

Cabinet



Forest Heath
District Council

Title of Report:	Allocation of Community Chest Funding 2016/2017	
Report No:	CAB/FH/15/064	
Report to and date:	Cabinet	22 December 2015
Portfolio holder:	Robin Millar Portfolio Holder for Families and Communities Tel: 07939 100937 Email: robin.millar@forest-heath.gov.uk	
Lead officer:	Davina Howes Head of Families and Communities Tel: 01284 757070 Email: davina.howes@westsuffolk.gov.uk	
Purpose of report:	To update Cabinet following the review of applications for Community Chest funding 2016/2017 and to recommend funding allocations.	
Recommendation:	<p>It is <u>RECOMMENDED</u> that Cabinet note the allocation of funding from the Community Chest as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Creative Arts East 2016/17 £3,0002. Dance East 2016/17 £3,5003. Fresh Start New Beginnings 2016/17 £8,2004. HomeStart 2016/17 £13,250 2017/18 £9,8005. Mildenhall High Town Pirates 2016/17 £1,2046. Newmarket Citizens Advice Bureau 2016/17 £40,500 2017/18 £41,540 2018/19 £34,970	

	<p>7. Our Special Friends 2016/17 £6,000</p> <p>8. Relate 2016/17 £2,000 2017/18 £2,000 2018/19 £2,000</p> <p>9. Suffolk West Citizens Advice Bureau (SWCAB) 2016/17 £39,650 2017/18 £39,650 2018/19 £39,650</p> <p>10. The Voluntary Network 2016/17 £19,412 2017/18 £18,400 2018/19 £17,450</p>
<p>Key Decision: <i>(Check the appropriate box and delete all those that do not apply.)</i></p>	<p><i>Is this a Key Decision and, if so, under which definition?</i> Yes, it is a Key Decision - <input type="checkbox"/> No, it is not a Key Decision - <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
<p><i>The decisions made as a result of this report will usually be published within 48 hours and cannot be actioned until five clear working days of the publication of the decision have elapsed. This item is included on the Decisions Plan.</i></p>	
<p>Consultation:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The application process for Community Chest was implemented following consultation with statutory and non statutory partners.
<p>Alternative option(s):</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council could chose not to provide any grant funding however it is recognised that some support to the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector is required. The Community Chest also enables the council to commission services to support the delivery of the Families and Communities priorities.
<p>Implications:</p>	
<p><i>Are there any financial implications? If yes, please give details</i></p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding for grants are contained within existing budgets. This report proposes that any underspends be retained within the budget to be used for a second funding round or to commission third sector support for specific community issues.
<p><i>Are there any staffing implications? If yes, please give details</i></p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>

<i>Are there any ICT implications? If yes, please give details</i>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<i>Are there any legal and/or policy implications? If yes, please give details</i>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<i>Are there any equality implications? If yes, please give details</i>		Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council's approach to grants has been the subject to an Equality Impact Assessment and no negative consequences have been identified. 	
Risk/opportunity assessment:		<i>(potential hazards or opportunities affecting corporate, service or project objectives)</i>	
Risk area	Inherent level of risk (before controls)	Controls	Residual risk (after controls)
Organisations are not aware of our approach to grants	Medium	Implementing a wide ranging communications plan	Low
Requests for funding exceed the amount of money available	Medium	Eligibility criteria and an evaluation scoring matrix to be used to identify best fit and value for money	Low
Organisations do not have the capacity to respond to the council's approach to commissioning	Medium	Support provided to organisations and a phased approach to be taken to enable organisations to become familiar with the new approach	Low
Ward(s) affected:		All Wards	
Background papers: <i>(all background papers are to be published on the website and a link included)</i>		None	
Documents attached:		None	

1. 2016/2017 Allocations

1.1 Applications for Community Chest funding for 2016/2017 closed on 30 September 2015. A total of 20 applications were received from a wide variety of organisations.

