

Shadow Executive (Cabinet)

Title of Report:	Recommendations for the Allocation of Forest Heath's Community Chest Funding for 2019/2020							
Report No:	EXC/SA/18/013							
Report to and date:	Shadow Executive (Cabinet)	27 November 2018						
Shadow Executive (Cabinet) Member/ Portfolio holder:	Councillor Robin Millar FHDC 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 Shadow Executive following the review of applications for Forest Heath's Community Chest funding 2019/2020 and to recommend funding allocations.							
Recommendation:	<p>It is <u>RECOMMENDED</u> that:</p> <p>(1) the allocation of Community Chest funding for 2019/2020, as previously approved in 2017/2018 as part of two-year funding agreements, be noted, (Report No: CAB/FH/17/065 refers) namely:</p> <table style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tr> <td>(a) Epic Dads</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£15,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(b) Anglia Care</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£3,434</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(c) Restoration Trust</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£3,611</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Continued over...</i></p>		(a) Epic Dads	£15,000	(b) Anglia Care	£3,434	(c) Restoration Trust	£3,611
(a) Epic Dads	£15,000							
(b) Anglia Care	£3,434							
(c) Restoration Trust	£3,611							

(2) The allocation of Community Chest funding for 2019/20, be approved, namely:

(a)	Alumah CIO – Freedom programme	£4,000
(b)	HomeStart Mid & West Suffolk	£15,612.65
(c)	The Voluntary Network – Connect & Support	£7,966.66
(d)	Sharing Parenting	£27,160
(e)	Citizens Advice Newmarket	£35,000
(e)	Citizens Advice Suffolk West	£45,000
(f)	Our Special Friends	£7,740
(g)	Arts for Us	£5,000
(h)	Young People of the Year (YOPEY)	£4,000
(i)	The Racing Centre – Newmarket	£5,000

(3) subject to the budget setting process for 2020/2021, and subject to the satisfactory submission of evidence-based reports detailing the benefits and success of each individual project in 2019/2020, the allocation of Community Chest funding for 2019/2020 and 2020/2021, be approved, namely:

	<u>2019/20</u>	<u>2020/21</u>
(a)	Fresh Start – New Beginnings	£11,600 £11,600
(b)	Relate Norfolk and Suffolk	£2,000 £2,000
(c)	The Voluntary Network – Community Transport	£18,331 £17,961

	<p>(4) No Community Chest funding for 2019/2020 be awarded to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Aspect Living – Meals on Wheels (b) Suffolk Accident Rescue Service (SARS) (c) Families and More (d) HomeStart In Suffolk (e) Mentis Tree CIC (f) Citizens Advice Suffolk West (Money Smart) (g) Newmarket Day Centre (h) Lakenheath FC (i) Friends of Newmarket Library.
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No, it is not a Key Decision - <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>(ii) result in any new expenditure, income or savings of more than £100,000 in relation to the Shadow Council’s revenue budget or capital programme.</p> <p>Some of the decisions made by the Shadow Executive are also however, subject to the budget setting process for 2020/2021 (the budget for 2019/2020 has already been approved.)</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 Shadow Decisions Plan.</i></p>	
<p>Consultation:</p> <p>Alternative option(s):</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As set out in the report. • 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.
<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>
<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>Are there any equality implications? If yes, please give details</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. 	
<p>Risk/opportunity assessment:</p>		<p><i>(potential hazards or opportunities affecting corporate, service or project objectives)</i></p>	
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
<p>Ward(s) affected:</p>		<p>All Ward/s</p>	
<p>Background papers: <i>(all background papers are to be published on the website and a link included)</i></p>		<p>None</p>	
<p>Documents attached:</p>		<p>None</p>	

1. 2019/2020 Allocations

- 1.1 Applications for Community Chest funding for 2019/2020 closed on 28 September 2018. A total of 22 applications were received from a wide variety of organisations.
- 1.2 The total budget for Community Chest 2019/2020 stands at £205,455.31, which includes £20,205.31 carried over as unallocated funds from 2018/2019.
- 1.3 £22,045.00 was allocated from this year's budget as second year funding agreed in 2017.
- 1.4 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.
- 1.5 In determining this year's allocations, each application was assessed against the scheme's criteria. Following detailed consideration by the Portfolio Holder for Families and Communities, it was felt that 13 applications met the Scheme's criteria and should be allocated funding. These are detailed below:

