VCS organisations seeking to recruit volunteers. This service is available on line, as well as a face to face service based at Next Generation. This is in response to feedback from our VCS, that fundamentally their sustainability is reliant on retaining a good volunteer base.

In support of the above, the development and establishment of the Borough's first Volunteering Strategy, presented as a joint document setting out the aims and commitment of both HBBC and the VCS, in supporting our diverse volunteering offer. Subsequently, in role modelling effective workplace practice, HBBC has refreshed its volunteering policy enabling employees up to 2 days per year to undertake volunteering opportunities.

The ongoing development and delivery of the Borough Council's Annual Making a Difference Awards to recognise and celebrate our volunteers, which is now aligned with our VCS partnership work and branding.

4. EXEMPTIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ACCESS TO INFORMATION PROCEDURE RULES

- 4.1 The report is to be taken in open session.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (DW)

- 5.1 During 2017/18 the local authority allocated £105,000 to support the development and delivery of our VCS partnership arrangements, for the following activities:

£60,000 - SLA with Next Generation to oversee and deliver a broad range of responsibilities in supporting the development and sustainability of our VCS partnership, including our VCS Commissioning arrangements, and

£45,000 - for direct VCS commissioning via the VCS Commissioning Board arrangements

- 5.2. Of the £45,000 allocated for the commissioning element £40,108.45 was committed to projects as detailed in Appendix 1.
- 5.3 The overall budget for 2018-19 has been increased to £130,000. This is due to an increase in the commissioning element from £45,000 to £70,000.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS (FA)

6.1 None directly arising from this report.

7. CORPORATE PLAN IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The contents of the report relate to and support the People, Place and Prosperity corporate priorities, and will specifically support the delivery of the following ambition: 'Support an effective and viable voluntary and community sector.'

8. CONSULTATION

8.1 This report has taken account of the ongoing consultation undertaken by Next Generation through the established VCS Development Forum, Commissioning Board, and database.

9. RISK IMPLICATIONS

9.1 It is the Council's policy to proactively identify and manage significant risks which may prevent delivery of business objectives.

9.2 It is not possible to eliminate or manage all risks all of the time and risks will remain which have not been identified. However, it is the officer's opinion based on the information available, that the significant risks associated with this decision / project have been identified, assessed and that controls are in place to manage them effectively.

9.3 The following significant risks associated with this report / decisions were identified from this assessment:

Management of significant (Net Red) Risks		
Risk Description	Mitigating actions	Owner
Lack of sustainability of key VCS organisations within Hinckley and Bosworth, resulting in no VCS infrastructure arrangements within the locality, and significant reduction in frontline delivery of essential provision	Sustainability of the H&B VCS locality arrangements	Edwina Grant

10. KNOWING YOUR COMMUNITY – EQUALITY AND RURAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 The utilisation of up to date evidence sources and data, informed via the VCS Development Forum, and VCS database, has helped to inform the ongoing development of our VCS arrangements. These mechanisms also ensure resources are aligned with Borough priorities, and gives VCS organisations from all areas of the Borough, including rural areas, access to the VCS partnership provision and commissioning funds.

11. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

11.1 By submitting this report, the report author has taken the following into account:

- Community Safety implications
- Environmental implications
- ICT implications
- Asset Management implications

- Procurement implications
 - Human Resources implications
 - Planning implications
 - Data Protection implications
 - Voluntary Sector
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Background papers: None

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