

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to Leisure and Community Policy Development and Review Panel

Date 14 January 2015

Report of: Director of Community

Subject: COMMUNITY ACTION FAREHAM - SLA REVIEW

SUMMARY

The report highlights changes in the funding arrangements for Community Action Fareham and sets out proposals for new grant funding arrangements from April 2015.

RECOMMENDATION

The Panel are asked to consider the report and comment on the proposed new arrangements.

INTRODUCTION

1. Community Action Fareham (CAF) is a Council for Voluntary Services (CVS); as Fareham's local CVS, CAF works for the benefit of Fareham based residents, community groups and organisations. They offer support to a range of community organisations across a raft of issues, this includes the provision of services and activities to meet the needs of local residents.
2. Support is also provided to help assist the network of community and voluntary groups operating across Fareham, helping them with things such as governance, development, attracting volunteers, grants and fund-raising.
3. In Fareham, CAF has held a service level agreement (SLA) with the Council for the delivery of core services since 1995. In addition to the core services, Community Action Fareham also operates other services such as Community Transport, Dial a Ride, Home Help Service and Shopmobility, as well as hosting a number of smaller organisations at their offices.
4. A table showing the current level of funding that CAF receives from Fareham Borough Council and Hampshire County Council is contained in Appendix A.
5. CAF also hold a lease with the Council for office accommodation that was newly opened in 2009. For their offices they pay below-market rent and in addition, have four, free car parking spaces for the use of their staff and volunteers.

CURRENT CAF SLA FOR CORE SERVICES

6. Under the current arrangements £41,000 per annum is available to CAF for 'core services' of which £31,000 is allocated for the provision of five core functions as follows:
 - (a) proactively identifying needs in the local community and facilitating improvement in service provision to meet those needs;
 - (b) assisting local voluntary and community organisations to function more effectively and deliver quality services to their users, members or constituents;
 - (c) facilitating effective communication or networking and collaboration amongst local voluntary and community groups;
 - (d) enabling the diverse views of the local voluntary and community sector to be represented to external bodies, developing and facilitating structures which promote effective working relationships and two-way communication; and
 - (e) Enhancing the voluntary and community sector's role as an integral part of local planning and policy-making.
7. In addition to the SLA payment, a further £10,000 is available for CAF to access as an Enabling Fund. This funding has been set aside to help and assist the organisation with transition; for instance, helping to reconfigure working practices in order to reduce duplication, accommodate priorities and to address new and emerging community needs.

8. CAF can bring forward proposals at any time to utilise this funding for such purposes and the award of funding is made at the discretion of the Executive Member for Leisure & Community.

ISSUES WITH THE CURRENT FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS

9. The arrangement of providing a 'block' of funding for a broad range of "core" activities has proved challenging in terms of both; accountability, in particular, how the funding provided is being utilised, and; identifying meaningful measures, in order to demonstrate how the activities are meeting our community needs'.
10. Monitoring meetings for the current SLA are held quarterly. However, performance measures have been a regular, on-going topic for discussion. This has also been a concern for HCC who have incorporated this consideration into the review and reflected a new approach in the arrangements for future funding.
11. The current SLA is an interim arrangement to allow HCC time to complete a review of the funding they provide for CVS's in Hampshire. Having commenced the review in 2012, this review is now complete and the outcome provides a very different focus for the funding from April 2015.
12. HCC have decided to award funding to specific clusters in future. Consequently resources will be awarded to CAF and Gosport CVS's jointly, to form a Fareham and Gosport cluster. HCC is proposing that the new combined award will be £83,644 in 2015/16 and 80,717 in 2016/17. Overall this represents a reduction in the current level of funding of 7%, over the two-year agreement being offered.
13. However, new grant conditions are very specific; in a move away from core funded activities, HCC priorities will be focussed on the following functions:
 - a. To help build community resilience and capacity of the voluntary and community sector to improve outcomes for vulnerable residents and to help reduce/delay demand on high cost services.
 - b. To agree with co funders, (FBC) a specific development plan for working with the sector on key priorities:
 - Support independence of vulnerable older people
 - Support for vulnerable children and families
 - Any additional agreed priorities

PROPOSED FAREHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL GRANT FUNDING

14. Fareham Borough Council provides funding to support and maintain a vibrant community and voluntary sector in the Borough. The aim is to ensure the voluntary sector is prepared and able to respond to change with a focus on developing resilience to build stability, sustainability and capacity within the local community.