1. Project name: Alumah CIO	Proposed Funding Allocation £4,000
Project details: Alumah's vision is to offer practical and emotional support to people impacted by domestic abuse. The funding is to extend provision and roll out the delivery of the Freedom programme in Mildenhall. Shine in Mildenhall. Freedom Programme – A 12 week domestic abuse	
Officer comment example: Currently there is a lack of provision within the Mildenhall area (Freedom Programme has not run in the area for a number of years) therefore people wishing to attend a scheme need to travel to Brandon or Newmarket.	

2. Project name: Home Start Mid and West Suffolk	Proposed Funding Allocation £15,612
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 to provide a home visiting service to support perinatal parents and families who have a child with a disability or Autism. Areas to be supported will be Red Lodge, Lakenheath and Mildenhall.	
Officer comment example: Very supportive of Homestart Mid and West – recently piloted a perinatal project in Brandon and this is giving evidence of a growing need as expressed in the application.	

3. Project name: The Voluntary Network – Connect and Support	Proposed Funding Allocation £7,966.66
<p>Project details: The Voluntary Network operates Community Transport and a Befriending Service across Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury. All services are aimed at supporting the most vulnerable members of the community. The Network predominantly serve older people, helping them to maintain their highly valued independent living.</p> <p>Funding is sought to support a new service, the Connect and Support Service. This service would work in partnership with West Suffolk Physio and Occupational Therapy to support with the continuation of gentle exercise after a programme of physio support and supporting those living with dementia.</p> <p>Officer comment example: This project provides the community with services to support them, in addition to befriending. Working with other professionals in the town will help people maintain their independence.</p>	

4. Project name: Sharing Parenting	Proposed Funding Allocation £27,160
<p>Project details: Sharing Parenting offers parents a supportive informal environment in which to gain information, knowledge and skills around parenting skills for improved family life and positive outcomes for children.</p> <p>Funding is requested to provide additional Outreach Family Support Worker hours to increase the provision offered. With a focus on engaging and supporting parents with mental health issues through one to one work and linking with community activities.</p> <p>Officer comment example: Sharing Parenting are really proactive in supporting connections and developing resilience in the community. The Outreach workers are very effective in their roles.</p>	

5. Project name: Fresh Start – New Beginnings	Proposed Funding Allocation £11,600 2019/20 £11,600 2020/21
<p>Project details: The primary purpose is to help children and young people (0-21) who have been sexually abused to understand what has happened to them and to help them recover from the traumas of sexual abuse.</p> <p>Funding is requested to provide one to one counselling sessions and group work programmes within Forest Heath.</p> <p>Officer comment example: There is an increased number of referrals resulting in a need for this area of work. It is the only specialised service in the area.</p>	

6. Project name: Relate Norfolk and Suffolk	Proposed Funding Allocation £2,000 2019/20 £2,000 2020/21
<p>Project details: Relate provides relationship support for their clients. Its mission is to develop and support healthy relationships by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Helping couples, families and individuals to make relationships work better, and - Delivering inclusive, high-quality services that are relevant at every stage of life. <p>The funding requested would be used to support the counselling bursary fund which enables relate to offer relationship counselling to those that are not in a financial position to pay the full fee.</p> <p>Officer comment example: Successful project and much needed piece of work. Monitoring reports from previous grants has been effective.</p>	

7. Project name: Citizens Advice Newmarket	Proposed Funding Allocation £35,000
<p>Project details: Citizens Advice Newmarket (CAN) provide free, confidential, impartial, non-judgmental, and independent information, advice and advocacy to the local community.</p> <p>The funding will be used towards the core costs of CAN as well as supporting new volunteers to develop their role as digital assistants.</p> <p>Officer comment example: Provides a valuable service and supports building resilience in the community, open to all of the community of Newmarket.</p>	

