

ANGUS COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 10 MARCH 2020

GRANT AGREEMENT WITH VOLUNTARY ACTION ANGUS FOR 2020/21-23

**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 £52,980 to Voluntary Action Angus (VAA) in the 2020/21 financial year for the services outlined in section 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 (VAA) to document the grant funding to support the provision of said services; and
- (iii) agrees the intention to extend the duration of the Grant Agreement by a further two year period subject to the condition of there being sufficient funding and satisfactory progress towards achievement of specified outcomes.

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 Voluntary Action Angus (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 (TSI) in each local authority area. Funding for VAA from Angus Council in 2019/20 was approved by the Policy and Resources Committee (Report 141/19 refers).

- 3.2 Further to an internal audit of Service Level Agreements, Grants and Contracts, the financial support to VAA from the Council is 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 Nite Project
 - Volunteering services for young people
- 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 schedule requires varying types of reporting dependant on the respective service. Each report will be assessed by the responsible Council service with support from the Council's Senior Practitioner – Strategic Commissioning.

4. CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 VAA has achieved progress in all areas supported by the Councils previous grant funding during 2019/20. The following provides an overview of the key aspects:

- (i) 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. VAA continues to provide development support for the Third Sector Collaborative. This has included the following:

- Their business team supported 92 organisations with good governance and crisis management assistance.
- Their Business team also responded to 1:1 support requests from 308 community/ voluntary organisations.
- 12 funding road shows delivered by VAA in partnership with Angus Council's Funding team.
- Supported 108 organisations on PVG management and trusted partner scheme.
- VAA weekly bulletin reaches 900+ community groups and organisations.
- 800 entries and local opportunities on our Locality Locator.
- 786 hits/visits per week to our Locality Locator.

- (ii) Friday Nite Project; The Kirriemuir Friday Nite project is busy with a range of 37 to 84 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 and Young people are actively engaged with helping design and organise these. Locally with the support of the local Co-op store the Kirriemuir community have helped contribute more than £400 towards supporting holiday programmes for young people. Achievements this year have included the following:

- The numbers of young people attending has increased this year.
- Good feedback from communities who contributed to the Co-op's fundraising initiative.
- The Kirriemuir Friday Nite Project is now in its tenth year of operating and is now seeing former attendees returning to assist in volunteering.

- (iii) Volunteering Services for Young People: In the last year VAA has supported 587 young people to become active in volunteering including the National Volunteering programme the Saltire Awards (428). VAA is also working more closely with Schools (as part of the 'Everything is Learning' initiative), to further develop opportunities for young people to volunteer. VAA also works collaboratively with other services and organisations to providing additional support for young people to volunteer where family poverty prevails. Achievements this year have included the following:

- Training on volunteer management and recruitment. 77 participants

- Local 1:1 support to volunteer involving organisations (152).
 - Ongoing work with statutory partners and business community on Employer supported volunteering.
 - Action on Feedback from volunteers who felt they didn't have the best experience. (Feedback to volunteer managers)
 - 587 young people volunteering
 - VAA responded to 1673 volunteering enquiries.
 - On-going work to ensure volunteer ambition inherent in all key strategic planning
- (iv) As identified in report 141/19, the schedule associated with enabling 'the organisation of social activities for older people focused on council sheltered housing communal lounges as community hubs' will cease on 31 March 2020 as it was a temporary transition grant to support people living in sheltered housing to manage their own activity programme. Due to the recognised turnover amongst residents, VAA have identified, adapted and undertaken relevant support fitting the needs of service users, engaging 56 volunteers over this period. The Housing Service has also been liaising with Angus Council's communities team to identify ways of further supporting work in this area. An exercise in sharing of experiences has been offered by VAA to assist the communities staff in designing the support they will provide during this transition. VAA are also exploring alternative options to continuing the support provided to people living in sheltered housing across Angus. An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been completed for this and is included as Appendix 1 to this report.
- (v) 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 been developing their new headquarters at The Cross in Forfar and have now reached full occupancy with partners such as Angus Women's Aid and Angus Carers Centre moved in. VAA have also been a key contributor to a series of events over the last year working closely with Angus Council, Angus Health and Social Care Partnership and the Third Sector promoting partnership working and the increase in collaboration and co-design of commissioned services focusing on shared outcomes.

