

ANGUS COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 9 MARCH 2021

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

REPORT BY VIVIEN SMITH, THE DIRECTOR OF STRATEGIC POLICY, TRANSFORMATION AND PUBLIC SECTOR REFORM AND KELLY MCINTOSH, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING

ABSTRACT

This report seeks committee approval to continue the existing grant agreement to support Voluntary Action Angus (VAA) for an additional one year (year 2 of potentially 3) to deliver services in Angus subject to annual review

1. RECOMMENDATION(S)

1.1 It is recommended that the Policy and Resources Committee:

- (i) agree to provide grant funding for the amount of £52,980 to Voluntary Action Angus (VAA) in the 2021/22 financial year (year 2 of potentially 3) for the services outlined in section 3 of this report;
- (ii) authorise 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) agree the intention to extend the duration of the Grant Agreement by a further one year period subject to the condition of there being sufficient funding and commitment 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 2020/21 was approved by the Policy and Resources Committee (Report 141/19 refers) with

commitment to consider extending the agreement by up to an additional two years subject to review.

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 The growing impact of the Coronavirus pandemic over the last financial year has created unavoidable challenges in VAA progressing towards the outcomes identified within our agreement. Their continued assistance in coordinating support efforts to the public in partnership with the Council and other partners throughout the pandemic has however been crucial in supporting the overall community response and its understood the impact this had on undertaking business as normal activity during this period.

4.2 In light of the impacts of COVID over the last year and the hopeful trajectory of our communities out of the pandemic, VAA have undertaken a review of the agreement ahead of entering into a second year. Their review includes how they intend to approach reaching the agreed outcomes under the current developing circumstances, with fall back options to be implemented if necessary.

4.3 The Grant Agreement holds the option for amendments and this will be considered as the Scottish Government guidelines in relation to COVID-19 develop and VAA may be required to adapt their approach to delivering services. This will be monitored and recorded by the Council's Senior Practitioner – Strategic Commissioning and the responsible Council Services.

4.4 VAA and the Angus Health & Social Care Partnership have also become engaged with the Council's ongoing transformation project for ANGUSalive. This project has been identifying where future service provision opportunities and efficiencies may lie between partners for development. This and any collaborative opportunities discovered will be developed over the forthcoming financial year.

5. PROPOSALS

5.1 While we unavoidably lost momentum last year due to the pandemic, it is planned that through effective management of the Grant conditions, closer working and frequent reporting we will make good progress this year with improving outcomes. The developed structure of our agreement still permits freedom for VAA to plan how they will deliver on the agreed outcomes which will be key to its success.

5.2 The proposed breakdowns of grant funding for 2021/22 are shown in the following table:-

Service	Amount 2021/22
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

Granting the funding in year 2022/23 (final year or current 3-year commitment) will be subject to budget availability and negotiation with the Council pertaining to the progress made and agreed future direction of these services.

6. EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 6.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) was carried out as part of the original funding proposal and included with the committee Report previously approved by this committee for the year 2020/21 (Report 114/19 refers). As there is no change to the scope or nature of the work to be carried out by VAA on behalf of the Council at this stage (other than to exercise a contracted option to continue the Grant Agreement for a further year), no further EIA is required. In the event that a further review of the grant funded work carried out and in consequence a change to the nature or scope of the grant funded work is subsequently proposed, eg as a result of COVID then a further report will be submitted to this Committee for consideration and a further EIA will be carried out at that time.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The total value of the grant agreement being proposed for 2021/22 is £52,980. The grant agreement can be funded in full from the existing Angus Council Community Education Revenue Budget. Due to the current and future unpredictable landscape facing service provision the level of funding for this year may be reviewed and amended depending on level of provision permitted through restrictions. Any proposed funding amendment will be reported to Committee for consideration and approval prior to inclusion within the agreement.

8. CONSULTATION

- 8.1 The Interim 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