1.2 The Community Chest budget for 2016/2017 is £185,240. It should be noted that £30,000 was commissioned in 2015/2016 for the MoneySmart project. The project aims to provide practical financial capability advice and support directly to communities across Forest Heath. Suffolk West Citizens Advice Bureau (SWCAB) won the two year contract and continue to successfully deliver this out reach work.

Applicants can apply for a maximum of 3 years. This is subject to budget setting each year and satisfactory reviews for each project.

1.3 Each application was assessed against the scheme's criteria and some were declined. Those not accepted are listed below. In some cases, it was considered that alternative funding sources were available. Officers in the Families and Communities Team will work with these organisations to try and identify alternative funding. These alternative sources could be elsewhere within the council (e.g. locality budgets), or from external sources such as Suffolk Fit Villages, Sport England and the Suffolk Community Foundation.

Applications not receiving Community Chest funding:

- (i) Coffee Caravan
- (ii) Music Arts Project
- (iii) St Edmundsbury Sailing and Canoeing Club
- (iv) Sue Ryder
- (v) Suffolk Mind
- (vi) Suffolk Rape Crisis
- (vii) The Voluntary Network (Befriending Scheme)
- (viii) Young People of the Year

1.4 Following detailed consideration, it was felt that ten applications met the scheme's criteria and should be allocated funding. These are detailed below:

1. Project name: Creative Arts East	Funding requested: 2016/17 - £3,000
Project details: Creative Arts East LIVE! is a rural touring scheme which aims to provide memorable, uplifting and enjoyable arts experiences that enrich community life and provides a focus for shared celebration. By working in partnership with local volunteers, Creative Arts East LIVE! supports local people to host high quality and affordable events, within easy travelling distance of their rural community. Part of the national network of touring schemes the project provides expertise, training, marketing support and financial subsidy to voluntary groups so that they can select and promote local, regional and national artists in local venues that are welcoming and accessible.	

Suggested funding condition: Officers will work with Creative Arts East to ensure that its impact is evaluated in line with the families and communities approach of building support networks and a sense of community.

2. Project name:

Dance East

Funding requested:

2016/17 - £3,500

Project details: Dance East requested funds to deliver a community dance project. The aim of the project is to recruit three local schools and community groups to work together with a Dance East artist in the creation of the performance. Dance East will liaise with FHDC to identify priority groups.

The structure of the project also provides a framework to run volunteer opportunities in partnership with schools and community groups. Older students and participants who do not wish to perform will be encouraged to assist backstage on performance days, providing them with the opportunity to see how a large-scale event is managed whilst still playing a crucial and active role in the project.

Suggested funding condition: Officers will work with Dance East to ensure that its impact is evaluated in line with the families and communities approach of building support networks and a sense of community.

3. Project name:

Fresh Start: New Beginnings

Funding requested:

2016/17 - £8,200

Project details: Fresh Start: New Beginnings is a registered charity delivering a family focussed therapeutic treatment service for children who have disclosed sexual abuse. Referrals are received from professionals following disclosure and the family is then contacted. Following a full assessment a bespoke treatment plan is prepared by a specialist worker who will then work on a one to one basis with the child.

There are concerns that families in the Forest Heath area are not accessing the services available to them. Funding is being sought to raise the profile of the service across Forest Heath and then put in place the necessary resources to deal with an increase in referrals as a result of increased awareness

4. Project name:

HomeStart

Funding requested:

16/17 - £13,250
17/18 - £9,800

Project details: HomeStart aims to give support to families who may be struggling to cope with a variety of challenges including post-natal illness, disability, isolation, the demands of parenting young children, bereavement and multiple births.

HomeStart work by providing one to one support to families through their staff and volunteers and organising Family Groups which provide activities and

support for children and parents. HomeStart also develop social networks and support groups within local communities.

The success of a large Big Lottery application has allowed HomeStart Mid Suffolk working alongside HomeStart South Suffolk to expand their services to the west of the county. As part of the project £57,636 in match funding has to be achieved to complete the remaining two years of the scheme.