15. A survey of voluntary and community groups across Hampshire (including responses from Fareham) was undertaken by HCC in 2013. This identified the following priority areas where help and support was most required:

- a. Grants, fundraising and assistance with submitting bids
- b. Recruiting new or more volunteers

16. There is still an indication from community and voluntary groups and organisations in Fareham that these are critical areas where ongoing help and support is required to ensure the effective management and operation of voluntary and community based services.

17. CAF are currently undertaking their own survey of community and voluntary groups in the borough to determine their needs and priorities. The Council has awarded £1,000 from the £10,000 Enabling Fund to help fund the survey. The results of the survey will be available in the New Year and will be made available to the Council to ensure that the information can be used to inform future service and funding priorities.

18. Fareham Borough Council wants to ensure that the funding provided is targeted effectively and used efficiently to meet the needs of the community and voluntary organisations in the borough. In consideration of these priorities and in light of the change in funding from HCC for CVS's, the Council is proposing to award a grant to Community Action Fareham for the following activities:

1. VOLUNTEERING & SKILL EXCHANGE:

- Enabling the community (groups, organisations & individuals) to meet their mutual volunteering aspirations.
- Facilitating people to independently 'match' with available volunteering opportunities.
- Where there is an identified need, develop 'skill exchange' initiatives; which seek to address local community needs in Fareham and involve local people in finding and sustaining solutions.

Initial Priority areas for FBC include:

- *The Fareham Park area – 'Fareham Park Project'*
- *Helping all Older People - particularly around befriending & reducing isolation*
- *Positive youth opportunities (peer led or intergenerational)*

2. FUNDING ADVICE AND SUPPORT:

- With a thorough knowledge of the funding opportunities to support the community, work proactively with groups and organisations to identify and secure external (of the Council) funding opportunities, maximising income for the voluntary and community sector in the Borough.
- Raising awareness about how CAF can support groups and organisations to access external funding.

3. GOVERNANCE AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE:

- Helping the community maintain a high level of familiarity with their legal, operational and management requirements, including charities, constitutions and trustee responsibilities.
- Interpret and advise the community and voluntary groups on emerging and existing government policy and initiatives, encouraging local response accordingly.

19. In addition the Enabling and Efficiency Fund of £10,000 will remain available as a separate fund to support the transition of the organisation, such as helping to reconfigure working practices in order to reduce duplication, accommodate priorities and to address new and emerging community needs.

20. In total there will be a grant of £40,000 available to CAF; £30,000 for the priority areas and £10,000 for the Enabling Fund. This represents a reduction of £1,000, approximately 2.5% on the current level of funding available.

RISK ASSESSMENT

21. There are no significant risk considerations in relation to this report.

CONCLUSION

22. In light of the significant change in funding arrangements for CVS's in Hampshire the Council has set out what it considers to be the priorities that local voluntary and community groups require in the Borough of Fareham.

23. CAF have been given a draft copy of the specification and have been asked to consider how they propose to respond to the new arrangements.

24. Following the meeting of the Leisure & Community Policy Development and Review Panel, further discussions will take place with CAF and HCC to determine the final arrangements. These will be presented to the meeting of the Executive on 2 March 2015 for a decision.

Background Papers:

Executive – 3 March 2014 – Community Action Fareham SLA

Reference Papers:

Enquiries:

For further information on this report please contact Janie Millerchip. (Ext 4597)

Appendix A

Table showing current level of funding available to CAF for 2014/15

Service	Fareham BC	Hampshire CC	Combined total of FBC & HCC £ only for each service
CVS Core Funding	£41,000	£43,340	£84,340
Community Transport	0	£10,015	£10,015
Dial a Ride Contract	£27,734	£27,734	£55,468
Dial a Ride Half Fare Subsidy	0	£11,036	£11,036
Shopmobility	£14,700	0	£14,700
Total	£80, 106	£88,797	£175,559