

Cabinet



Forest Heath
District Council

Title of Report:	Allocation of Community Chest Funding 2018/2019	
Report No:	CAB/FH/17/065	
Report to and date:	Cabinet	12 December 2017
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 Assistant Director (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 2018/2019 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. Our Special Friends 2018/2019 £3,000 2. Suffolk Mind 2018/2019 £5,000 3. Anglia Care Trust 2018/2019 £3,434 2019/2020 £3,434 4. Suffolk West Citizens Advice (MoneySmart) 2018/2019 £27,167 5. The Restoration Trust 2018/19 £3,542 2019/20 £3,611 6. St Nicholas Hospice Care (Brandon) 2018/2019 £2,233	

	<p>7. EPIC Dads 2018/2019 £30,000</p> <p>8. HomeStart Mid and West Suffolk 2018/2019 £9,600</p> <p>9. Sharing Parenting (Parenting Map) 2018/2019 £14,000</p> <p>10. Brandon Community Association 2018/2019 £7,000</p>
<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>	
Consultation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As set out in the report.
Alternative option(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council could choose 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.
Implications:	
<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>
<p><i>Are there any legal and/or policy implications? If yes, please give details</i></p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
<p><i>Are there any equality 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"> 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. 2018/2019 Allocations

- 1.1 Applications for Community Chest funding for 2018/2019 closed on 29 September 2017. A total of 19 applications were received from a wide variety of organisations.
- 1.2 The total budget for Community Chest 2018/2019 stands at £110,181.31 which includes £29,300.64 carried over as unallocated funds from 2017/2018.
- 1.3 Community Chest applicants can apply for a maximum of two 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 either not appropriate for Community Chest funding or that although the value of their work was recognised, other applications better met the Families and Communities priorities for this over-subscribed fund. Those **not** recommended 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 from external sources such as the Suffolk Community Foundation or BIG Lottery funds.

Applications not considered appropriate for Community Chest funding:

- i. Alumah CIO
- ii. Rural Coffee Caravan
- iii. Mentis Tree CIC
- iv. Sharing Parenting (Families Together)
- v. St Nicholas Hospice Care (Newmarket)
- vi. St Nicholas Hospice Care (Mildenhall)
- vii. HomeStart Mid and West Suffolk (Lakenheath)
- viii. Fledgelings Pre-School
- ix. Art's for Us

- 1.5 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: Our Special Friends	Proposed Funding Allocation £3,000
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 let alone entering new client information. In order to continue their work across Forest Heath OSF needs to generate a consistent income stream to cover ongoing costs. Officer comment example: Unique service with strong partnership working. Consistent admin support essential to enable senior staff to concentrate on expansion and service quality.	

2. Project name: Suffolk Mind	Proposed Funding Allocation £5,000
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Project details:

A programme of training and support called 'Your Needs Met' that will lead to better mental health by improving the emotional wellbeing of the Newmarket community. A series of training sessions and information events focussed on the business community of Newmarket, using the 'Suffolk's Needs Met' emotional wellbeing model.

Officer comment example:

Natural expansion and first place-based application of the model – an accessible way to understand and put preventative methods in place around mental health.

3. Project name: Anglia Care Trust	Proposed Funding Allocation £3,434 2018/2019 £3,434 2019/2020
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Project details:

Continuation of the delivery of a countywide outreach service aimed at reducing the negative impact of alcohol.

Outcome 1: Improve mental health and wellbeing via early intervention, recovery and rehabilitation

Outcome 2: To link with integrated treatment services to increase outcomes from structured treatment

Officer comment example:

We would fully support a grant to ACT for Alcohol Outreach Services in the West, I do believe they have played a valuable part in engaging with some of our most vulnerable drinkers.

4. Project name: West Suffolk Citizens Advice (MoneySmart)	Proposed Funding Allocation £27,167
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Project details:

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

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

Officer comment example:

I have seen how WSCAB support people in the community and without this service people would draw even more on other services, such as GPs and the Council. In a time when universal credits are about to land, we need to have a service like this.

5. Project name: The Restoration Trust	Proposed Funding Allocation £3,542 2018/2019 £3,611 2019/2020
<p>Project details: Fortnightly sessions of the Culture Quest Music Appreciation Group (CQ Suffolk) for up to 15 people with complex mental health needs who are clients of Julian Support in Forest Heath plus support workers, volunteers, and JS clients from St Edmundsbury. Outcomes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • freedom and acceptance by a group • enjoyment and personal benefit • being with others versus social isolation • practical accessibility • observed growing confidence <p>Officer comment example: Excellent value project. Highly skilled facilitator with good outcomes for participants.</p>	

6. Project name: St Nicholas Hospice Care (Brandon)	Proposed Funding Allocation £2,233
<p>Project details: Open House is aimed at people facing long term and life threatening illnesses, loved ones, carers or those struggling with bereavement. The drop in sessions offer the chance to meet others facing similar situations in a comfortable and relaxing space. Information is delivered in a group environment where members gain from hearing about other people's experiences. The sessions are semi-structured and provide an educational element at each meeting around topics such as symptom management, goal setting and planning for the future.</p> <p>Officer comment example: This project is very much in line with the vision for Brandon. They have already started building relationships within the town and building upon existing assets to reach those in need of support</p>	

7. Project name: EPIC Dads	Proposed Funding Allocation £30,000
<p>Project details: The project, 'E.P.I.C Dads', 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 continue and expand on supporting 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.</p> <p>Officer comment example: I have been working with ALC on the development of this project. By requesting funding for posts this will give the project the capability to grow and become sustainable.</p>	

8. Project name: HomeStart Mid and West Suffolk	Proposed Funding Allocation £9,600
<p>Project details: Home-Start MWS support 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. Funding is being sought for Birth & Beyond project which supports parents and children in the preparation for starting their education journey. This project consists of Treasure baskets for under 1's, Story Sack and Journey to School courses for 2-4 year olds.</p> <p>Officer comment example: Really supportive of this project – pilot in Newmarket has been very successful and early engagement with schools has led to interest in rolling this project out.</p>	

9. Project name: Sharing Parenting (Family Map)	Proposed Funding Allocation £14,000
<p>Project details: Sharing Parenting offers parents a supportive informal environment in which to gain information, knowledge and skills around developing parenting skills to support family life and positive outcomes for children. Funding is being sought for the FHDC Parenting Map. This provision would include the extension of half-time outreach workers for a second and third year to provide a range of services in Forest Heath.</p> <p>Officer comment example: Overall I have an excellent working relationship with Sharing Parenting, regular contact is maintained and links well with other family providers in the area.</p>	

10. Project name: Brandon Community Association	Proposed Funding Allocation £7,000
<p>Project details: The Brandon Community Association (BCA) supports Brandon Day centre, both in ongoing fundraising and also the provision of a transport service that enables individuals to access the centre. BCA are currently raising funds for two new mini buses to provide transport to and from the Day Centre. At present BCA provide two mini buses of which all costs associated are covered by the charity and have been over the last 17 years. The two buses they currently have are 12 and 17 years old and are costing too much to repair and are not as reliable as they once were. BCA are keen to buy two new larger buses so to accommodate more attendees to the day centre.</p> <p>Officer comment example: Not a traditional day centre – looking at new and innovate partnerships to better the lives of those attending and promoting independence, alongside wider community benefit. Community have been extremely proactive with support and fundraising.</p>	

- 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.
- 1.7 Of the £110,181.31 budget a total of £104,976 has been allocated.