

HINCKLEY AREA COMMITTEE – 23 NOVEMBER 2015

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH VCS ARRANGEMENTS – REQUEST FOR ONE OFF ADDITIONAL FUNDING REPORT OF DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE – COMMUNITY DIRECTION



Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council

A Borough to be proud of

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL WARDS

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1. To inform members of the Hinckley & Bosworth Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) arrangements, benefits and impact for the local community.
- 1.2. To request a one off payment of £15,000, via the Hinckley Area Committee, to sustain the Borough's VCS Infrastructure Organisation for the period January – March 2016.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 Note the progress, achievements and outcomes to date, and the proposed forward plan
- 2.2 To agree a one off payment of £15,000 to sustain the Borough's VCS Infrastructure Organisation, NGCC, for the period January – March 2016, and help underpin future sustainability.

3. BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT

- 3.1. Historically HBBC has supported a number of VCS organisations within the locality through grant funding and 'in kind' arrangements. However, in the context of ever reducing public sector budgets and subsequently grant funding, during 2012, the authority recognised the need to find a more sustainable approach to VCS support, development, and delivery within the Borough, in order to continue to meet the needs of our diverse, and most vulnerable members of our community.
 - 3.1.1. Therefore, from April 2013, HBBC commissioned one of our leading VCS organisations, Next Generation Community Connects (NGCC), to lead on the development of new VCS arrangements for our locality. The overall aim being to sustain our front line VCS service delivery organisations, through the establishment of arrangements to enable locality based commissioning of the VCS.
 - 3.1.2. The arrangements we now have in place for Hinckley & Bosworth, have been led by NGCC, working in partnership with the authority and the broader VCS community, and include:
 - An overarching VCS Development Forum, comprising 40 VCS organisations (both large and small), enabling learning and development, collaboration, communication, and a key mechanism for listening to and capturing the voice of the local people of the Borough.
 - A VCS database and Directory detailing the type of provision and geographical location of VCS organisations across the Borough – comprising approximately 1,200 entries, which has proved to be an effective communication tool for both statutory and VCS.

- A virtual and physical VCS Hub in Hinckley town centre to complement the Hinckley & Bosworth statutory agency Hub.
- A VCS Commissioning Board, made up of VCS representatives, and 2 HBBC Executive Members, (Stakeholders and HBBC service area leads who observe and provide underpinning knowledge as required) providing a robust, fair and accessible mechanism through which the local authority and other sectors can commission the VCS
- Successful establishment of VCS collaboration in joint working, between larger and smaller organisations, sharing of resources, and in submitting joint commissioning bids, and subsequent delivery.

3.2. Outcomes and Impact for the Community

3.2.1. To date there have been three rounds of VCS Commissioning, with a total of £94,200 allocated to a diverse range of 39 front line VCS providers, aligned to HBBC, West Leicestershire Clinical Commissioning Group (WLCCG), and Public Health priorities, in support of health and social care work streams. *(Examples of work commissioned attached at Appendix 1).*

3.2.2. As a result of the new arrangements, the VCS is now able to represent itself effectively and with credibility at HBBC key delivery partnerships/forums, (e.g. Health & Wellbeing Partnership, Think Family Partnership) and those of other key partners, to articulate the VCS offer. This has enabled a greater understanding of the collective offer of both the statutory and VCS sector, and opportunities for commissioning, and improved collaborative working.

3.2.3. The credibility and robustness of the established commissioning arrangements has directly resulted in both Public Health and WLCCG directing funds via the VCS Commissioning Board as follows:

Period	Commissioning Brief	Funding Source	Funding allocated	No. of lead Service Providers supported
2013/14	To sustain good mental health & wellbeing in the community	HBBC	20,000	10
2014/15	To reduce the impact of social isolation and loneliness	HBBC	15,000	6
		Early Help	3,000	5
2014/15	Staying Healthy Community Grant	Public Health	13,000	7
2014/15	Bespoke Befriending Scheme	WLCCG	10,000	1
2015/16	To support delivery of priorities set out in the H&B Health and Wellbeing Strategy	HBBC Public Health	20,000 13,200	16
Total			94,200	45

3.2.4. Ongoing learning and development workshops have been organised via the VCS Forum, along with showcasing networking events, specifically to coincide with National Volunteers Week each year, providing an opportunity for commissioned

VCS organisations to feedback on outcomes, and to hear directly from beneficiaries. These forums have also enabled the acceleration of VCS learning and collaboration.

- 3.2.5. Our VCS arrangements in Hinckley & Bosworth, is the first of its kind within Leicestershire, and based on the success, have shared our approach and the outcomes to date with all other Districts within Leicestershire, with a number now looking to develop similar arrangements.
- 3.2.6. We have been awarded a Certificate of Excellence, from the Improvement & Efficiency Awards 2015 in recognition of our Locality Based Commissioning of VCS arrangements.
- 3.2.7. The NGCC building in Castle Street offers a town centre venue for a range of VCS provision, e.g. recruitment of volunteers, delivery of outreach provision (taken up by a number of statutory sector agencies as a more conducive environment in which to work with vulnerable people), and therefore has increasingly been recognised as a developing central Hinckley VCS Hub. Therefore in submitting this report, it is important to emphasise that whilst the VCS arrangements are in place to benefit the whole of the Borough, there is added benefit to Hinckley central, statutory partners and residents. Furthermore, the presence of an independently run Hinckley Town Centre/Central Hub, is essential in delivering the future aspirations of becoming a Centre of Excellence for volunteering.

