

DUDLEY HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Agenda Item no. 5

DATE	4 th December, 2019
TITLE OF REPORT	Voluntary Sector Innovation Fund (VSIF) Rounds 1 and 2
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Purpose	This report updates the Board on the establishment of the Voluntary Sector Innovation Fund and progress to date
H&WB strategy priority area: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy weight • Reducing loneliness & isolation • Reducing impact of poverty 	All three priority areas, plus building a new relationship with communities.
Contribution to Dudley Vision 2030	Significant contribution to the Dudley ambition to be “ a place of healthy, confident and resilient communities with high aspirations and the ability to shape their own future”.

1. Purpose

- This report updates the Board on the establishment of the Voluntary Sector Innovation Fund and the progress to date.

2. Background

2.1 The Council had to make difficult decisions in 2015/16 to disinvest from some voluntary sector contracts that were not delivering the value for money and outcomes we needed. Despite this, we maintained our commitment to support the local voluntary and community sector, and we identified £3 million to stimulate innovation in the voluntary and community sector over 3 years. This was launched in 2017 as the Voluntary Sector Innovation Fund

2.2 To help decide how to get the most from this money, we wanted to reach into our communities and hear stories about things that enable people and communities to be resilient. We commissioned the Ideas Alliance as a partner to work with us to gather stories. We launched the storytelling at an 'Ideas Fair' in November 2017 and over the next 6 months had conversations with people and groups from all walks of life in community venues, cafes and pop-up living rooms in towns and neighbourhoods. We also held workshops with local people and workers to help develop skills in appreciative enquiry, so they could also gather stories.

2.3 We heard from people we have never heard from before and the stories gave powerful examples of the contribution that people and groups make to local communities. They gave us 'golden nuggets' of information that challenged the way we do things in Dudley.

By telling us what is important for communities to be resilient, the stories highlighted the outcomes that our services, projects and programmes should deliver. These are:

1. Increased sense of belonging and community - [Feeling part of something](#)
2. Increased sense of social connection to others - [Being together and staying in touch](#)
3. Increased sense of autonomy and control - [Having choice and being able to make my own decisions](#)
4. Increased opportunity to contribute and give back - [Getting involved and contributing](#)
5. Increased sense of purpose - [Having a reason to get up in the morning](#)
6. Increased opportunities to learn - [Sharing skills and knowledge and learning more](#)
7. Increased numbers of people being active - [Getting out and about](#)

We made these outcomes the focus for the difference that we want the Voluntary Sector Innovation Fund to make.

2.4 We promoted the fund widely and held drop in sessions to support potential projects. We encouraged groups to make use of local assets and connect with each other to share ideas and foster collaboration, rather than create competition between applicants. Projects completed 'ideas canvasses' rather than application forms, to help them get their innovative ideas across, and to try to provide a level playing field for all groups.

2.5 The success criteria that canvasses were measured against were that they would be:

- New, innovative, sustainable, for Dudley people and led by the voluntary, community and faith sector organisations
- They would target at least one of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy's priorities
- They would contribute to at least 1 of the outcomes listed in point 2.2 above

2.6 The decisions about which projects should be funded was made by 2 panels comprising of elected members, community members (adults and young people), Dudley Council for Voluntary Services and council officers.

3. Key Points

Round One

3.1 In Round 1 of the innovation fund, we received 60 applications from a broad range of projects, including from a number of groups we have never had contact with before.

3.2 Twenty nine projects were successful in Round 1 and a total of £1.37 million granted. The projects vary and support people right across the life course. They are helping people from all walks of life, including people with learning and physical disabilities and mental health problems, people recovering from substance misuse as well as those with long term health problems. Together they are providing a range of activities including community food growing, self-help, support with getting work and housing, tackling domestic abuse and antisocial behaviour and providing opportunities for people to learn new skills and be creative.

3.3 We matched a council officer as sponsor for each project, whether or not the project was funded. The projects and sponsors have formed a community of practice, learning together and from each other, co-designing and collaborating to help make the projects a success and explore new ways of working such as co-production, asset based community development and co-designing ways of measuring success. This is helping to change the relationship between the officers and the community, and will shape the way in which we work together in the future.

3.4 The community of practice produced indicators for each outcome and every project identified how they will evidence these. The projects are measuring their success against these outcomes through a range of methods such as case studies, observation, pre and post engagement questionnaires and recording stories.

3.5 Projects supported in Round One

In Round One 28 individual projects were allocated part or full funding:

Organisation	Detail	Total funding	Area
African Caribbean Community	Music linked to ASB	£22,596	Children and young people
High Oak Youth	Life Skills	£8,536	Children and young people
Phase Trust	Care leavers and homelessness	£10,000	Children and young people
GLL / Homestart	Storycise GLL and Homestart	£5,620	Children and young people
GLL / Homestart	Children / adults with a disability (sensory)	£30,000	Children and young people
Young health champions	Promotion of organ donation	£2,180	Children and young people
Jigsaw Theatre	Short films produced by children	£1,500	Children and young people

