

URN: 21-106

Subject: Community Grants 2020/21 and an update on the Great Yarmouth Community Investment Fund 2021/22

Report to: Housing and Neighbourhoods Committee - 23rd September 2021

Report by: Paula Boyce, Strategic Director & Dean Wilson, Neighbourhood Manager

RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. To note the outcome and impact of the council's community grants provided to VCSEs up to 30 August 2021.
- b. To note the progress on the Community Champions' outreach programme.
- c. To receive and note the update on the Great Yarmouth Community Investment Fund administered by the Norfolk Community Foundation and the Foundation's plan to grow this independent fund.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report provides members with an update on both the community grants awarded in 2020/21 which due to the pandemic members agreed to extend to 30 August 2021 and a six month update on the work of the Norfolk Community Foundation as fund manager for the new established Great Yarmouth Community Investment Fund which members approved on 4 March 2021.
- 1.2 In addition, the report also summarises the £141,427 of commissioned Community Champions' Programme VCSE outreach services that are now in place. Members will recall Great Yarmouth Borough Council was awarded £465,000 grant funding for 2021/22 from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) to establish a Community Champions' Programme with three workstreams within it (4 March 2021). This has enabled a new outreach programme to be commissioned by the Borough Council which is being delivered by four Voluntary, Community & Social Enterprise (VCSE) organisations. The primary purpose being to ensure seldom heard residents have access to trusted sources of health information and guidance for themselves and their contacts relating to the COVID-19, local vaccination services and the broader support offered by Norfolk County Council, the Borough Council, Norfolk Public Health, the Norfolk & Waveney Clinical Commissioning Group and the borough's two Primary Care Networks.

2. COMMUNITY GRANTS TO 30 AUGUST 2021

- 2.1 Members agreed (4 March 2020) to extend the 2020/21 grants allocated from April to 30 August 2021 due to COVID-19 and thereafter establish the Great Yarmouth Community Investment Fund through the formation of a strategic partnership with the Norfolk Community Foundation (NCF) from 1 April 2021.

- 2.2 In total to 30 August 2021, £133,041 has been distributed to six local VCSE organisations including £33,541 in this financial year between April and 30 August 2021. A summary of the 2020/21 community grants recipients and their outcomes including the 5-month extended period April to August 2021 is provided in Appendix 1.

3. COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS' OUTREACH PROGRAMME

- 3.1 As part of the MHCLG Community Champion's Programme funding, the council has been able to commission four VCSE organisations who are working with specific vulnerable cohorts of residents to ensure they have access to trusted health information and understand how to obtain the vaccine and keep themselves and their contacts safe. The total spend on the Community Champions' outreach programme is £141,427 and the commissioned partners are:

- Access Community Trust
- Norfolk Citizens Advice
- Shrublands Youth and Adult Centre Trust
- DIAL

- 3.2 A summary of each VCSE partner's outreach programme is provided in Appendix 2.

4. GREAT YARMOUTH COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND GRANT AWARDS 2021

- 4.1 The independent Great Yarmouth Community Investment Fund (GYCIF) is run and administered by the Norfolk Community Foundation (NCF). For 2021/22 the council contributed £45,000 to kick-start this fund which is aligned to the communities priorities Members agreed within the Great Yarmouth Locality Strategy.
- 4.2 This first round of grant giving was over-subscribed. The NCF received 12 applications from VCSEs applying to the GYCIF totalling £119,648. After screening each application in terms of governance and fit with the delivery aims of the Great Yarmouth Locality Strategy, the award decisions by the NCF has enabled seven VCSEs to benefit directly. These are summarised in the table below.

Organisation	Project Area	Activity	Grant Award
Home Start Norfolk	Great Yarmouth Borough	To continue providing an intensive service to families with young children living in Great Yarmouth, who are struggling to cope with complex needs.	£10,000
Norfolk Citizen's Advice	Great Yarmouth Borough	To support vulnerable people in Great Yarmouth via the provision of free accredited advice.	£10,000
Kingsgate Community Church	Great Yarmouth and Gorleston	To re-shape and re-launch the Hot Food Hub from August 2021, to continue support to vulnerable members of the local community.	£5,000
Mancroft Advice Project (MAP)	Great Yarmouth and Gorleston	To fund a part-time adviser to deliver 1.1 advice, support and advocacy to young people in	£5,000

		Great Yarmouth.	
SunBeams Play	Great Yarmouth Borough	To contribute to the Support Coordinator post.	£5,000
Time Norfolk	Great Yarmouth, Gorleston, Caister and surrounding areas	Towards the cost of delivering Time Norfolk's services in Great Yarmouth.	£5,000
Access Community Trust	Great Yarmouth	To deliver forest skills outdoor education to Great Yarmouth primary school children from disadvantaged backgrounds and those with special educational needs.	£5,000