5. Project name: Mildenhall High Town Pirates	Funding requested: 2016/17 - £1,204
Project details: The Mildenhall High Town Pirates are a structured Basketball Club offering sessions to members twice a week. Activities progress from simple to complex and from individual to group. The Basketball Club are seeking funding to host a monthly 'Fun with the Pirates' session for young carers. Additionally they would like to run a summer basketball camp for students at Mildenhall Academy.	

6. Project name: Newmarket Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB)	Funding requested: 2016/17 - £40,500 2017/18 - £41,540 2018/19 - £34,970
Project details: Each year Newmarket CAB supports around 2,500 individuals by giving advice and support on a range of subjects which include; welfare benefits, money advice, employment, housing, relationships and consumer advice. Funding is requested for running costs so that the CAB can continue to run a basic drop-in advice service for 15 hours per week, as well as more in depth work throughout the week. Suggested funding condition: Officers will work with Newmarket CAB to support and encourage outreach and capacity building work.	

7. Project name: Our Special Friends	Funding requested: 2016/17 - £6,000
Project details: Our Special Friends is a registered charity which offers a range of practical and emotional support services to help isolated and vulnerable individuals continue to benefit from animal companionship during illness, bereavement and other crisis. Our Special Friends are seeking financial support to be able to offer companion animal support services and animal-assisted activity in the Forest Heath area. By training and supporting their volunteers in issues such as dementia they are raising the skills and understanding of how to communicate with clients and	

offer support and signposting where applicable.

Suggested funding condition: Officers will work with the Our Special Friends to look into the high costs indicated for computer software.

8. Project name: Relate	Funding requested: 2016/17 - £2,000 2017/18 - £2,000 2018/19 - £2,000
Project details: Relate Norfolk and Suffolk aim to support people by helping relationships withstand the pressures which could otherwise lead to breakdown as well as working to limit the damage, which can accompany failing relationships, separations and divorce. Relate is seeking funding to subsidise the cost of counselling for residents that cannot afford a fee, allowing them to provide equal access to all regardless of ability to pay. The Community Chest grant will enable Relate to support the most vulnerable couples and families in the area.	

9. Project name: Suffolk West Citizen's Advice Bureau (SWCAB)	Funding requested: 2016/17 - £39,650 2017/18 - £39,650 2018/19 - £39,650
Project details: The Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) service provides free information, advice and advocacy to all members of the local community. The aim is to provide the information and advice that clients need at the time they need it, and to target resources towards providing casework for those unable to manage their problems themselves. SWCAB is seeking funding to continue to provide services which are rooted in, and developed from, a professional organisation made up of 80% volunteers. The Bureau is reviewing the way clients access services based on ensuring clients see the most appropriate agency, are enabled to help themselves if they are capable of doing so, and providing support to the remainder based on their needs.	

10. Project name: The Voluntary Network	Funding requested: 2016/17 - £19,412 2017/18 - £18,400 2018/19 - £17,450
Project details: The Voluntary Network operates community transport and a befriending scheme across Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury. Services are aimed at supporting the most vulnerable members of the community, helping them to maintain their highly valued independent living.	

The Voluntary Network is seeking funds to support Community Transport across Forest Heath. They currently provide a dial-a-ride service, five wheelchair accessible minibuses providing affordable door to door transport.

There is also a Community Car Service which compliments the services mentioned above, offering journeys that fall beyond the Dial-a-Ride remit.

These services enable passengers to maintain independence, participate in their community, access support services and allow people to gain a greater sense of physical and mental wellbeing.

2. With the above allocations there remains £18,524.00 in the Community Chest for 2016/17. There is the option to open a second round of Community Chest funding in the Spring 2016 or there is the opportunity to commission work on behalf of communities from the Community Chest.
3. Councillors will be aware that the Community Chest is a new approach to community funding and as such we would welcome feedback on the process and ways it could be improved for future rounds.