

East Suffolk Community Partnership Board
Update on Social Isolation and Loneliness Projects
December 7, 2020

Introduction and Background

1. The Community Partnership Board had total funding of £150,000 to allocate in 2019/20 and has £300,000 to allocate in 2020/21. To date, a total of £135,000 has been allocated to projects aimed at tackling Social Isolation and Loneliness. In addition, £100,000 was allocated by the Board at its meeting in September for the Bounce Back Fund which, although it emanated from the Covid Impacts Task and Finish Group, has strong links to the Isolation and Loneliness theme in that it is intended to enable VCSE groups, including youth groups and community buildings, to recommence their activities safely and securely.
2. This report provides a brief update on the four projects funded by the Board to support the reduction of Isolation and Loneliness in East Suffolk – Hidden Needs Grant Programme, Small Grants (Covid Community Fund), Grandpads and the VCSE Bounce Back Fund.

Hidden Needs Grants Programme

3. A total of £90,000 has been made available through the Board for the Hidden Needs Grants Programme - £40,000 from the 2019/20 budget and a further £50,000 from the 2020/21 budget. This has been added to £60,264 that was left from the first Phase of Hidden Needs Grants (funded by the East Suffolk Partnership) to provide a total funding pot of just over £150,000.
4. The Guidance Notes and Application form for the programme can be found at <https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/community/community-grants-and-funding/hidden-needs-grant-programme/>.
5. Applications must focus on one or more geographical hidden needs 'hot spots' identified on revised Hidden Needs maps available on the Council's website, and discussed with staff from the County or District Councils or CAS before submission to try and ensure that projects fit the ambitions of the fund and the groups do not waste time and resource developing projects that may not be eligible.
6. The projects funded through the two rounds held so far in Phase 2 of the Hidden Needs Grant Programme are as follows:

Round 1

Wednesday's Child - £9,950

Hour Community, Framlingham – (up to) £7,500

Halesworth Volunteer Centre - £10,000

Seagull Theatre, Pakefield - £9,320

Total for Round 1 = £36,770

Round 2

Rural Coffee Caravan - £3,750

Pathway Care Farm - £5,500

Gatehouse – (up to) £4,500

Greenlight Trust - £6,960

Swell Music - £7,400

Boost - £5,000

Halesworth Volunteer Centre - £10,000

Re-engage - £3,500

Total for Round 2 = £46,610

7. The balance of funding remaining for Round 3, which closes on January 15th, is therefore **£66,620**.

Social Isolation and Loneliness Small Grant Fund

8. The Board allocated a sum of £20,000 at its meeting on March 16th 2020 for small grants to reduce social isolation and loneliness. However, the following week, the first national lock down commenced and therefore it was agreed by the Chair of the Community Partnership Board to roll this funding into a new East Suffolk Covid-19 Community Response Fund – see <https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/community/community-grants-and-funding/coronavirus-covid-19-community-funds/>
9. The total funding pot for the Covid Community Fund was over £140,000 and this was used to make grants of up to £2,500 to groups supporting those in their community who are vulnerable due to Covid-19. Groups could apply for up to three grants during the period between March and October.
10. The Fund has been re-promoted to all the main community response groups in East Suffolk during the current lockdown, but the upper limit reduced to £1,000 to enable the remaining funding to benefit more groups.
11. The Funding Team turned round all funding bids within 48 hours and £139,257.36 of this funding has been allocated to date to 70 different groups, as shown in the table below by Community Partnership area:

Community Partnership	Groups Funded	Amount
Aldeburgh, Leiston and Saxmundham	Aldeburgh Good Neighbour Scheme	£2,500
	Aldeburgh Town Council	£2,500
	Citizens Advice Leiston & Saxmundham x 2	£2,500 / £2,500