- 4.3 Two applications were declined and a further three VCSEs are being supported by the NCF in order to be considered by other relevant grant schemes.
- 4.4 The Norfolk Community Foundation has indicated it is able to support organisations that were unsuccessful in applying to the GYCIF by either providing feedback or by directing those organisations to alternative funders NCF work with who hold opportunities more aligned to the expected outcomes of the organisations' projects. This will effectively generate additional income for Great Yarmouth's community activities.
- 4.5 In addition to this, the NCF will continue to encourage local and national donors to support the Great Yarmouth Community Investment Fund. The NCF is developing a local 'giving circle' and has secured some early interest in this from private funders. The impact from the first round of GYCIF grants made will now enable the NCF to demonstrate in practice what this fund can achieve to inspire future giving.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 In 2021/22 Great Yarmouth Borough Council has funded community projects and outreach services to the value of £219,968. This is made-up of £33,541 in community grants, £141,427 of MHCLG-funded VCSE Community Champions' outreach services and £45,000 investment projects submitted to the Great Yarmouth Community Investment Fund.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Commissioned outreach services were procured in line with the Council's standing orders, public sector procurement regulations and the criteria set by MHCLG's grant award.
- 6.2 A legal agreement is in place with the Norfolk Community Foundation in respect of its management of the Great Yarmouth Community Investment Fund.

7. RISK

- 7.1 That funded VCSEs fail to perform or deliver their expected outcomes. The Council will carry out regular monitoring of its commissioned VCSE outreach providers and provide feedback as and when required.

- 7.2 The Norfolk Community Foundation is unable to expand the value of the GYCIF via additional donors and support. The Council has regular update meetings with the NCF and will ensure that this is closely monitored going forward.

Area for consideration	Comment
Monitoring Officer Consultation:	Yes, via ELT
Section 151 Officer Consultation:	Yes, via ELT
Existing Council Policies:	Corporate Plan, Annual Action Plan, Great Yarmouth Locality Strategy
Financial Implications (including VAT and tax):	Yes – as set out in section 5
Legal Implications (including human rights):	Yes – as set out in section 6
Risk Implications:	Minimal
Equality Issues/EQIA assessment:	No
Crime & Disorder:	No
Every Child Matters:	No

**Great Yarmouth borough Council Community Grant Recipients
Outcomes and Spend (April 2020 and 30 August 2021)**

Organisation	Grant Award	Status
<i>GYROS</i>	£17,000 plus £7,083 for extended period <i>Total = £24,083</i>	GYROS report there is a £7,590 underspend which it proposed to roll forward & spend on the provision of these services.
Outcomes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online Job Club: 1,153 posts, had 101 comments, 672 reactions/interactions with the posts. There have been 12,199 views on the group. Supporting people to apply for work: 339 have been supported during this period on 121 basis – remote and now also face to face. Pre ESOL sessions: 145 attendees. Of these 32 were new clients to GYROS. Overall: 339 – Individual support, 145 – ESOL embedded group activity & 265 – Facebook Group interactions. 		
Organisation	Grant Award	Status
<i>Home Start</i>	£19,000 + £7,917 for the extended period. <i>Total = £26,917</i>	Spent in line with grant award.
Outcomes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> During the final year of this project, 31 families have received regular support. This has benefitted 146 individuals in total. 39% of families who identified isolation as a need have reported an improvement following support. 77% of the families supported with mental health issues have reported an improvement to date. 		
Organisation	Grant Award	Status
<i>First Move Furnish Aid</i>	£19,000 <i>Total = £19,000</i>	To date the grant has not been spent & was not extended. Members agreed that the 12-months original grant could be rolled forward to provide services when conditions allowed.
Outcomes <p>Outcomes have not been achieved due to the pandemic and FMFA staff on furlough.</p>		
Organisation	Grant Award	Status
<i>DIAL</i>	£19,750 + £8,229 for the extended period <i>Total = £27,979</i>	Under performance on one target though the charity expects to have exceeded this target by the end of August 2021.

Outcomes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GYBC housing tenants receiving advice: 72 (target 75) • Great Yarmouth residents receiving advice: 134 (target 100) • Debts written off: Debts written off in full to the value of £75,841.01. • Total amount over the 18month period is £268,234.01 • Total number of people supported: 208 		
Organisation	Grant Award	Status
<i>Great Yarmouth Foodbank Plus</i>	£5,000 + £2,083 for extended period <i>Total = £7,083</i>	Spent in line with grant award.
Outcomes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 96 sessions – Total 240 sessions. 306 interactions - Total 918 • 40% Crisis sessions & 20% mentoring sessions, all sessions include Zoom, text message and face-to-face • Have increased up to five sessions a week. Additional requests were not possible due to COVID-19 limitation on safety • 5 people invited to train using ‘Keys’ online training starting end of February 2021. • Online recovery course started by 3 of the team. • Monthly supervision from Keys is continuing. Keys due to review in February 		
Organisation	Grant Award	Status
<i>Norfolk Citizens Advice Bureau – Great Yarmouth Branch</i>	£19,750 + £8,229 for extended period <i>Total = £27,979</i>	Spent in line with grant award.
Outcomes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of free, impartial and accredited advice and information to Great Yarmouth Borough residents. • 384 individuals supported as a direct consequence of the GYBC grant. Over achieving on a target of 313. • 122 of these were community housing tenants of a 38 target. • 52 residents supported into wider community activity out of a target of 5. 		