Barnardo's - Exploitation Service	CSE / gangs / youth offending	£179,280	Children and young people
CHADD and Others-RISE	Range of diversionary activities YP at risk	£225,000	Children and young people
Citizen Coaching CIC	Positive behaviour	£36,780	Children and young people
Barnardo's	Repeat proceedings into care (new borns)	£160,000	Children and young people
African Caribbean Community	Local community / healthy eating	£9,093	Adults
CHADD	Domestic Violence	£52,500	Adults
Lunch on the run	Disability clients and employment	£41,000	Adults
Action Heart	Self-management	£1,258	Adults
Friends of Stevens Park	Regenerate the park	£15,000	People with disabilities
Jasmine Road Community Gardens	Environmental skills and knowledge	£16,000	People with disabilities
Dudley Rowing Club	To provide rowing lessons	£27,000	People with disabilities
Access in Dudley	Introduce rowing to disabled people.	£8,640	People with disabilities
Hawbush Community Gardens	Growing in the community	£10,000	WLD People with disabilities
Workshop 24	A centre for art and wellbeing.	£81,500	WLD People with disabilities
Hope Centre	Refresh the shop	£4,976	WLD People with disabilities
Citizens Advice Dudley Borough	To deliver a Financial Capability Project	£132,000	WLD People with disabilities
Open Stage Theatre Group	Promote Dudley's commitment to Safeguarding	£6,970	WLD People with disabilities
Black Country Housing Group	Support for victims of ASB	£187,500	WLD People with disabilities

3.6 The community of practice and panel members helped us evaluate Round 1 of the programme. The outcomes of the evaluation were that in Round 2:

- we co-produced the agreement for small projects
- we made some changes to the ideas canvas
- we improved the timescales and communication
- all projects must be partnerships between more than one organisation
- all projects must co-produce with communities
- there was funding for a development phase as well as delivery

Round Two

3.7 Round 2 was redesigned based on the learning from providers and panel members in the evaluation. It was launched in March 2019 and 30 projects submitted a canvas in this round.

3.8 The same success criteria were used but with the addition of the requirement for projects to be able to evidence the partners that would be working in co-production with

them, including evidence of co-production with communities.

3.9 To support this we held workshops on co-production to enable projects and Council staff who would be supporting them could explore how to apply co-production approaches and share skills and experience.

3.10 Projects funded in Round 2:

A total of 19 projects were funded in Round 2:

ORGANISATION	DETAIL	TOTAL FUNDING	AREA
Living Hope Church	Weekly term time "Stay and Play" for 0-4 year olds	£16,275	Childrens
Black Country Wellbeing Hub	Inter-generation- Delivering classes and social events.	£19,270	Adult
The Brierley Hill Project	Accredited training and work experience to equip them to become youth support workers.	£40,000	Childrens
Cranstoun	Develop and deliver an integrated young person's wellbeing service	£102,271	Childrens
CHADD	Provide a specialist counselling and mental health support.	£12,000	Childrens
Citizen Coaching CIC	Access anger management, positive behaviour & better relationship support	£62,540	Adults
Compton Care	Creation of volunteer led bereavement information hubs	£46,756	Adults
Disability in Action	Encourage people with disabilities to become volunteers themselves	£35,000	Adults
Discover U	Learning disabilities and mental health issues, 16+	£10,150	Adults
Dudley Counselling Centre	To open "The Lighthouse Café"	£47,252	Adults
Friends of Wollescote Park	To build a sensory garden, court and pop-up café	£40,550	Adults
Goodlife/ Workshop 24	The Curiosity Club art project	£63,912	Adults
KIDS Orchard Centre	To develop of hub and spoke network of organisations who support young people with SEND	£38,797	Childrens
Living Hope Church	Provision of 4 one week school holiday clubs per year in areas of deprivation	£18,504	Childrens
Riverside Stourbridge CIC	Transforming Riverside House site.	£187,600	Adults
Safe Families for Children	To support families/individuals identified by local authority services	£48,000	Childrens
Saltmine Trust	To raise awareness of domestic abuse, touring a dramatic play based	£32,910	Adults

St Thomas's Community Association	Re-open Sledmere Community Centre	£20,000	Adults
Friends of Green Park	To install a children's play area.	£15,000	Childrens

Measuring Success

3.11 Projects are currently gathering evidence of their success which will be shared in 2 ways:

- through feedback to their sponsors at the end of each year of the project
- through a Celebration Event on February 12th where all projects will be invited to share their success in whichever form they choose to a wide audience of representatives from all parts of the Health and Wellbeing Partnership

4. Emerging issues for discussion

4.1 A valuable consequence of this way of working has been the spontaneous sharing of assets and skills between projects that haven't worked together before. How do we continue to support this?

4.2 So far, the staff involved in the process have mainly been from the Local Authority. What opportunities are there to widen the involvement of other agencies in the future?

4.3 The programme has contributed to the Health and Wellbeing Strategy's commitment to building a new relationship with communities, particularly between community projects and staff. How can we involve more staff through our workforce development programmes?

5. Key asks of the Board/wider system

5.1 It is asked that the Board members:

- note the contents of the report and endorse this approach to working with communities in the future
- Consider the role their organisations might play in this way of working in the future
- Consider the possibility of a Round 3 involving all health and wellbeing partner agencies.

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