

## REPORT TO ABERDEENSHIRE INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD – 25 OCTOBER 2017

### ANNUAL GRANTS TO THIRD SECTOR ORGANISATIONS

#### 1 Recommendations

It is recommended that the IJB:-

- 1.1 **Agree the changes made to the proposal following consultation with the Area Committees in February/March 2017 and comments from the IJB on 30 August 2017**
- 1.2 **Agree that the new arrangement, as detailed in this report, be put in place for 2018-19**

#### 2 Risk

- 2.1 IJB Risk 8 – working with partner organisations  
IJB Risk 2 – Health and Social Care Policy  
IJB Risk 1 – sufficiency of resources
- 2.2 The risks of not doing this are that we continue to fund the same organisations based on criteria that is out of date and with a process that does not give organisations any longer term financial security.

#### 3 Background

- 3.1 The Health and Social Care Partnership has a commitment to supporting third sector organisations providing social care services throughout Aberdeenshire.

The annual Third Sector grants are one way in which this is done. In addition to the annual grants, funding is made available to Third sector organisations through the Integrated Care Fund and also through a commitment to a small number of organisations to provide funding for some health related services on a Grampian wide basis.

The Social Work and Housing Committee previously had responsibility for allocation of the annual grants to Third Sector Organisations. In February 2016, Committee agreed allocation of a budget of £425,000 to Third Sector Organisations.

- 3.2 At the Social Work and Housing Committee on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2016, it was acknowledged that the current process for application and award of these annual grants is time consuming for the organisations, the Social Care Contracts Manager and other staff who have to be involved in this process. In

addition to this, the annual grants process does not offer organisations any long term financial security and historically the organisations receiving annual grants have been the same over the years so there has been very little opportunity for any new organisations to receive funding for anything new or more innovative.

- 3.3 The Third Sector Grants budget was transferred to be included in the combined health and social care budget on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 and it was recommended by Social Work and Housing Committee on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2016 that the spend needed to be aligned to contributing to achievement of the 15 priorities in the Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership Strategic Plan.
- 3.4 Social Work and Housing Committee asked that a report be submitted to the Integration Joint Board (IJB) giving the background to the Third Sector Grants, current allocation and an outline of a plan to consult with current recipients to see how a more sustainable process could be put in place.
- 3.5 At the IJB meeting in June 2016, members agreed the following:
- To approve the plan to consult with relevant Third Sector Organisations regarding a new process of aligning spend with the priorities in the strategic plan and replacing the annual grants process with more sustainable, long- term funding, and in particular noted the requirement for risks and benefits to be clarified, an alignment of funding budgets and an assurance that there would be equitable access to the funding ,and
  - That the Chief Officer, Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership seek the views of the Council Area Committees on the consultation plan and report back to the IJB.
- 3.6 A report was taken to the IJB on 30<sup>th</sup> August 2017 with an initial proposal for changes to the Third Sector Grants programme and this report follows up on the recommendations that were made at that meeting. The timetable at 3.10 within the body of the report has been amended to allow for these changes to be implemented to the process.

Further information had been requested on the contribution of the Third Sector Grants programme to the overall funding of these organisations and projects and this is attached in Appendix 2. New guidance and a new application form have been produced and these take account of the new themes and 10 priorities which organisations will be expected to contribute to in order to secure funding. They are attached in Appendix 3 and 4.

- 3.7 The annual Third Sector grants process starts in October with approval being given in February for the start of the new financial year. The Chief Officer progressed the grants for 2016/17, whilst this review was ongoing, with current grants being renewed with the same award as in 2016/17 plus a 1% uplift. Organisations were advised of this and informed that there will be

consultation with them during 2017 regarding the future grant allocation process.

3.8 A summary of the funding to the organisations this financial year is attached as Appendix 1 to this Report and are categorised as follows:

- a) National organisations receiving a grant towards delivery of a service in Aberdeenshire – 9 organisations receiving a total of £140,937
- b) Local organisations – 12 organisations receiving a total of £270,451. Of these organisations:
- c) New applications that were received from organisations providing day care for older people following a decision by the appropriate section of social work not to continue to fund these from a core budget- 5 groups / organisations receiving a total of £17,780 (3 in Kincardine and Mearns, 1 in Garioch and 1 in Marr). Budget was transferred to cover this.

3.9 During February and March 2017, informal workshop sessions were held at each of the six Area Committees. Members were invited to a brief presentation covering the background to the annual Third Sector Grants process, information on current recipients of the grants, details of the issues and some suggestions for the way forward.

Feedback from the workshop sessions agreed that a new process would give greater financial stability to the organisations which apply for funding and there was an agreement that the existing criteria was out of date and should be updated to reflect the priorities in the strategic plan.

3.10 The following action plan is suggested for approval by the IJB:

October 2017

Annual Grant Funding to Third Sector organisations changes to become Health and Social Care Partnership Grant Funding to reflect better the relationship with third sector organisations as part of the Partnership.

The £429,347 available to the Partnership this year forms the basis of the grant funding allocation for next financial year.

New eligibility criteria has been developed focusing on meeting outcomes from the 2 revised themes agreed by the IJB for the new commissioning plan. Approval route for this will be through the Partnership's senior management team

November 2017	<p>Communication with current recipients of the grant awards during August and September to inform them and involve them in discussion regarding the new proposals for grant funding.</p> <p>A new process for advertising the funding opportunity to be developed.</p>
December 2017	<p>Once the total amount of funding for 2018-19 has been confirmed and the application process identified then the opportunity will be advertised.</p> <p>Opportunity will be advertised widely including traditional and social media. Opportunity will also be listed on websites such as Funding Scotland which allow organisations to search for funding.</p>
January 2018	<p>This will be the deadline for funding applications to be received. All applications will be assessed against the new eligibility criteria.</p> <p>A group will be identified in order to agree on which projects will receive funding. This group will include representatives from the strategy team, finance, and commercial and procurement.</p>
February 2018	<p>A report will be taken to the IJB with recommendations for allocation of funding. It is recognised that this report will need to contain a Direction from the IJB to the Council to pay the amounts specified from that budget.</p>
April 2018	<p>Funding will be awarded and these grants will be for a period of 3 years. Year 1 will be approved and years 2 and 3 will be indicative based on achieving the stated outcomes and the single year settlement for NHS/Council and IJB.</p>

#### **4 Equalities, Staffing and Financial Implications**

4.1 An equality impact assessment is attached within this report at Appendix 5.

- 4.2 There are no staffing implications from this report. Staff within the strategy team have been identified to undertake work to have the new paperwork and process in place.
- 4.3 Financial implications have been identified in the body of the report.
- 4.4 The Chief Officer, along with the Chief Finance Officer and the Legal Monitoring Officer within Business Services of the Council have been consulted in the preparation of this report and their comments have been incorporated within the report.

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Report prepared by Sheena McIntosh  
Date 16 October 2017

