

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
6 NOVEMBER 2013
TO RECEIVE FEEDBACK FROM NCVS RELATING TO THE STATE OF THE SECTOR SURVEY AND HOW THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR IS ADAPTING AND COPING WITH THE CHANGING ECONOMIC CLIMATE AND HOW PARTNERSHIP WORKING IS PROGRESSING
REPORT OF HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

1. Purpose

This Committee is asked to consider the results of the NCVS State of the Sector Survey: The Reality Cheque: Will it cash or bounce? published in July 2013 and how progress is being made by the Council and the voluntary sector in adapting to changes in grant funding and commissioning of services.

2. Action required

Councillors are asked to consider and comment on the results of the survey and key issues raised alongside the information presented on the 'Draft: Voluntary and Community Sector Grant Funding – Progress so far...' and presentation Streamlining Investment to the Voluntary Community Sector.

3. Background

3.1 NCVS has been awarded an infrastructure contract by the Council to support and help develop the voluntary and community sector by providing services such as running regular training programmes, one-off workshops, networking events, briefings and conferences on topics such as:

- Applying for small grants;
- Finding funding through funding central;
- Volunteer management;
- Using the statistical data on Nottingham Insight to explain the need for your project/work;

3.2 Other activities provided by NCVS to support groups include:

- How to set up a group;
- Legal structures and enterprise;
- Sample policies and documents etc.

3.3 This is the second State of the Sector Survey which has had a 6% response rate (59 out of a potential 1013 responses). A snapshot of the concerns and the views of the sector have been included in the report 'The Reality Cheque: Will it cash, or bounce?' which can be viewed at

<http://www.nottinghamcvs.co.uk/NCVSRealityCheque>

3.4 A briefing note has been produced by Fergus Slade, Policy, Communications and Resources Manager Nottingham Community and Voluntary Service (NCVS) which provides a summary of the key findings and recommendations including (taken directly from the briefing paper):

- (a)** With such a range of material, the report gives us plenty of policy direction for the future. We are trying to promote our services more widely to try and prevent the closure of services and groups, but sadly we know that Disabled People's Advocacy closed in September.
- (b)** We are engaging with the City Council at pre-budget meetings as we have for the last two years to bring together sector concerns and promote those raised in this report.
- (c)** We are keen to stress that groups are working city wide, and not just in areas. While the Council's approach of streamlining funding into "areas" of work, such as through Area Based Grants and that currently being processed through Communities of Identity, is suitable for some types of service provision, NCVS would be extremely concerned about this method becoming a 'catch all' for voluntary sector funding.
- (d)** We want to step up our work with the City Council on their campaigning against the negative impact of welfare reform as it is clearly concerning the city's voluntary sector. We think this can be a great additional campaigning tool for the city and have been working with Liz Jones to reinforce our support for the City Council's campaigning.
- (e)** A more open and consistent relationship with funders, including the City Council, is essential. NCVS has had support from Councillors to challenge on funding and commissioning, but intelligence from the sector indicates that this is not always reflected in the practice at officer level.
- (f)** Finally – the voluntary sector is a significant social and economic contributor to Nottingham – but only if it's open for business. Funding needs to be maintained and access to external funding such as European Funds need to be optimized.

Copies of the briefing note and report are attached as Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 to this report.

3.5 A presentation will be made by Karla Kerr, Market Development Officer, Quality and Commissioning, Nottingham City Council on the progress of the implementation of the new streamlined model for Area Based Grant Funding with the Voluntary and Community Sector at an Area and City-wide level. Miss Kerr will provide background information on the Phase 1 changes to how grant funding is allocated with the Council moving to Area Based Grant funding totaling £1.1 million per annum. Phase two includes the following:

- Review of needs and funding for 'Communities of Identity';

- Voluntary Sector Property and Lease Review;
- Widening the scope of Voluntary and Community Sector Streamlining to include City-wide and partner organisation budgets;
- Fair funding Formula.

3.6 A copy of the 'Draft: Voluntary and Community Sector Grant Funding – Progress so far...' document is attached at appendix 3 and can also be viewed at <http://www.nottinghamcvs.co.uk/news/article/city-council-publish-grant-funding-progress-so-far-document>.