8. Project name: Citizens Advice Suffolk West	Proposed Funding Allocation £40,000
<p>Project details: Citizens Advice Suffolk West provide free, confidential, impartial, non-judgmental, and independent information, advice and advocacy to the local community. This funding would be used to provide information, advice and advocacy across the Forest Heath area and to support with development work addressing changing needs, including the Universal Credit full service is rolling out in Newmarket and Mildenhall Jobcentres.</p> <p>Officer comment example: Essential service which lessens the demand on statutory services. Growing need and vital role in supporting communities.</p>	

9. Project name: Our Special friends	Proposed Funding Allocation £7,740
<p>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.</p>	

Current administrative support is unable to keep up with back office tasks let alone entering new client information. In order to continue their work across Forest Heath OSF needs funding to cover increased ongoing costs.

Officer comment example:

Provides a service unlike any other in the area enabling volunteering, promoting animal and individual welfare. Administrative support enables more people to benefit from this unique service.

10. Project name: The Voluntary Network – Community Transport	Proposed Funding Allocation £18,331 2019/20 £17,961 2020/21
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Project details:

The Voluntary Network operates Community Transport and a Befriending Service. TVN provides support across Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury. All services are aimed at supporting the most vulnerable members of the community. TVN predominantly serves older people, helping them to maintain their highly valued independent living.

This funding will support with the costs of providing two core service in Forest Heath – Dial a Ride and a Community car service.

Officer comment example:

Service supports rural communities with limited public transport. Having a friendly service beyond taxi drivers and public transport buses, provides opportunities to reduce loneliness and isolation.

11. Project name: Arts for Us	Proposed Funding Allocation £5,000
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Project details:

Arts for Us provides referral based free holiday provision for children aged 5-9 years olds in Forest Heath. Children living with family, social and financial pressures can be allocated a place by referral at a play scheme in a in a safe local community venue.

Funding would be used to cover the costs of a running a number of play schemes/ holiday activities for 5-9 year olds.

Officer comment example:

The team are professional and skilful working to support some very vulnerable children.

12. Project name: Young People of the Year (YOPEY)	Proposed Funding Allocation £4,000
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Project details:

YOPEY, Young People of the Year, was set up in 2005 to give young people a fairer image, particularly in the media, and to heal the rift between generations, setting up young people as positive role models. We encourage young people to become good citizens by getting involved in, and leading, projects that benefit the wider community.

Funding is requested to establish a YOPEY Dementia Befriender Scheme in Newmarket. YOPEY will train young people to relate to people living with dementia and supports them to visit lonely residents in care homes over a 12 month period.

Officer comment example:

There are benefits of intergenerational interaction that YOPEY have implemented across the West, both for young people and older people in care homes.

13. Project name: The Racing Centre (Newmarket)	Proposed Funding Allocation £5,000
<p>Project details: The Racing Centre (RC) has provided a safe place for gathering, support and identity to the racing staff for over 100 years. It has a unique space and place in the heart of Newmarket. It is still perceived as a valued part of the community and racing staff would like to see it expanded and rejuvenated to meet the changing needs of the wider communities in Newmarket. Funding is requested to offer a range of community based activities open that all members of the community can access, both racing and non-racing.</p> <p>Officer comment example: It is recognised that the extension of services and offering to all will support the community of Newmarket.</p>	

- 1.6 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:

- a) Aspect Living – Meals on Wheels
- b) Suffolk Accident Rescue Service (SARS)
- c) Families and More
- d) HomeStart In Suffolk
- e) Mentis Tree CIC
- f) Citizens Advice Suffolk West (Money Smart)
- g) Newmarket Day Centre
- h) Lakenheath FC
- i) Friends of Newmarket Library

- 1.7 It should be noted that the Portfolio Holder declared an interest in the application submitted by Our Special Friends, the Portfolio Holder knows the applicant in a personal capacity and therefore abstained from making a decision on the application.

The following process was followed to determine the application, with the Portfolio Holder leaving the discussion, Families and Communities Officers recommended the application be put forward for consideration and the decision to fund should be considered by the Leader of the Council.

The application, along with officer comments (as stated above) was sent to the Leader for consideration and it was recommended for approval.

- 1.8 The full budget of £205,455.31 has been allocated, this includes £22,045.00 allocated from this year's budget as second year funding in 2017.