3.3. Forward Plan 2016/17

- 3.3.1. The priority going forward is to achieve a sustainable delivery model. Therefore, it was agreed at the September 2015 H&B Health and Wellbeing Partnership meeting that we should seek to secure larger scale and longer term commissioning contracts, and as a priority via WLCCG. This has the support of our Health & Wellbeing Lead Member Cllr Amanda Wright, and subsequently an early meeting is being facilitated via Dr. Nick Willmott, Locality Lead GP for H&B, who is also represented on this Partnership.
- 3.3.2. With longer term commitment and funding, this would enable NGCC in its capacity as our VCS infrastructure organisation, to, for example, secure an income stream via an agreed top slicing arrangement to cover its management fee.

3.4. NGCC - VCS Infrastructure Delivery Organisation for Hinckley & Bosworth

3.4.1. Background and current position

- 3.4.2. Next Generation Community Connects (formerly known as Next Generation) is a well established and respected VCS organisation, which has been operating since 2004 (however, the organisations roots date back to the 1880's with the formation of the YMCA). Historically they have secured substantial contracts/grant funding from major trusts including via Leicestershire County Council and HBBC, in delivering a broad range of frontline provision, primarily to support vulnerable young people at risk. However, in response to the decline in VCS grant funding, during 2012/13, Next Generation responded by diversifying its offer, officially changing its charitable objectives and rebranded as NGCC. This new vision, aligned with HBBC ambitions for the creation of a VCS Hub and Commissioning Board.
- 3.4.3. During the period 2012/13 – 2014/15, NGCC has continued to be successful in securing grant funding, but on a much smaller scale, as these opportunities become increasingly more limited. Added to this, frequently grant funding does not enable for

full cost recovery or management fees, often resulting in levying further pressure on limited VCS staffing capacity to deliver the work for which they have been commissioned. Alongside this, NGCC staff (1 full time, 1 part time, 1 sessional worker), have worked hard to fulfil and very successfully deliver the requirements of the HBBC SLA for the delivery of our local VCS arrangements over the past 3 years.

- 3.4.4. However, based on NGCC's current financial position, terms and conditions of the Charity, dictates that the Board of Trustees will be required to issue redundancy notices to staff by the end of December 2015, if the shortfall of £15,000, needed to sustain them to end of March 2016, is not found. This would have an immediate impact on VCS support arrangements for HBBC.
- 3.4.5. N.B. It should be noted that HBBC funds to enable the continued roll out of both the VCS infrastructure support arrangements, and VCS commissioning arrangements is profiled in the base budget for 2016/17. Funding will be allocated as follows: £45,000 for infrastructure support, and £20,000 for commissioning. The intention is to recommission NGCC to deliver these arrangements from April 2016.
- 3.4.6. In securing NGCC's longer term position from April 2016, the Charity is giving consideration to the sale, or partial sale of its key asset, the Charity owned building in Castle Street, Hinckley. An options appraisal has been undertaken, and initial views sought from HBBC regarding the potential for the authority to develop the upper level of the building into 2, one bedroom flats. (HBBC have given an indication that they support this in principle subject to sufficient funds via the HRA, member agreement, etc.).
- 3.4.7. Essentially, during 2016/17 NGCC should be in receipt of an income stream from partial or full scale sale of their building, from which they can retain their staffing infrastructure, continue to develop their portfolio, and deliver the VCS Infrastructure service. This could include relocation to alternative premises, but retaining a Town Centre presence to fulfil the aspirations of a Hinckley Central VCS Hub, outreach support and Volunteering Centre.
- 3.4.8. From the authority's perspective it is essential that we are able to retain the considerable experience and expertise of NGCC in maintaining momentum, the good will and trust established with the broader VCS community, and in realising the potential and future aspirations for our VCS locality arrangements.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (IB)

- 4.1 If endorsed by SLB and Hinckley Area Committee a £15,000 supplementary budget funded from Special Expenses balances will require approval by the Deputy Chief Executive Corporate Direction and the Chief Executive. The estimated year end Special Expenses balance as at 31st March 2016 will reduce from £70,693 to £55,693.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS (MR)

- 5.1 The Local Government Act 2000 gives the Council wide powers to promote the economic and social well-being of its area and the Council's support for the VCS Infrastructure Organisation would fall within those powers.

6. CORPORATE PLAN IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The contents of the report relate to and support the following strategic aims:

- Cleaner and Greener Neighbourhoods
- Thriving Economy
- Safer and Healthier Borough
- Strong and distinctive communities

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1 This report has taken account of the ongoing consultation undertaken by NGCC through the established VCS Development Forum, Commissioning Board, and database, to inform the proposals for 2015/16.

8. RISK IMPLICATIONS

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

9. KNOWING YOUR COMMUNITY – EQUALITY AND RURAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 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, and approaches to the sustainability. 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 commissioning arrangements.

10. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 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

Background papers: None

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