

SEVENOAKS DISTRICT COMMUNITY GRANTS SCHEME - END OF YEAR 2019/2020

People & Places Advisory Committee 6 October 2020

Report of : Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Officer, People and Places

Status: For Information

Key Decision: No

Executive Summary: This report summarises the outcomes of the Community Grants awarded for the year 2019/2020.

This report supports the Key Aim of Safe and Caring Communities.

Portfolio Holder Cllr. Lesley Dyball

Contact Officer Kelly Webb x7474

Recommendation to People and Places Advisory Committee:

To note the outcome of the Community Grants awarded for year 2019/2020 and understand the impact that Covid-19 has had on some of the projects/work supported.

Reason for recommendation: To keep Members updated on the 2019/2020 Community Grants and note any ongoing matters arising from Covid-19 and how these are being progressed and monitored by SDC.

Introduction and Background

1 2019/20 Community Grants Monitoring

The request for end of year monitoring reports was delayed due to Covid-19. All organisations were contacted in March 2020 to confirm this and to offer SDC's assistance and guidance should it be needed. Since then work has been undertaken to obtain end of year reports.

Results

- 2** 76% of Performance Indicators were on or above target, comprising 49% on target and 27% above target. Comparatively, the previous year, 2018/19 saw 85% of Performance Indicators were on or above target, with 45% on target and 40% above target. One difference for 2019/20 is that less Performance

Indicator targets were exceeded. Despite this, the Community Grants continued to deliver excellent, highly regarded projects and initiatives. Some of these are set out below.

- 3 Every Step Counts reported reaching 4,000 participants with a grant of £500. The grant was spent supporting new walks with visibility jackets for walk leaders, leaders training, first aid kits and publicity leaflets for each walk. The following positive feedback from participants was received: “I live on my own so it is nice to meet have and chat”; “Since joining the walk I am better on my feet”; and; “This gives me an incentive to get out and join in and walk.”
- 4 DAVSS (charity supporting men and women experiencing domestic abuse) significantly exceeded all targets assisting nearly 700 beneficiaries with the grant, as compared to a target of 400. With a Performance Indicator of training 10 new volunteers, DAVSS far exceeded this, training 27. The number of legal and court cases supported by this grant was 92, significantly exceeding the target of 40.
- 5 West Kent Mediation reported that over 800 residents benefited from their £1,000 grant. For the final month of the 2019/20 grant, West Kent Mediation adapted the way they operated, offering telephone mediation and then where appropriate zoom sessions.
- 6 Age UK Sevenoaks & Tonbridge significantly exceeded the majority of their targets using their £2,000 Community Grant. They reported supporting 264 residents as against the Performance Indicator target of 60. These 264 residents received specialised Information and Advice (I&A) home visits with follow up support. They were older residents identified as isolated, lonely, house bound with health issues unable to attend Age UK’s office or another advice centre. The I&A advice benefited these 264 residents in that it allowed access to a range of support services from which they could choose the right sort of support for themselves.
- 7 COMPAID exceeded the majority of their targets, benefiting 264 residents with a Community Grant of £4,000. The grant contributed to the running costs of the Sevenoaks Kent Karrier service, taking disabled, elderly and other vulnerable residents within the District to medical appointments and other bespoke destinations. Compaid reported that 209 residents had decreased loneliness by using this service.
- 8 24% of Performance Indicators were below target. By way of comparison, for the 2018/19 results 15% of Performance Indicators were below target. This change must be in part be attributed to the impact of Covid-19. The following projects are of particular note here.
- 9 The West Kent Extra’s ‘No Bother’ crime prevention project for young people needed to finish early due to the Covid-19 lockdown. Of the £1,200 granted, £800 was spent. It has been agreed that the remainder will be spent delivering this project during this financial year, 2020/21. West Kent Extra will be providing updated outcomes in due course.

- 10 Commonwork (Bore Place) were granted £1,280 towards promoting their estate as a community resource, offering a series of opportunities to Sevenoaks District residents to access and use green spaces. Due to Covid-19, they were unable to complete the final gardening sessions. They have spent £780. They will deliver the remaining gardening sessions during 2020/21 and provide updated outcomes.
- 11 Owing to Covid-19, Sevenoaks Counselling were unable to hold the final training course scheduled as part of their grant activity. This will be delivered during 2020/21 and confirmation of completion and an update on outcomes provided.

Key Matters Arising

- 12 The three organisations detailed in 2.2 above, namely West Kent Extra, Commonwork (Bore Place) and Sevenoaks Counselling, will continue to have outcomes of 2019/20 grants monitored. As all three organisations are working to complete delivery of their work during 2020/21 financial year, a final end of year report on Performance Indicators for the 2019/20 Community Grants can be expected by April 2021.
- 13 Many of the organisations awarded Community Grants (including 2019/20 and 2020/21) are understandably facing new and incredibly challenging circumstances. All are adapting what they deliver and how they go about it. SDC continues to work to support these organisations and indeed all those in the District's voluntary and community sector. A virtual Voluntary Sector Forum has been established to bring the sector together encouraging the sharing of information and collaboration.

Key Implications

Financial

The grant scheme is funded by SDC Core Budgets

Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement.

There are no legal implications and risk assessments are carried out on an event by event basis.

Equality Assessment

Members are reminded of the requirement, under the Public Sector Equality Duty (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010) to have due regard to (i) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010, (ii) advance equality of opportunity between people from different groups, and (iii) foster good relations between people from different groups. The decisions recommended through this report directly impact on end users. The impact has been analysed and does not vary between groups of people. The results of this analysis are set out immediately below.

Consideration of impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty:		
Question	Answer	Explanation / Evidence
a. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have potential to disadvantage or discriminate against different groups in the community?	No	The Grant scheme is inclusive of all charities
b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have the potential to promote equality of opportunity?	Yes	The grant scheme is open to everyone running a community charity/scheme
c. What steps can be taken to mitigate, reduce, avoid or minimise the impacts identified above?		No negative impacts identified

Conclusions

This paper highlights the end of year reports for the 2019/2020 Community Grants and identifies any ongoing matters arising from the impact of Covid-19.

Appendices None

Background Papers: None

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