

Cabinet



Forest Heath
District Council

Title of Report:	Allocation of Community Chest Funding 2017/2018	
Report No:	CAB/FH/16/062	
Report to and date:	Cabinet	13 December 2016
Portfolio holder:	Councillor 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 2017/2018 and to recommend funding allocations.	
Recommendation:	It is <u>RECOMMENDED</u> that: (1) The Cabinet notes the allocation of funding from the Community Chest as follows: 1. Alumah 2017-2018 £3,700 2. Arts For Us 2017-2018 £9,520 3. Fresh Start: New Beginnings 2017-2018 £10,000 4. Our Special Friends 2017-2018 £6,000 5. Rural Coffee Caravan 2017/2018 £3,210 6. Suffolk West Citizens Advice (MoneySmart) 2017/2018 £27,192	

	<p>7. The Volunteer Network</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>2017/18</td> <td>£10,299.33</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2018/19</td> <td>£10,299.33</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2019/20</td> <td>£10,299.33</td> </tr> </table> <p>8. Unit Twenty Three</p> <p>2017/2018 £5,000</p> <p>(2) The Cabinet gives delegated authority to the Head of Families and Communities, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Families and Communities, to approve the funding allocated to the organisations listed below, with the total sum allocated being no more than £63,976.67:</p> <p>9. Abundant Life Church 10. ActivLives 11. FamilyCarersNet 12. HomeStart (Lakenheath) 13. Sharing Parenting 14. YOPEY Befriending</p>	2017/18	£10,299.33	2018/19	£10,299.33	2019/20	£10,299.33
2017/18	£10,299.33						
2018/19	£10,299.33						
2019/20	£10,299.33						
<p>Key Decision:</p> <p><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></p> <p>Yes, it is a Key Decision - <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>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"> As set out in the report. 						
<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 allocated within the budget available for the Community Chest scheme. 						
<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>						
<p><i>Are there any ICT implications? If yes, please give details</i></p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>						

<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 Ward/s	
Background papers: <i>(all background papers are to be published on the website and a link included)</i>		None	
Documents attached:		None	

1. **2017/2018 Allocations**

- 1.1 Applications for Community Chest funding for 2017/2018 closed on 30 September 2016. A total of 23 applications were received from a wide variety of organisations.
- 1.2 The total budget for Community Chest 2017/2018 stands at £142,904 which includes £69,054 from Suffolk Public Health who have allocated money to each district and borough council. This was a one-off funding stream and will not be repeated in future years. The purpose of the Public Health funding is to support activity to improve health across the area. Forest Heath and Suffolk County Council have agreed to work collaboratively to improve the level of intervention, enhance our mutual understanding of needs within the county, and deliver long term benefits to all parties.
- 1.3 Community Chest applicants can apply for a maximum of three years. This is subject to budget setting each year and satisfactory monitoring and review of each project.
- 1.4 In determining this year's allocations, each application was assessed against the scheme's criteria. Following consideration by the Portfolio Holder for Families and Communities, it was felt that a number of the applications received were not appropriate for Community Chest funding. Those **not** suitable for funding are listed below. In some cases, it is felt that alternative funding sources may be available. It is suggested that officers in the Families and Communities Team work with these organisations to source alternative funding. These alternative sources could be locality budgets, or from external sources such as Suffolk Fit Villages, sport's national governing bodies, such as Sport England and the Suffolk Community Foundation.

