

UKSPF 'Strength In Community' Project

1. Overview and Context

'Strength In Community' is an integrated VCS capacity building programme and commissioning process aimed at enabling the Voluntary Sector in Gedling and commissioned Health & Wellbeing providers to deliver sustainable, neighbourhood based services to individuals with recognised barriers to access. These include: dementia / frail / living alone; domestic abuse victims; residents who are digitally excluded; residents from minority ethnic groups; residents experiencing financial difficulties; younger people; residents experiencing loneliness and isolation; residents with less complex mental health needs; residents experiencing homelessness; refugees and migrant communities. The programme incorporates:

Year 2

- ▶ An externally commissioned consultation and options appraisal to identify and respond to the support needs and ambitions of the Voluntary Sector in Gedling and make recommendations for future system VCS support.
- ▶ This process will identify and propose a system model for the future commissioning of VCS support, additionally offering a collective voice for Gedling VCS organisations.

Years 2 and 3

- ▶ A two year 'Strength In Community' grant pot, to enable established voluntary organisations in Gedling to deliver community connection, employability, life skills, refugee befriending support, young and older people's activities and events (list not exhaustive), with a lower grant level option for smaller groups to build internal skills and capacity and extend their current offer to more vulnerable residents.
- ▶ A two year commissioning budget to enable the Council to invite tenders for the delivery of VCS support, i.e. Volunteer Training, Organisational Development, Fundraising and Governance. The budget can also fund Gedling VCS Hub based Employability, Life Skills, Health and Wellbeing, English as a Second Language (ESOL) and other elements as identified by the VCS needs consultation and SPFUK SIC outcomes and output requirements. This complements the VCS grant scheme and fosters coproduction between local voluntary groups and wider commissioned partners.

Year 3

- ▶ Pilot Nottm CVS outreach hubs in Gedling VCS facilities to enable self serve and extended reach of Nottingham CVS training, volunteering opportunities, fund finding and other CVS services.
- ▶ Implementation of a Customer Relations Management System to enable commissioned partners, community groups and individuals to promote services, access opportunities, refer individuals into volunteering and other health, wellbeing and personal development opportunities.

2. Strength In Community Project Funding profile

Match Funding: NCC Social Recovery Fund £47,000

SPF Grant: £142,800

Total Value: £189,800

▶ Spend Profile

▶ Year 1 - 2022/23

- £10,000 defrayed to Nottingham CVS for delivery of VCS Needs Assessment and report. Completion expected by 30/09/2023.

▶ Year 2 - 2023/24

- Strength In Community Grant Fund: £50,000
- **Commissioning Budget £31,400**

▶ Year 3 - 2024/25

- Strength In Community Grant Fund: £50,000
- **Commissioning Budget: £31,400**
- **Customer Relations Management and VCS outreach Hub implementation: £17,000.** The CRM element would be incorporated into the Commissioning process.

3. Grant Fund

Total budget £100,000 over years 2 and 3

This fund is ring fenced to **Gedling based Voluntary and Community Groups**, for the provision of:

- Capital and revenue developments to improve and increase access to local community hubs and facilities
- Social connection, meeting room hire, local resources and information
- Delivery of community events and activities
- Volunteer Development and Training
- Trips, Social Eating, Arts and crafts, Heritage and other diversionary activities
- Contributions to staff posts
- Organisational development and governance, business planning

4. Tender and Commissioning process

Total budget of £62,800 over years 2 and 3, plus £17,000 (CRM development) in Year 3 Outputs and outcomes required of the commissioned organisations are set out in the attached UKSPF project deliverables template **Appendix 1**. The Tender process will request submissions under two headings:

4.1 Provision of organisational Support to the VCS in Gedling

An opportunity for Councils for Voluntary Services (CVSs) across the County to submit tenders for the delivery of all or part of the following elements:

- Lead in the development of a system model of support for Gedling based VCS groups and organisations, in collaboration with local and wider charitable organisations serving the Borough.
- Offer VCS outreach support hubs, deliver Gedling specific VCS Funding and Volunteer Fairs, deliver stakeholder engagement, provide training for volunteers and trustees including bid writing, constitutional and policies development, governance and incorporation, health and safety management, vulnerable adult and child protection, financial management and role specific training for volunteers
- Deliver the integrated Customer Relations Management System

4.2 Coproduction with the VCS in Gedling

An opportunity for Private, Public and larger Charity Sector organisations to tender for the delivery of services to the target groups as defined in the UKSPF SIC project plan.

- The Tender specification should request information on how, and with whom, the organisation will collaborate within or across the network of Gedling based VCS groups, particularly those with built facilities/community hubs/access centres.

The services required are:

Target groups

- Support services for Refugees, Migrant Communities, ethnic minority/multicultural groups and individuals recognised as having protected characteristics as defined by the Equalities Act 2011.
- Support services to those suffering frailty, dementia, living alone, vulnerable, lonely, isolated, homelessness, substance misuse

Services (not exhaustive)

- Support to address the impact of the cost of living crisis
- Employability, Life Skills, English as a Second Language
- Community Transport
- Green and other Social Prescribing
- Young people's diversionary activities, intergenerational engagement

- Health and Wellbeing Services, inc. physical and mental health
- Substance misuse gateway services
- Support to promote independent living – older people, people with disabilities
- Engagement with Hard to Reach / disaffected cohorts in the community

5. Summary aims

The SIC Commissioning process sits alongside, and works in a complimentary way with the SIC VCS Grant Fund, to deliver services on the doorstep through a combination of trusted local hubs and experienced delivery providers operating in collaboration.

The Grant Fund aims to enable Gedling based VCS Hubs and community sector partners to enhance internal capacity and broaden their offer to encompass events delivery, act as hosts to commissioned employability, life skills, household financial resilience, health and wellbeing services and provide bespoke solutions to specific communities and vulnerable residents recognised as having protected characteristics in the Equalities Act, and wider target groups identified by the LRF Humanitarian Assistance Group.

The Commissioning budget will invite tenders from CVSs, commissioned partners, established wider charities and specialist service providers who would be required to coproduce solutions to the needs of local VCS organisations, communities and residents, by working collaboratively with Gedling based Community Hubs and Partners.

Example of good practice

One of several existing examples of this in Gedling is Netherfield Forum LTD and the St Georges Centre Community Hub and Youth and Community Centre, Netherfield.

Netherfield Forum LTD manage two thriving local multi-use facilities in an area recognised as a priority disadvantaged neighbourhood; offer rooms hire and long term leases to specialist providers, and promote a range of commissioned services to the vulnerable families that access their facilities.

Examples include school exclusions teaching sessions, NCC youth services, mental health support, social connection, other health and wellbeing offers, services to the elderly etc. As a result, Netherfield Forum has been regularly commissioned by NCC to deliver Holiday Activities and Food sessions and the Government's Winter Assistance Grant, and has been able to enter into highly beneficial long term local facilities rental to Public Sector and other Commissioned partners, which has in turn enabled growth and sustainability in the local VCS.