

Commissioning and Procurement Sub-Committee 12.03.18

Voluntary Sector Update – Nottingham CVS

Voluntary Sector Support Grants – an update from our CEO, Jane Todd:

Some years ago NCC took the decision to end the Voluntary Sector Services Grant arrangements with NCVS. Since then, grants have been issued directly to Area Based Leads (ABL's).

Providers of support and development services to the voluntary & community sector (VCS) have 3 specific roles to play:

- Develop and support the sector and volunteering
- Enabling the sector to have influence
- Connecting the sector and volunteers through networks and collaborations

NCVS is a local organisation which uses a nationally recognised framework of outcomes for the VCS (the NAVCA Quality Award). In order to provide infrastructure support to Nottingham's VCS, NCVS relies on ABL's deciding to sub-contract to NCVS. This can result in the VCS receiving varied levels of support, depending on the level of funding awarded by the ABL's. This is particularly exacerbated where the organisation requiring support delivers a city wide service.

Where NCVS is subcontracted, accountability is to ABLs. The relationship that NCC has with NCVS is dependent on the ABL's deciding to sub-contract to NCVS.

NCVS would welcome discussions with NCC on this relationship and how best the VCS should access infrastructure support whilst making the most efficient use of resources available.

NCVS Funding Updates:

- Skills and Opportunities Fund:

NCVS is now recruiting to the Social Enterprise Support post following our recent successful bid to the NatWest Skills and Opportunities Fund.

This funding will provide training and support to 50 individuals in Nottingham to start up and grow social enterprises

Social enterprises address social (including environmental) issues and are vital community businesses that assist local areas to be more financially sustainable and resilient. Positive social outcomes have an equal place as generating profits.

Refugee and other migrant communities, Women and BAME people will be targeted to take part in the programme.

The qualifications are level 3 awards accredited through the Small Firms Enterprise Development Initiative (SFEDI) and consist of:

- ~Starting and managing a VCSE organisation
 - ~Business Planning for a VCSE organisation
 - ~HR for VCSE organisation
 - ~Tender Readiness for VCSE organisation
- (VCSE = Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise)

- PCC funding: Hidden Harm:

NCVS is rolling out its Hidden Harm skills building programme which is funded by the PCC. The programme is specifically aimed at the staff and volunteers of smaller community and voluntary organisations who may not be able to access the training on offer and more specifically at staff who may not have a direct case worker role so they may not be used to dealing with safeguarding and support issues. The aim of the programme is to equip the VCS with the skills and knowledge required to recognise and respond to indicators of various types of abuse and crimes which typically go unreported or unrecognised.

NCVS are running a Hidden Harm conference on 18th March (9-4pm) and a specialist workshop week 25 – 29th March.

- PCC funding: Hidden Harm part 2:

NCVS will be rolling out funded Safeguarding training for small groups who cannot afford to access the existing Safeguarding training offered by NCVS.

Other funding updates:

- D2N2 LEP:

NCVS are part of a working group looking at how the VCS engage with the D2N2 LEP post Brexit. We want to ensure that the VCS can influence future funding from central government and keep up the dialogue with the LEP regarding the importance of the sector in economic development. We have influenced the LEP to ensure there are Inclusion reps on the main board and on each of the sub board structures.

- ESF calls:

We are awaiting a public announcement of the organisation that will be delivering the Community programme that will include small grants for voluntary organisations. Small grants will be up to £20,000 and geared toward community learning activities. Once announced, the host organisation will release the grant themes and criteria.

- Age-friendly and inclusive volunteering:

NCVS was unsuccessful in its bid to the Age Friendly Network to deliver volunteering hubs in local communities. NCVS was working in partnership with NCC Libraries and representatives of the AFN forum.

- Integrated Care System:

NCVS are fully committed to be part of the city ICP and we continue to attend ICS meetings on behalf of the VCS. NCVS regularly feeds information back information to the VAPN. We continue to develop relationships with Health - an example of this is the Building Health Partnership.

- EU Settlement Scheme:

It was agreed that The Law Centre would be best placed to Lead on this bid. We are all awaiting the outcome.

Direct Projects:

- Practice Development Unit:

The PDU is a partnership between Opportunity Nottingham and NCVS. It offers a unique opportunity for front line workers across Nottingham city to learn

collaboratively and share good practice and expertise around working with service users who are facing multiple disadvantage. Members can also access a range of resources, including tool kits, reports and presentations, with both a local and national focus.

Please join the portal for more information at: www.pdunottingham.org

- Disability Sport Insight and Participation Project:

This 3 year programme in partnership with NCC is Sport England funded to learn and understand the barriers individuals with disabilities face in order to get physically active.

The legacy of this project will be a Volunteer Buddies pilot from May – September 2019. Buddies will be managed by NCVS and provide a befriending type service to enable citizens with long term disability or illness to access and maintain physical activity.