

Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
Action Taken Under Delegated Powers

Voluntary Sector Support Grant to Sandwell Council for Voluntary Organisations for
Volunteering Support

Summary Statement

- 1.1 To provide a grant to Sandwell Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) from the voluntary sector support budget of £65,109 in 2019/20 and £73,309 in 2020/21 and 2021/22, for the purpose of providing volunteering support in Sandwell.
- 1.2 Following the withdrawal of grant funding from Volunteer Centre Sandwell in November 2018, a review has taken place to determine the type of volunteering support required by residents and by volunteer involving organisations. The review involved SCVO and the new chair of Sandwell Volunteer Centre and discussions were had with volunteer involving organisations in Sandwell.
- 1.3 In April 2019 a one -off pump priming grant of £5,200 was awarded to SCVO to enable them to conclude discussions with the Volunteer Centre and to develop the details of the new volunteering support offer. Details of the new offer are set out in Appendix 1.
- 1.4 SCVO is the natural organisation to take on responsibility for volunteering support. They are already very well placed to identify and mobilise opportunities in discussions across a wide range of strategic partnerships (with health, the police, schools etc). They will add value by integrating volunteering support to organisations as part of the SCVO core support offer to VCS organisations delivered by their staff team. The support to residents who wish to volunteer will be provided in a different, more proactive way using new approaches such as social media. Momentum will be gained by joining things up - putting time and effort into raising the profile of volunteering with partners, volunteer involving organisations and residents.
- 1.5 The outcomes from this grant will be:
 - a much stronger and visible and well-integrated volunteering offer
 - increased capacity in voluntary and community organisations
 - increased contribution to Vision 2030

2 Recommendation

- 2.1 That a grant of £ of £65,109 in 2019/20 and £73,309 in 2020/21 and 2021/22, from the voluntary sector support budget to Sandwell Council of Voluntary Organisations, for the purpose of providing volunteering support in Sandwell, is approved.

In accordance with the authority delegated to Chief Officers to act on matters within the authority delegated to them under Part 3 of the Council's Constitution, I intend to take the action(s) recommended above.

I ~~do~~/do not have an interest to declare in this matter



David Stevens
Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director of Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing

Date 1.7.19

I confirm that I have been consulted on the above proposals and have no objection to their proceeding.

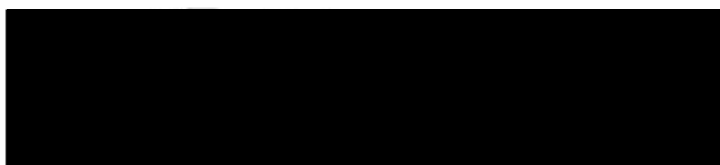


Surjit Toun
Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer

Date

1/7/2019

I confirm that I have been consulted on the above proposals and have no objection to their proceeding.



Darren Carter
Executive Director of Resources

Date

1-7-19

Contact Officer

Heather Chinner heather_chinner@sandwell.gov.uk 0121 569 3020

3. Background Details

3.1 Available funding: There is an allocation of £65,309 in the 2019/20 voluntary sector support budget for volunteering support. There is also an allocation of £ 24,070 in the voluntary sector support budget for the running costs of the Municipal Buildings, Oldbury where the Volunteer Centre Sandwell (VCS) is based. VCS have given notice on the building and discussions are taking place with Citizens Advice Sandwell (as the main tenant) about the future responsibility for the premises. As part of this work, a budget for the running of the building has been prepared and it has been identified that a proportion of the running costs grant can be transferred to SCVO for the running costs of the volunteering support function.

3.2 In many areas the volunteering support function is part of the role of the local Council for Voluntary Services and Sandwell has been unusual in having 2 distinct and independent organisations. From time to time SCVO and VCS have worked closely together but over recent years there have been fewer examples of collaboration and joined up working. Vision 2030 requires a growth in the numbers of volunteers and the range of activities and support they provide. The integration of the volunteering support function into SCVO's core offer will provide an improved service for voluntary and community organisations, whilst the support to residents will be given fresh energy and new approaches will be tested. Finally, by funding 1 organisation rather than 2 there will be savings in back office costs which will be used for direct service delivery.

Volunteering Support Priorities for 2019/20 onwards

Support for residents (15% of time)

Face to face

Maintain presence in Oldbury

Year 1: 2 x ½ days a week and monitor footfall very carefully. Review after 3 months

Open drop in session at West Bromwich, Smethwick and Black Heath libraries

Year 1: 1! x ½ day a week at each and monitor footfall very carefully. Review after 3 months

On-line

Stand alone free website. Provide links from Route2Wellbeing, SandwellFamilyLife and Council websites

Milestone: website to be in place by end September 2019. (until then the current website will be used, if necessary)

Support for Volunteer Involving Voluntary and Community Organisations (50% of time)

On-line

Provide easy to find resources such as sample role descriptions, volunteer registration form (many of these already exist on VCS website, but may need updating)

Develop support offer

Set baseline of information required before an organisation can advertise for volunteers (checklist) April 2019

Develop marketing/communications tools for organisations wanting to recruit volunteers September 2019

Develop guidance on tips to retain volunteers June 2019

Support for volunteer co-ordinators

Hold one off face to face networking event and then establish a virtual network via Facebook Workplace

Face to face

Run 3 local volunteer recruitment events in 2019/20

Raise the profile of volunteering/ strategic profile (35% of time)

Aim for 30 pieces in SCVO ebulletin / social media throughout 2019/20

Run a "just ask" campaign to encourage more organisations to involve volunteers

Support planning for volunteer involvement in the Commonwealth Games 2022

Explore and maximise opportunities to work towards Vision 2030 by harnessing the skills and time of volunteers. Local "Support Your Community" drive (recruit 338 new volunteers [who have never volunteered before] in each town over the next 2 or 3 years)

National Volunteers Week – 2019 ask organisations for their stories and run week long media campaign

Produce "State of Volunteering in Sandwell" report by end 2019/20

Provide information and support for statutory and private sector volunteer involving organisations

Facilitate opportunities for one-off opportunities for staff groups to volunteer