

**ANGUS COUNCIL**

**POLICY and RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 13 MARCH 2018**

**SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT WITH VOLUNTARY ACTION ANGUS FOR 2018/19**

**REPORT BY THE HEAD OF STRATEGIC POLICY, TRANSFORMATION AND PUBLIC SECTOR REFORM**

**ABSTRACT**

This report seeks committee approval of the proposed service level agreement with Voluntary Action Angus (VAA)

**1. RECOMMENDATION(S)**

It is recommended that the Policy and Resources Committee:

- (1) approves providing grant funding for the amount of £95,718 to Voluntary Action Angus for the financial year 2018/19 for the services outlined in 3.2.
- (2) authorises the Head of Strategic Policy, Transformation & Public Sector Reform in consultation with the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to agree the terms of a Service Level Agreement with Voluntary Action Angus to document the grant funding to support the provision of said services
- (3) notes the intention to bring forward an outcome focused agreement for future years which properly reflects the strategic role which VAA has in supporting implementation of the Angus Single Outcome Agreement and transforming the delivery of public services

**2. ALIGNMENT TO THE ANGUS LOCAL OUTCOMES IMPROVEMENT PLAN/CORPORATE PLAN**

This report contributes to the following local outcome(s) contained within the Angus Local Outcomes Improvement Plan and Locality Plans:

**ECONOMY**

1. An inclusive and sustainable economy
2. A skilled and adaptable workforce
3. Attractive employment opportunities

**PEOPLE**

4. The best start in life for children
5. More opportunities for people to achieve success
6. Improved physical, mental and emotional health and well-being

**PLACE**

7. Safe, secure, vibrant and sustainable communities
8. A reduced carbon footprint
9. An enhanced, protected and enjoyed natural and built environment

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1** Voluntary Action Angus was formed in 2012 by the merger of Angus Association of Voluntary Organisations (AAVO) Volunteer Centre Angus (VCA). Voluntary Action Angus was formed in response to the Scottish Government's requirement for key local third sector interfaces in each local authority area. Funding for Voluntary Action Angus from Angus Council in 2017/18 was approved by the Communities Committee (Report No **82/1**)

**3.2** The Council will enter into a service level agreement with Voluntary Action Angus which is providing the following services which the council wishes to support with grant funding:

- Recruiting and training volunteers for opportunities within Angus Council
- Enhancement and support work in the third sector
- Kirriemuir Friday Night Project
- Volunteering services for children and young people
  
- Enabling the organisation of social activities for older people focused on Council sheltered housing communal lounges as community hubs

**3.3** It should be noted that the provision of the services by Voluntary Action Angus are subject to the monitoring arrangements as set out in the corporate standard for service level agreements. In addition the service level agreement requires quarterly reporting on the level and quality of the services provided and the reports are actively monitored by staff within People, Place Directorates.

#### **4. CURRENT POSITION**

**4.1** VAA has achieved progress in all areas covered by the SLA during 2017/18

**4.1.1** Volunteering services for children and young people: This work has progressed well with new strategic partnership working emerging. This includes work with Rossie School to develop new volunteering and social enterprise opportunities; responding with partners to changes in the school week; further development of accredited learning opportunities in SQA and life skills (Praxis). Since 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2017)16 young people have become involved in supported volunteering journeys.

**4.1.2** Enabling Social Activities for Older People; more than 60 volunteers have been recruited and tenants and groups have been assisted to develop organised activities. This helps tackle isolation and loneliness. This work also helps develop and sustain augmented volunteer services at a local level where many residents receive additional support through befriending and volunteer driving. This approach is consistent with LOIP locality approaches which empower residents and local volunteers to build new cultures of service delivery through preventative approaches

**4.1.3** Enhancement and support work in the third sector; this area of work remains very active with VAA staff supporting the development of the third sector and wider engagement of third sector in consultation and dialogue. Ongoing discussions with Angus Council should help increase third sector impact around new strategic priorities in Angus. Supporting the work of the Third Sector Collaborative has helped secure £194,000 from the Aspiring Scotland Fund to help tackle poverty and inequality in East Brechin. VAA is currently engaged in an Angus wide consultation, which is seeking to determine the needs of local third sector and voluntary groups. The outputs from the consultation will help VAA to focus support in 2018/19 and strengthen the capacity of third sector organisations to contribute to delivery.

**4.1.4** Recruiting and training volunteers for opportunities with Angus Council, this work is progressing well with 13 volunteers in the training / screening / recruiting process and others identified.

**4.1.5** The Kirriemuir Friday Night Project; the project continues to be busy with between 30 and 55 young people participating each week. Staff volunteers and young people have worked together to develop additional events including an enjoyable summer programme.

- 4.1.6** Delivering a more strategic leadership role;\_In addition to the specific services secured through the SLA, VAA has continued to develop its leadership role in the Third Sector. It has developed a new Strategic Plan which better reflects the evolving political and policy context and refocuses the organisation's activities towards strategic leadership and away from project delivery. This strategic activity will contribute to the transformation of public services and will be fully reflected in future SLAs. VAA is already working with Council staff to develop a more outcome focussed SLA linked to the Angus Local Outcomes Improvement Plan and the change and transformation that is required in the Third Sector.
- 4.2** For 2018/19 it is not proposed to increase the funding provided by People
- 4.3** In relation to the Place' Directorate funding provided to Voluntary Action Angus, the Volunteering Services for Children and Young People will remain the same.
- 4.4** The funding for Friday night projects in Angus is now met from the revenue budget following a successful budget bid in 2017/18. The level of funding proposed for the Kirriemuir Friday Night project is £13,440. This is an increase of 5% to allow for expansion of activities beyond school term times.
- 4.5** In 2016/17 Committee approved funding of £40,000 per year to support the development of new models of care for older people, in line with proposals set out in Report 13/16. These models focus on providing older people with opportunities for social contact and association and link to other initiatives in preventative care including befriending and volunteer driving. The actual payment made in 16/17 to VAA was £20,000 as a mid-year cost including set up arrangements. The payment increased to £30,000 in 17/18 and it is proposed that this figure remains the same in 18/19.
- 4.6** The breakdowns of grant funding for 2017/18 and 2018/19 are shown in the following table:-

<b>Service</b>	<b>Amount 2017/18</b>	<b>Amount 2018/19</b>	<b>Funding Directorate</b>
Recruit and train volunteers for opportunities within Angus Council	£12,738	£12,738	People
Enhance and support work in the third sector	£7,540	£ 7,540	People
Kirriemuir Friday Night Project	£12,800	£13,440	Place
Volunteering services for children and young people	£32,000	£32,000	Place
Enabling the organisation of social activities for older people focused on Council sheltered housing communal lounges as community hubs	£30,000	£30,000	Place HRA
	<b>Total £95,078</b>	<b>£95,718</b>	

## **5. PROPOSALS**

It is proposed to issue a service level agreement to Voluntary Action Angus for the amount of £95,718 in grant funding for 2017/18

## 6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The total value of the service level agreement is £95,078. The service level agreement will be funded as follows:

Source	Amount
People Directorate	£20,278
Place Directorate/HRA	£75,440
Total	£95,718

Provision for these amounts has been made in the relevant revenue budgets.

**NOTE:** The background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) which were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report are:

- **Social Work and Health Committee Report No 534/12**
- **Social Work and Health Committee Report No 102/14**
- **Strategic Policy Committee Report No 706/12**
- **Communities Committee Report No 105/15**
- **Angus Council Report No 13/16**
- **Communities Committee Report No 82/17**

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