

## **Report to the Beccles, Bungay, Halesworth and villages Community Partnership**

**13 July 2020**

### **OUTCOMES OF THE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETING HELD ON 23 JUNE 2020**

#### **1. Actions since the previous meeting held 16 March 2020**

##### **Hidden Needs:**

- £40,000 from the 2019/20 Community Partnership Board budget has been used on the re-launched Hidden Needs Grants Programme, as agreed at the previous meeting.
- This has been added to the existing fund to make a total of £100k
- The Hidden Needs Programme is now live again for applications – updated maps, guidance notes and application form are all available on the ESC website – the link will be circulated after the meeting.
- The closing date for the first round is 17th July and the second-round closes at the end of September.

##### **Hardship Fund:**

- £20,000 from the 2019/20 Community Partnership Board budget has used for the New Small Grants Fund, as agreed at the previous meeting.
- This was added to £1,000 from each of the 54 ward councillors' 2020/21 Enabling Communities Budgets (and a further £1,000 from most of them) plus some funding from the Communities Team budget to create a fund of more than £130,000
- The COVID-19 community fund made grants of between £50 and £2,500 available for projects which support residents who are struggling due to the virus.
- To date £102,725 allocated to 67 projects with £31,275 remaining
- The grant remains open with the remaining funds.

##### **Rural Needs:**

- £15,000 from the 2019/20 Community Partnership Board budget is still scheduled to be used for Rural Needs, as agreed at the previous meeting.
- After an understandable delay to focus on the Covid-19 community response, Community Action Suffolk are now scoping the project and aim to start with the rural proofing element first.

### **Transport and access to services:**

- £75,000 of the 2019/20 Community Partnership Board budget was allocated to the Transport and Access to Services priority, for the Hot House, additional support resources and local project development and delivery.
- However, this has NOT progressed due to the focus on the Covid 19 response
- Recommend that the funding is returned to be reallocated for other more pressing business discussed at this meeting – and that the Board revisit this priority again soon.

### **2. Potential impacts of Covid-19 on East Suffolk. The Board focussed on:**

- Population and Deprivation
- Health and Wellbeing
- Employment and Economy
- Housing and Welfare Support
- Housing and Welfare Support

### **There was a discussion focussed on:**

- Do we agree what the potential challenges (and opportunities) are?
- Where do we think the Community Partnership Board could add most value in terms of supporting the East Suffolk recovery from Covid-19?

### **Existing projects already delivering support in East Suffolk were flagged up:**

- Hidden Needs grants programme (between £2.5k and £10k per project) re-launched on 8th June – focus on tackling isolation and loneliness in the context of Covid-19 in the hot spot areas identified in the maps shared at the March Board (originally ESP funded)
- £20k small grants funding to tackle social isolation (up to £2.5k per project) rolled into the East Suffolk Hardship Fund – 65 projects supported with over £100k of funding
- East Suffolk Youth Employment Service (ESP part-funded) operating virtually
- Funding secured to sustain all three Social Prescribing schemes (ESP part-funded) until at least March 2021
- Digital 'GrandPads' pilot launched (for those without kit and Wi-Fi) and project with the Voice Cloud to get people (with kit and Wi-Fi) online funded through the Hardship Fund
- Support for Business Associations in terms of opening businesses and town centres back up and accessing the Reopening High Streets funding

### **It was agreed that the Board will focus on:**

- **Social Isolation and Loneliness**  
Top priority for the Board and the Community Partnerships prior to Covid-19, now a huge issue in terms long term impacts of Covid-19 on mental wellbeing
- **Sustaining Community Hubs and Community Resilience**  
The most positive aspect of Covid-19 has been the community response mobilisation, both existing groups and new mutual aid groups. Now to capture and retain this energy – and fill in any gaps...

- **Supporting the most vulnerable communities and people**

We know that Covid-19 has not impacted every place and every age group equally. What can we do to reduce these differences during recovery?

### **Next Steps**

Task and Finish Groups, led by one or more Board members, will work up costed outcome proposals on how the Board can help address these issues.

Luke Bennett, Partnerships Manager  
30 June 2020