3.7 Nottingham City Council regards the Voluntary and Community Sector as a key partner in delivering its vision for Nottingham and has awarded the infrastructure contract to NCVS and its partners to build and support capacity within this sector.

3.8 The Council is committed to supporting this sector as highlighted in the Nottingham Plan and the Corporate Commissioning Framework. In practical terms, the Council has invested approximately £31.3 million in 2012/13 in this sector through directly commissioning city-wide services from the Voluntary and Community Sector as well as, £1.1 million through Area Based Grants. The Council's commitment to an allocation of £1.1 million for Area Based Grants has been confirmed for the next two years.

3.9 To ensure a more streamlined approach to investments in the different areas of Nottingham, Lead Organisations have been established to manage and deliver outcomes for areas. Voluntary sector organisations were asked to work in partnership to deliver outcomes and to identify a 'Lead Organisation' which would be responsible for ensuring that all outcomes in an Area are delivered. The Council will look at all aspects of the business and support the Lead Organisation with business planning and development.

The Lead Organisations for Nottingham are:

Lead Organisation	Partners	Area of the City
Right Track Social Enterprise Ltd	Bulwell Community Toy Library Limited Snapewood Community Association Rise Park Community Association The Healthy Living Centre (Vision of Health) Crabtree Farm Community Association	1 Bulwell and Bulwell Forest
Right Track Social Enterprise Ltd	Nott's County FC Heathfiled Community Associations Bestwood Estates Community Association Bestwood Park Community Association Leen Valley Community Association	2 Basford and Bestwood
Groundwork Greater Nottingham	A Place To Be Me, Asian Women's Group, Aspley and Bells Lane Partnership, Aspley Community and Training Centre, Beechdale Community Centre, Bells	3 Aspley, Bilborough and Leen Valley

	Lane Community Centre, BEST, Birchover Community Centre, Hope Church Nottingham, Nottingham University Samworth Academy, Sheila Russell Centre, Take 1 Studios, The Vale Community Centre, Zone Youth Project, YMCA 53rd St Margaret's Scouts	
Castle Cavendish Foundation	Groundwork, Hyson Green Youth Centre, The Lenton Centre	4 Arboretum, Dunkirk and Lenton, Radford and Park
NG7 Training Employment and Advice	Asian Women's Project, KK Boxing, Nott's County Football in the Community, Young Potential Sherwood Community Centre, New Basford Community Centre, Edwards Lane Community Centre	5 Berridge and Sherwood
The Renewal Trust	City College Nottingham, Stonebridge City Farm The YMCA, Community Recording, ACAF, Muslim Community, Wheelbase, Blue Bell Hill Community Centre, BANCA, Tracs, Greenway, Wells Rd Community Centre, Sneinton Hermitage Community Centre, Mapperley Community Centre, Sneinton Old School Hall	6 St Anns, Dales and Mapperley
Meadows Partnership Trust	Queens Walk Community Centre, Silverdale Community Centre, Clifton Community Centre, Park Gate Community Centre, High bank Community Centre, KK boxing, YMCA, Meadows and Clifton Community Gardens, Go- digit, Hope Church, Enthusiasm Trust, Groundwork, Play Works	8 Clifton North, Clifton South and Bridge

At this point in time Area 7, Wollaton and Lenton Abbey does not have a Lead Organisation appointed.

3.10 Miss Kerr will provide the background reasons and progress for the Communities of Identity Review which identifies groups of people who share particular needs and priorities for public services. In prioritising and resourcing communities of identity the focus will be for those communities experiencing disadvantage or inequalities.

3.11 Phase two will be moving to a Fair Funding Formula between the different areas and will include decisions to:

- Agree key factors and bring together current funding formulas;
- Design and agree a safe timescale for moving to the formula, allowing for a gradual move;
- Communicate with key stakeholders to agree changes.

4. List of attached information

Appendix 1 – briefing note by Ferg Slade, NCVS

Appendix 2 – report – ‘The Reality Cheque: Will it cash, or bounce?’

Appendix 3 – Draft: Voluntary and Community Sector Grant Funding – Progress so far

Appendix 4 – Presentation by Karla Kerr

5. Background papers, other than published works or those disclosing exempt or confidential information

None

6. Published documents referred to in compiling this report

Report and presentation submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 13 January 2013

Minutes of meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 13 January 2013.

7. Wards affected

City-wide

8. Contact information

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