

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL
COMMUNITIES and HOUSING ADVISORY BOARD

26 February 2019

Report of the Chief Executive

Part 1- Public

Matters for Recommendation to Cabinet - Non-Key Decision (Decision may be taken by the Cabinet Member)

1 KEY VOLUNTARY SECTOR BODIES – GRANT SUPPORT FOR 2019/20

To agree grant support for the financial year 2019/20

1.1 Background

1.1.1 For many years the Borough Council has provided funding to support a number of key voluntary sector bodies who provide support services to residents within the Borough.

1.1.2 We have now reached the end of the third and final year of the agreements and each grant recipient has been asked to submit a brief summary of progress achieved (**Annex 1 and Annex 2**) against the objectives set out in the Service Level Agreements.

1.2 Requirement of the Service Level Agreements

1.2.1 The services offered by each of the organisations should be well known to the Board. The following however, provides a summary:

Advice Services: The key role of the Citizens Advice North and West Kent (CANWK) is to provide advice services on a range of specialist topics. Advice services are available via walk in appointments, by telephone, or via online services. Home visits can also be arranged.

Over the past year CANWK have been able to offer assistance to 1,105 TMBC residents via the telephone advice line. In addition to this, face to face support has been offered to 1,464 residents either at Tonbridge Castle or via one of the weekly outreach sessions in Aylesford, Larkfield and Snodland. A detailed breakdown of the activity of CANWK over the last year is provided in **Annex 1**.

Volunteering Services: Imago provide support for volunteers looking for placements and for organisations needing volunteer assistance in addition to a volunteer driving service focused on the Tonbridge area. Involve provides a similar service for the Malling area.

Over the past year Imago have supported 15 organisations that deliver services in the Tonbridge area including support with fundraising, volunteer promotion, charitable status and networking events. They also provided community transport services via the Dial 2 Drive service which has 29 registered drivers in Tonbridge and Malling and 265 clients.

Involve have focused on recruiting volunteers with additional support needs and continued to promote the community transport provision. They have supported the recruitment of 90 volunteers in Tonbridge and Malling over the past year and communicate weekly with 50 organisations in our area. They have 22 active registered volunteer drivers for the Malling area and have completed 800 journeys to Tonbridge and Malling addresses throughout 2018.

Mediation Schemes: West Kent Mediation Scheme provides services in the Tonbridge area and Maidstone Mediation Scheme covers the Malling area. A range of mediation services are provided including neighbour and family disputes, made either by self-referral or via referrals from partner agencies. They are a key partner in the Community Safety Partnership. A single grant is shared equally between the two schemes.

Over the year they have continues to train volunteers to deal with neighbour disputes and anti-social behaviour within the borough. Their services are offered free to those in the borough who most need it.

Older People's Services: Age Concern Malling offer day care services in West Malling, Addington and Walderslade, providing the opportunity to socialise, engage in activities and receive health care services. The grant they receive supports the transport costs incurred by clients who attend these vital services.

Age UK Sevenoaks and Tonbridge offer a range of services including transport, health and day care, social activities and information services. A trained advisor also assists with a social prescribing service, aimed at reducing the number of people presenting at GP surgeries and A&E departments.

1.3 Legal Implications

1.3.1 To be addressed via Service Level Agreements

1.4 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.4.1 For the financial year 2019/20, grants to be set as follows:

CANWK - £95,000

Age Concern Malling - £8,000

Age UK Sevenoaks and Tonbridge - £8,000

Maidstone and West Kent Mediation Schemes - £4,800

Imago - £4,000

Involve - £4,000

1.4.2 The above grants match those awarded over the past three years. A further review of funding will be undertaken for the following financial year (2020/21).

1.5 Risk Assessment

1.5.1 N/A

1.6 Equality Impact Assessment

1.6.1 The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

1.7 Recommendations

1.7.1 That the following grants **BE CONFIRMED** for the period 1 April 2019 – 31 March 2020:

CANWK - £95,000

Age Concern Malling - £8,000

Age UK Sevenoaks and Tonbridge - £8,000

Maidstone and West Kent Mediation Schemes - £4,800

Imago - £4,000

Involve - £4,000

The Chief Executive confirms that the proposals contained in the recommendation(s), if approved, will fall within the Council's Budget and Policy Framework.

Background papers:

contact: Gill Fox

Nil

Julie Beilby
Chief Executive