

SEVENOAKS DISTRICT - COMMUNITY GRANT SCHEME 2020/21

People & Places Advisory Committee - 6 October 2021

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

Status: For Information

Key Decision: No

Executive Summary This report is the end of year update for Grants Awarded for the year 2020/2021.

This report supports the Key Aim of: the Council's Community Plan

Portfolio Holder: Cllr. Lesley Dyball

Contact Officer(s): Jenny Godfrey - Ext. 7112

Kelly Webb - Ext. 7474

Recommendation to People and Places Advisory Committee:

To receive and note the report.

Reason for recommendation: To give Members a year-end update on the 2020/2021 Community Grants, the impact of Covid-19 and actions taken by the Council.

Introduction and Background

- 1 All recipients of Community Grants for 2020/21 were offered Council guidance and support. During August and September, recipients were asked to provide an update on their received grants and if there had been an impact of Covid-19 on their project, service or activity together with any changes made or planned. Since September, the Council has worked with all recipients to deliver as much of their projects, services and activities as possible. Where this has not been possible, the Council has accrued returned unspent monies and reinvested it in 2021/22 Community Grants, and, carried forward two projects for delivery in 2021/22.

Results

- 2 Table 1 below sets out how the recipients of Community Grants for 2020/21 reacted and responded to Covid-19 and details the adaptations they made as a result. It also sets out the details of those projects, services, activities where unspent monies were returned and the two projects carried forward for delivery in 2021/22.

Organisation Name	Project/Service/Activity provided grant to deliver	Key adaptations to Project/Service/Activity
D'Vine Singers	Wellbeing Choir	Sang online & established 'singing befriender' scheme where volunteers can support members requiring additional support with meeting digitally.
Sevenoaks District Arts Council	Provision of small grants for the arts.	Grant funded some initiatives including (between the first and second lockdowns) a successful photography exhibition but unable to spend full grant. Returned £375* to the Council.
Eden Christian Trust	Youth Club in Edenbridge	Provided activities online and kept in touch using social media and phone calls. Held socially distanced walk and talks and outside activities.
North West Kent Volunteer Centre	Befriending Service and transport.	Switched entirely to telephone befriending. Used existing friendships made through pre Covid-19 befriending to ensure mutual support continued.
Sevenoaks District Sports Council	Provision of small grants for sporting activities	Continued to support sporting activities and interests.
Sevenoaks Counselling	Counselling	Reverted to online counselling.
CVSNWK	Disseminate to the voluntary sector an electronic news bulletin of shared information, opportunities and training	Increase in subscription and reach of this newsletter as a result of the need to share experiences and information.

Organisation Name	Project/Service/Activity provided grant to deliver	Key adaptations to Project/Service/Activity
Imago	Volunteer Development Service; Dial 2 Drive service	Used Dial 2 Drive service to assist with transport to vaccination venues. Producing monthly electronic newsletter advertising volunteering vacancies.
Age UK Sevenoaks & Tonbridge	Pop Up Café Sessions	Provided telephone support to residents and carried out doorstep welfare visits, and distributed many goods that Age UK Sevenoaks & Tonbridge had purchased and some that had been donated via Age UK National Office.
COMPAID	Dial a Ride service for disabled, elderly and other vulnerable residents	Provided transport to medical appointments. Also assisted with transport to vaccination venues.
Sevenoaks PHAB	Weekly Meet-up for adults with learning and/or physical disability	Purchased new games and equipment - used when restrictions eased and will continue to be used.
Sevenoaks Volunteer Transport Group	Low cost transport for elderly and disabled residents	Provided transport to medical appointments.
West Kent Mediation	Mediation service.	Significant increase in cases and reverted to holding online mediations.
BRIDGES	Run creative arts and crafts sessions in their café	Reverted to delivering packs of materials and then running virtual sessions to complete the projects together.
West Kent Extra	Summer residential trip for vulnerable children aged 8-12 years.	This project was unable to go ahead. It has been carried forward to 2021/22.

Organisation Name	Project/Service/Activity provided grant to deliver	Key adaptations to Project/Service/Activity
Kenward Trust	Deliver Active Archery and Alpaca Sessions to groups of vulnerable adults and young people	These activities were unable to go ahead. They have been carried forward to 2021/22. £210* returned to the Council - cost of refreshments no longer being included in the activities.
DAVSS	Support services for residents experiencing domestic violence	Significant increase in demand for services. Support provided online and via telephone. DAVSS invested in their computer system to ensure its suitability for some continued online support going forwards.
Salus Group	Primary to secondary school transition events.	Unable to hold events. Provided Year 6 pupils with transition books instead and returned £750* to the Council.
The Lewis Project	Support sessions running to promote mental wellbeing in young musicians age 16 years and over	Continued planning Album recording; commissioned artist for cover & designed/produced promotional materials. Once restrictions lifted, met to rehearse.
PSB Breastfeeding	Supporting new mothers with breastfeeding	Adapted their provision of supporting new mothers by training volunteers via video calls
The Hygiene Bank	Equivalent to a Food Bank but with hygiene products.	Increase in demand for hygiene products. Distributed via Food Banks.
Fegans	Deliver Parents Supporting Parents programme	Used online sessions instead of face-to-face meetings.

*This is included in a total of £1,335 that was accrued and used for Community Grants awarded for 2021/22.

3 Performance statistics for grants over £500* are set out in Table 2 below.

Key Performance Indicators under target	Key Performance Indicators on target	Key Performance Indicators above target	Key Performance Indicators on or above target
29.69%	29.69%	40.62%	70.31%

*These are the figures reported against Performance Indicator Code LPI_CD02.

4 Table 3 below shows the performance statistics for ALL grants, including those under £500.

Key Performance Indicators under target	Key Performance Indicators on target	Key Performance Indicators above target	Key Performance Indicators on or above target
31.43%	30%	38.57%	68.57%

5 The performance of the 2020/21 Community Grants is lower than the target of 80% (for Community Grants over £500) but given the significant impact of Covid-19 (including two grants not spent and carried forwards to 2021/22) it is both expected and understandable. Using innovative solutions, these projects, services and activities still reached and benefited the most vulnerable residents in the Sevenoaks District. Appendix A sets out example case studies received as part of the end of year monitoring.

Key Implications

Financial

None.

Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement.

None.

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	No disadvantage or discrimination identified.
b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have the potential to promote equality of opportunity?	Yes	The steps taken to address issues identified during the pandemic supported the delivery of the projects, services and activities to the most vulnerable residents for 2020/21 Community Grants. This significant learning has also helped shape future projects, services and activities, ensuring they can reach the most vulnerable residents of the Sevenoaks district.
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 impact of Covid-19 on the 2020/2021 Community Grants and identifies how any issues were progressed and monitored by the Council. It also sets out the performance statistics for these grants and the significant learning from delivering such projects, services and activities during the pandemic.

Appendices

Appendix A - Case Studies

Background Papers

N/A

Sarah Robson

Deputy Chief Executive & Chief Officer People & Places