5. PROPOSALS

- 5.1 Council services in partnership with VAA have been working with Angus Council's Senior Practitioner – Strategic Commissioning to develop a more outcome focussed approach to the grant for 2020/21 that links to respective legislative requirements and Council Plan outcomes to support improvement and change and transformation where this is required in the Third Sector.
- 4.3 Through collaboration the current schedules of services have now been refined to allow greater freedom to VAA in how they deliver on our outcomes while identifying clear reporting requirements for the Council's monitoring. This approach supports the introduction of a three year term to allow for longer term planning by VAA, while providing the Council sufficient performance information to manage the grant.
- 4.5 The breakdowns of grant funding for 2019/20 and proposed amounts for 2020/21 are shown in the following table:-

Service	Amount 2020/21
Enhance and support work in the third sector	£7,540
Kirriemuir Friday Nite Project	£13,440
Volunteering services for children and young people	£32,000
Total	£52,980

As this would be a three year Grant the funding in years 2021/22 and 2022/23 will be subject to budget availability and negotiation with the Council pertaining to the progress made and agreed future direction of these services

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The total value of the grant agreement being proposed for 2020/21 is £52,980. The grant agreement will be funded in its entirety from the Angus Council Communities Revenue Budget. Notwithstanding the three year term of the Grant being proposed, a performance report will be provided at the end of each year for the consideration of this Committee, including approval of any amendment to the funding level of the Grant proposed at that time.

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

APPENDIX 1

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Project Ref: GRANT AGREEMENT WITH VOLUNTARY ACTION ANGUS FOR 2020/21-23

What is the proposed budget saving?

Temporary grant funding of £30,000.00 had previously been committed by HRA to Voluntary Action Angus (VAA) to undertake the works schedule titled “*Enabling the organisation of social activities for older people focused on Council sheltered housing communal lounges as community hubs*”

This aspect of the grant agreement focused on volunteer development within Sheltered Housing settings tackling loneliness and isolation. VAA had employed a development worker who enlisted and coordinated volunteers supporting tenants and groups to develop organised activities.

Funding will cease into the 20/21 year however The Housing Service has also been liaising with Angus Council's communities team to identify ways of further supporting work in this area. A meeting with Angus Health & Social Care Partnership was also facilitated and a review of befriending outcomes has been agreed with VAA.

Screening Process

Does the proposed saving involve or have consequences for the people the council serves or employs? **No - temporary funding and alternative arrangements for a new project has been secured.**

If yes, proceed to step 1 of the Full Equality Impact Assessment below.

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT FULL ASSESSMENT

Step 1

What data/research is available to assess the likely impact of the proposed saving?

Please provide details here.

Step 2

Is there any reason to believe the proposal could affect people differently due to their protected characteristic ie age; disability; gender; gender re-assignment; pregnancy/maternity; marriage and civil partnership; race; religion and belief; and sexual orientation? Please state below each category that applies and give details alongside.

Please state each category that applies and provide details alongside.

Step 3

Is there evidence to suggest that any part of the proposed saving could unlawfully discriminate against people? Yes/No (*delete as appropriate*)

Step 4

Can the proposed saving be seen to favour one section of the community or deny opportunities to another? Yes/No (*delete as appropriate*)

Step 5

Does the proposed saving advance equality? Yes/No (*delete as appropriate*)

Or restrict equality? Yes/No (*delete as appropriate*)

Step 6

Based on the work you have done, please state the level of impact for any of the equality groups of the proposed saving in terms of high, medium, low, unknown.

State impact here.

Step 7

If during **Steps 2 - 5** there has been an adverse impact identified, consider if any adverse impact can be justified. Yes/No (delete as appropriate)

Impact Assessment Carried Out By: Pete Morton (Senior Practitioner – Strategic Commissioning)

Date: 27 February 2020