Great Yarmouth Community Champions' – Outreach Programme, July 2021 to March 2022

Organisation	Value	Target Cohorts
Access Community Trust	£33,900	Disabled people – with either physical or learning difficulties or autism Young people from ethnic minority backgrounds including Gypsy, Roma Travellers
<p>Outreach Project: <i>Confident Communities – Community Circles of assertive outreach.</i></p> <p>In its simplest of forms, Community Circles are networks of supportive bubbles that surround an individual and community to provide them with the required guidance, communication, advice and support to COVID-19 prevention and response.</p> <p>COVID-19 Community Circles takes uses existing successful health and wellbeing framework and positively enhances this to support individuals and communities focusing on increased testing, support self-isolation, limiting transmission, increasing vaccinations, supporting long Covid and promoting community recovery. Confident Communities GY employs 1.5 FTE facilitator, supported by volunteers and peer mentors and will support 850 people.</p>		
Organisation	Value	Target Cohorts
Norfolk Citizens Advice	£51,840	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People with disabilities • BAME residents • Migrant workers • Young people from ethnic backgrounds
<p>Outreach Project: <i>Catch Outreach & Support</i></p> <p>Providing advice to any member of the Great Yarmouth community and hence will target all four of the cohorts aligned with this bid including: people with disabilities, BAME residents, Migrant workers and Young people from ethnic backgrounds. NCA estimate supporting 1,250 people within the nine months. Taking its current statistics, 34% (425 people) are likely to have a disability or long-term health condition, 13% (163 people) of non-white ethnicity and 6% will likely be between the ages of 15 and 24 (75 young people).</p> <p>Supporting the wider Community Champion Programme, NCA has eight volunteers in Great Yarmouth and are experienced in attracting, training and retaining volunteers. NCA has key local venues (where it already operates from) that enable it to reach out to and engage with our community in places where they already go. Having moved to the library this is a key place to be more visible and outreach to more people in the community, we were asked to attend the food bank at the Salvation Army on Mondays to sit in with other organisations and provide support. The same with at The Herring House Centre in Great Yarmouth. Other locations will be around the town, including cafes and the bus stop near the COVID testing centre in Great Yarmouth.</p> <p>NCA is very experienced in tracking its impact, it feeds into the national Citizens Advice system for monitoring our outputs and our impact. It is tracking all outputs and the relating impact from our work.</p>		

Organisation	Value	Target Cohorts
<i>Shrublands Youth & Adult Centre Charitable Trust</i>	£18,352	Disabled people – with either physical or learning difficulties or autism
<p>Outreach Project: Community Checkers</p> <p>Based on site of the Gorleston Community Hub, with close links with most of the partners. The funding enables 2 additional Community Checkers and disseminate health information via all Community Checkers. The Community Checkers knock on everyone's doors road by road, having a conversation with the occupant, (whilst staying outside at a safe distance from the door) about how they are coping. They will work their way around the whole of Gorleston.</p> <p>This is a totally inclusive project with every door on each road being knocked, allowing us to reach residents that would not usually attend services or groups. Returning to anyone who would like a chat another day and those that need follow up. We will use this funding to take our local knowledge into the community to give information and reassurance whilst signposting to residents to assist with their concerns and issues.</p> <p>To date, the Trust's Community Checkers have knocked on every door in Gorleston across six months: 8,422 doors, speaking to 3,810 people (45% engagement rate) about 1,793 issues: Benefits 1, Bereavement 5, Carers 21, Community Activity 19, COVID 1242, Crime 5, Employment 12, ESOL 1, Food Parcels 20, <i>Health 201</i>, <i>Vaccine 172</i>, Housing 12, Home Education 18, <i>Loneliness 32</i>, Neighbours 32.</p> <p>It is anticipated that the numbers over 9 months will be similar to those of the previous 6 months as more people go back to work. The Trust aims to reach 650 people including dissemination of information through the 'What's On Guide' a local booklet that local people trust and is posted through the doors of those people who are not home to ensure everyone has contact.</p>		
Organisation	Value	Target Cohorts
<i>DIAL</i>	£37,335	Disabled people – with either physical or learning difficulties or autism.
<p>Outreach Project: Community Health Engagement Workers</p> <p>Delivering 'pop-up' style events in key community hotspots; including but not limited to; Great Yarmouth, Martham and Gorleston Libraries, Peggotty Road Community Centre, Shrublands Youth and Adult Centre and capitalising upon existing links in Primary Care to pop up in or around GP surgeries. DIAL will target community and village halls in Northern and Southern Parishes of the Borough. Each PCN area will be assigned with a dedicated Community Health Engagement Workers.</p> <p>The Community Health Engagement Worker roles will also connect with people using available digital channels including zoom, WhatsApp and dedicated social media to engage with people who have digital access and capability to encourage people to stay better connected to health information, local opportunities and provide better connection opportunities to other people and take referrals from partner organisations. Estimated reach is 750 people.</p>		