Applications not considered appropriate for Community Chest funding:

- i. Bury St Edmunds Volunteer Centre
 - ii. Cath 22, Suffolk Positive Futures
 - iii. Community Action Suffolk (Volunteering)
 - iv. Community Action Suffolk (Locality)
 - v. Creative Arts East
 - vi. Keystone Development Trust
 - vii. Suffolk Accident and Rescue Service
 - viii. Suffolk Coalition of Disabled People
 - ix. The Matthew Project
- 1.5 Following detailed consideration, it was felt that 14 applications met the Scheme's criteria and should be allocated funding. These are detailed below:

1. Project name: Alumah	Proposed Funding Allocation £3,700
Project details: My aim is to provide a safe space for (women, men, young people) who have fallen victim to domestic abuse, to attend for coffee and education; group work, raising awareness and self efficacy for women, men and young people. Support/after care groups.	
2. Project name: Arts For Us	Proposed Funding Allocation £9,520
Project details: Art's for Us provides out of school (i.e. during the school holidays and half term breaks) recreational, educational and sporting opportunities to all children. The project gives children and their families a chance to meet, make friends and learn to trust adults outside the immediate family; this acts as a building block for future trust and support between each other outside the project.	
3. Project name: Fresh Start : New Beginnings	Proposed Funding Allocation £10,000
Project details: The organisation was set up in response to a perceived unmet need for therapeutic interventions for child sexual abuse victims and their families. Children work through their plans with a dedicated specialist worker on a one to one basis for several weeks or months.	
4. Project name: Our Special Friends	Proposed Funding Allocation £6,000
Project details: The charity 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 crises. Current admin support is unable to keep up with back end office tasks e.g. filing, phone answering, fundraising applications, volunteer packs and badges, organising and managing events let alone entering new client information. In order to continue our work across Forest Heath OSF needs to generate a consistent income stream to cover ongoing costs.	

5. Project name: Rural Coffee Caravan	Proposed Funding Allocation £3,210
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Project details:

The aim is to combat rural isolation and loneliness throughout Suffolk by visiting rural locations and holding events that act as a catalyst for people to talk with one another in a friendly and non-threatening atmosphere.

Funding to visit 6 rural villages lacking in amenities or social activity locations decided in consultation with the district council, each lasting 2 hours per week and providing a social opportunity alongside a route into services via the provision of information and our sign posting service.

6. Project name: West Suffolk Citizens Advice (MoneySmart)	Proposed Funding Allocation £27,192
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Project details:

Funding is required to continue this successful scheme which aims to:

- To maintain contacts in the community and communicate changes in the availability of sources of help.
- To provide money management training to small groups.
- To raise awareness of the dangers of scams and give examples of current scams and how people can protect themselves.
- To help people to save money on energy costs including how to switch energy providers and reduce energy use.
- To promote understanding of safe methods of saving and borrowing, and steer people away from doorstep lenders and high interest credit schemes.

7. Project name: The Volunteer Network	Proposed Funding Allocation 2017/18 - £10,299.33 2018/19 - £10,299.33 2019/20 - £10,299.33
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Project details:

The Voluntary Network operates Community Transport and a Befriending Service. They provide support across Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury, with offices in both Newmarket and Haverhill.

Befriending Service – Team of volunteers provide one to one support to those who would otherwise be isolated. Volunteers spend an hour per week to offer friendship and support.

They propose to further develop the service with Befriending Connect. They have established that some clients would benefit from extending contact beyond one to one visits. In particular, many would welcome attending Day Centres or social groups but would welcome the support of the service to help to identify and resolve any barriers – such as transport.

8. Project name: Unit Twenty Three (Freefall)	Proposed Funding Allocation £5,000
Project details: Unit Twenty Three is a social enterprise aiming to support young people and creative enterprise. Freefall, is a powerful play developed by Young Carers and professional artists. Using Freefall as a stimulus, the Project will train Young Carers to facilitate postshow workshops, where Young Caring can be explored with Freefall's audiences.	

