

ANGUS COUNCIL

POLICY and RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 30 APRIL 2019

GRANT AGREEMENT WITH VOLUNTARY ACTION ANGUS FOR 2019/20

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

ABSTRACT

This report seeks committee approval for a proposed grant agreement to support Voluntary Action Angus (VAA) to deliver services in Angus subject to annual review

1. RECOMMENDATION(S)

1.1 It is recommended that the Policy and Resources Committee:

- (i) Agrees to provide grant funding for the amount of £82,980 to Voluntary Action Angus (VAA) in the 2019/20 financial year for the services outlined in 3 of this report;
- (ii) authorises the Director of Strategic Policy, Transformation & Public Sector Reform in consultation with the Director of Legal and Democratic Services to agree the terms of a Grant Agreement with Voluntary Action Angus to document the grant funding to support the provision of said services; and
- (iii) notes the intention to develop a more outcome focused approach for future years which properly reflects the strategic role which VAA has in supporting implementation of the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan and Locality Plans, while contributing to transforming the delivery of the related public services in Angus.

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

2.1 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 VAA was established in 2012 through the merger of Angus Association of Voluntary Organisations (AAVO) and Volunteer Centre Angus (VCA). VAA was formed in response to the Scottish Government's requirement to have a key local third sector interface in each local

authority area. Funding for VAA from Angus Council in 2018/19 was approved by the Communities Committee (Report 101/18 refers).

- 3.2 This funding has been supported previously through a Service Level Agreement (SLA). This approach has been considered in detail following an internal audit related to SLA's and it is now considered prudent to classify such funding as either a grant or a contract. Accordingly the council's financial support to VAA is now considered to be a grant.
- 3.3 The council will agree the terms of the grant funding with VAA which is providing the following services which the council wishes to support:
- 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
- 3.4 It should be noted that the provision of the services by VAA are subject to the monitoring arrangements as set out in the corporate standard for grant agreements. In addition the grant agreement requires quarterly reporting on the level and quality of the services provided and the reports will be actively monitored by the council's Senior Practitioner – Strategic Commissioning role.

4. CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 VAA has achieved progress in all areas supported by the Councils previous grant funding during 2018/19. The following provides an overview of the key aspects:
- (i) Recruit and train volunteers for opportunities within social work: Following discussions between VAA and the Council it has been agreed to cease the recruiting and training volunteers of opportunities within social work, and subsequently this work has progressed well with alternative training / screening / recruiting processes being employed.
 - (ii) Volunteering services for children and young people: This work is progressing well with new strategic partnerships emerging. This includes examples of good developments around prevention to develop new volunteering and social enterprise opportunities. In the last year VAA has supported a significant number of young people to engage in volunteering. VAA also works with schools to further develop opportunities for young people to volunteer providing additional support for young people affected by poverty. In a Tayside wide context the Chief Executive Officer of VAA represents Tayside Third Sector Interfaces (TSI) on the Tayside Children's services executive.
 - (iii) Enabling Social Activities for Older People; VAA employ a development worker who supports approximately 60 volunteers and is helping tenants and groups to obtain the skills develop organised activities for themselves in sheltered housing. These activities can help tackle social isolation and loneliness in tenants. This work also helps develop and sustain augmented volunteer services at a local level where many residents receive additional support through the befriending opportunities presented. This approach is consistent with the LOIP locality approach which empower residents and local volunteers to build new cultures of service delivery and tackle loneliness and isolation. Whilst many tenants in sheltered schemes now have the ability to organise events, there are still some sites where further enablement work is required. It is therefore recommended that the project continue for a further year to complete this knowledge and skills enablement.
 - (iv) 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 through continuous consultation and dialogue. VAA continues to provide development work with the Third Sector Collaborative and the Children's services forum which is always well-attended. Supporting the work of the collaborative has helped secure £194k of new funding as part of the Aspiring Scotland fund. This is helping to tackle poverty originally in East Brechin, where a considerable number of children and families

registered for the 'hunger holidays' initiative. The East Brechin experience is extending to other areas in Angus as a means to combatting child poverty building on excellent partnership working between Angus Council, VAA and Third sector.

- (v) The Kirriemuir Friday Night Project: The Kirrie Friday Night project is busy with a range of 30 to 70 young people participating. Excellent events have been developed between staff volunteers and young people including an enjoyable summer programme. Other activities include organising trips using the VAA Mini Bus to Dundee and other places. The young people are involved in helping organise these events, building their skills and confidence. Engagement with and support from local business has also helped generate more than £400 to help support holiday programmes for young people.
- (vi) Delivering a more strategic leadership role: In addition to the specific services secured through the grant agreement, VAA has continued to develop its leadership role in the Third Sector. VAA have now relocated in Forfar to the former council building "The Cross" and are commencing with intentions of utilising this as a Third Sector Centre that will allow increased cross collaboration opportunities between organisations providing support to the public. VAA have also worked closely with Angus Council and the Third Sector through a series of recent workshops promoting partnership working and the transition from "service level agreements" or "SLAs" into either Contracts or grant funding with more strategic focus and joint working at their heart.

- 4.2 VAA have recently been working with Angus Councils Senior Practitioner – Strategic Commissioning with a view to developing a more outcome focussed approach that will link to the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan/ Locality Plans to support improvement, change and transformation where this is required in the Third Sector.
- 4.3 For 2019/20 it is proposed to maintain the same level of funding previously provided with the only exception being the removal of the £12,738 associated with Service Specification 1: Recruit and train volunteers for opportunities within social work as described earlier.
- 4.4 The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) has identified £30,000 funding for one further year, to complete the enabling work for tenants to organise social activities
- 4.5 The breakdowns of grant funding for 2018/19 and proposed amounts for 2019/20 are shown in the following table:-

| Service | Amount 2018/19 | Amount 2019/20 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Recruit and train volunteers for opportunities within social work | £12,738 | - |
| Enhance and support work in the third sector | £7,540 | £7,540 |
| Kirriemuir Friday Night Project | £13,440 | £13,440 |
| Volunteering services for children and young people | £32,000 | £32,000 |
| Enabling the organisation of social activities for older people focused on Council sheltered housing communal lounges as community hubs | £30,000 | £30,000 |
| Total | £95,718 | £82,980 |

5. PROPOSALS

5.1 It is proposed to issue a grant agreement to VAA for the amount of £82,980 in grant funding for 2018/19.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The total value of the grant agreement is £82,980. The grant agreement will be funded as follows:

| Source | Amount |
|------------------------------|---------|
| Angus Council Revenue Budget | £52,980 |
| HRA | £30,000 |
| Total | £82,980 |

7. CONSULTATION

7.1 The Chief Executive Officer of VAA has been consulted in the preparation of this report.

NOTE: No background papers, as detailed by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above report.

REPORT AUTHOR: Pete Morton, Senior Practitioner – Strategic Commissioning
EMAIL DETAILS: mortonp@angus.gov.uk