- 1.6 It should be noted that the Portfolio Holder for Families and Communities declared an interest in two applications where the Portfolio Holder knows the applicant in a personal capacity. In both cases the funding application was considered and approved by the Leader of the Council.
- 1.7 Of the total funding of £142,904, some £74,929 has been allocated. A number of applications were received which meet the Community Chest criteria and merit some level of funding. Officers from the Families and Communities Team are discussing with the relevant organisations the details of the funding bids and projects. Therefore the exact allocation of funding awarded to these organisations is still to be confirmed. It is proposed that the remaining £67,974 be used for these projects. Delegated approval is sought for the Portfolio Holder for Families and Communities, in consultation with the Head of Families and Communities, to decide the funding allocations to the organisations listed below, with the total funding not exceeding £67,974:

9. Project name: Abundant Life Church	Proposed Funding Allocation £tbc
Project details: The project, 'E.P.I.C dad', celebrates, supports and empowers fathers to be their best for their children and thrive in the privileged role of being a dad. E.P.I.C stands for: Encourager (bringing out the best in children) – Provider (meeting needs within the family) – Instructor (passing on skills for life) – Carer (giving love and support). The project will support fathers and their families who will in turn offer support to other fathers and families. Some of the dads accessing the project will become more involved in the running of the project and be trained as project volunteers. Suggested funding condition: Officers will work with the project to establish the finer details. Exact funding allocation to be confirmed.	

10. Project name: ActivLives	Proposed Funding Allocation £tbc
<p>Project details: The Town & Bridge Project was established in 2006. In 2012 the project became a Charity called ActivLives to support and motivate people aged 45 plus, across Ipswich and Suffolk to improve their own health and well-being.</p> <p>The project will hold Health and Wellbeing events for members and the general public. These events will offer taster session for adapted sports, to encourage people to join the satellite groups or Lakenheath hub. To support these events ActivLives will invite other organisations such as OneLife Suffolk, Rural Coffee Caravan and Age UK Suffolk</p> <p>Suggested funding condition: Officers will work with the project to establish the finer details. Exact funding allocation to be confirmed.</p>	

11. Project name: FamilyCarersNet	Proposed Funding Allocation £tbc
<p>Project details: The purpose of FamilyCarersNet is to provide flexible support for a carer's mental, emotional and physical health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Funding shall include creation of the 'FamilyCarersNet Health Toolbox', which packages the services into a digital-technology platform, as well as offline and entity that people can access for short, medium and long-term support.</p> <p>Suggested funding condition: The Portfolio Holder for Families and Communities would like to meet with this organisation along with Officers from the Families and Communities Team to discuss the broader scope for this project. The exact allocation of funding is to be confirmed.</p>	

12. Project name: HomeStart (Lakenheath)	Proposed Funding Allocation £tbc
<p>Project details: Home-Start 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 or multiple births.</p> <p>They are now expanding HomeStart into the Lakenheath area and will be offering a package of support to the Lakenheath RAF base. The support they want to offer is their home visiting befriending service and a weekly support group.</p> <p>Funding is required to offer the home visiting professional befriending service and to recruit volunteers who are local to the area who will understand what life</p>	

is like for families living on the bases.

Suggested funding condition:

Officers are seeking clarity on the financial support that may be available from the USAF for this project. As such the exact funding allocation is to be confirmed.

13. Project name: Sharing Parenting	Proposed Funding Allocation £tbc
Project details: Sharing Parenting aims to provide a range of parenting programmes including Raising Children, Sibling Rivalry and Raising Teenagers, supporting and empowering parents to build resilient families and communities. After a comprehensive needs assessment we would like to apply for funding to support the needs of parents and families in Forest Heath as identified in the assessment by professionals, schools and parents themselves. Suggested funding condition: Officers within the Families and Communities Team will work with Sharing Parenting to review their request for funding and consider the most cost effective way forward. The amount allocated is to be confirmed.	

14. Project name: YOPEY (Befriending)	Proposed Funding Allocation £tbc
Project details: Many adults, especially the elderly, suspect and fear the young. In part this fear is created by the negative press about the young, portraying them as binge-drinking, drug-taking violent hoodies. To set up and run for one year a YOPEY Befriender scheme between one or two schools and one residential care home for the elderly in Forest Heath. In particular the project wants the young people to learn to relate to, and not fear, elderly people living with dementia. Suggested funding condition: Officers will work with the project to establish the finer details. Exact funding allocation to be confirmed.	