	Leiston Good Neighbour Scheme IP17 Good Neighbour Scheme Young People Taking Action	£2,500 £2,565 £200 / £1,000
Beccles, Bungay and Halesworth	Beccles During Covid-19 x 2 Bungay Town Council x 2 Halesworth Volunteer Centre Pear Tree Fund	£2,500 / £1,000 £2,500 / £2,500 £3,000 £742 / £1,654
Carlton Colville, Kessingland and Southwold	Southwold Town Council Southgen Reydon Town Council The Attic PRU	£1,500 £2,500 £1,500 £90
Felixstowe Peninsular	Explorers at Felixstowe Salvation Army Levington and Stratton Hall PC Walton Parish Nursing	£480 £152 £1,000
Framlingham and Wickham Market	Great Glemham PC Hour Community/Framlingham TC x 2 Station House - Campsea Ashe Yoxford Covid-19 Support Earl Soham Community Coronavirus Response Group	£500 £3,500 / £2,500 / £2,000 £2,500 £250 £1,000
Kesgrave and Martlesham	Café 66 Kesgrave Emergency Support Kesgrave High School	£2,500 £103 £500
Lowestoft and Northern Parishes	Access Community Trust – Sam’s Café Allsorts Support Service Afghanistan & Central Asian Association Baby Basics Lowestoft Coming Together Waveney Corton Parish Council Feed Waveney Community Lowestoft Food Bank Supporting Lowestoft Women Like Me Waveney Enterprise Craft Workshop St Peter & St John, Kirkley Parish Church Council	£2,000 / £3,000 £1,000 £975 £500 £1,000 £500 £1,200 £2,500 £1,000 £300 £1,820 £1,515.72
Melton, Woodbridge and Deben Peninsular	Bromeswell PC Melton Good Neighbour Scheme Oyster Inn, Butley Rendlesham Good Neighbour Scheme Teapot Project Transition Woodbridge Village Voices magazine x 2 Woodbridge Emergency Response Group	£120 £895 £2,500 £600 £2,312/£947.36/£1,535.68/£1,000 £265 £1,100 / £1,100 £1,500
East Suffolk wide	Age UK Suffolk Active Lives Alzheimer’s Society Angels and Rainbows Clic Sargent Aspect Living Foundation Disability Advice North East Suffolk Equal Lives Faceshields for NHS Green Light Trust	£2,500 / £2,500 £2,500 £2,000 £480 £2,500 £2,500 £500 £2,500 £2,500 £2,500 / £1,500

	Headway Suffolk	£1,000
	Home Start	£1,500
	Inspire Suffolk	£1,000
	Liquid 11 (GNS phone tree)	£2,500
	Papworth Trust	£2,600
	Parents and Children Together (PACT)	£500
	Royal Mencap Society	£2,500
	Rural Coffee Caravan	£2,500
	SPOT Wellbeing	£250
	Suffolk Sight	£1,700
	The Voice Cloud	£1,900 / £1,900
	Suffolk Coalition of Disabled People (SCODP)	£2,000
	Ability Net	£1,000
	Disability Advice Service (East Suffolk)	£2,500
	Key Link Counsellors	£200

Grandpads

12. 27% of the East Suffolk population is over 65 (the England average is 18%) and there are almost 44,000 residents aged 70+ in East Suffolk. Increasing numbers of older people are experiencing loneliness and needing support, particularly following the advent of the Covid-19 pandemic and, as more and more services and social/support activities move online, a significant proportion of these older people are becoming digitally excluded.
13. East Suffolk Council piloted Grandpads, an innovative product from a company called Techsilver – find out more at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jOFhPCL-Ugl&feature=youtu.be> – during the first Covid-19 lockdown.
14. A Grandpad is a simplified tablet designed for the older user. It has bigger buttons and speakers, an ergonomic charging cradle, pre-loaded content (e.g. music and local weather), an easy to navigate operating system, and a 24/7 personal help facility. Because the contacts on the Grandpad are managed by a Family Administrator, the user cannot receive spam emails/calls – only content from those on their approved list of contacts, providing reassurance to both the individual and their family.
15. East Suffolk Council made Grandpads available on loan to 25 users who are over 65, lonely and who don't have access to a PC/tablet/laptop and Wi-Fi, or who do but don't have the skills to use it. They were allocated to people identified through our Home But Not Alone helpline, community response groups or social prescribing workers as being lonely and in urgent need of support.
16. Increased connectivity to family, friends and services offers countless benefits in terms of improved mental and physical health and therefore, potentially, reduced use of GP and other health support services. Whilst the initial aim is to help users to connect with their family and friends via video calls, photo sharing and online socials, we also want to encourage people to be ambitious and maximise the opportunities that the Grandpad offers by accessing services as well as social support.

17. The Grandpads are loaned to the recipient and they can return it at any point so that it can be passed on to a new user if they, as several have already done, get on so well with it that they buy a laptop or tablet themselves
18. We are delighted that Ipswich and East Suffolk CCG have agreed to sponsor an additional 50 Grandpads for their area and the Community Partnership Board agreed to sponsor a further 25 at its September meeting. This brings the total number of Grandpads in East Suffolk to 100, with outstanding funding bids into the Interreg Connected Communities Programme and the LGA Digital Connections Programme which, if successful, would enable us to purchase more Grandpads in the near future.

VCSE Bounce Back Fund

19. At its meeting in September, the Board agreed to a recommendation from the Covid Impacts Task and Finish Group to set up a fund specifically to help Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) organisations to recover quickly from the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic. It offers grants of between £250 and £5,000.
20. The aim of the fund is to enable VCSE organisations to resume their previous activities safely and/or to support them to transition to new ways of working. All VCSE groups are eligible to apply, as long as the funding requested is for equipment, adaptations or staffing to enable an existing activity to resume safely or to enable a new activity/service to be developed/launched, but priority is given to community buildings, organisations/projects supporting young people and VCSE organisations that involve volunteers. Further information about the fund can be found at:
<https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/community/community-grants-and-funding/east-suffolk-communities-bounce-back-fund/>
21. Applications are considered on a weekly basis by a panel including Community Action Suffolk, Suffolk Community Foundation and East Suffolk Council and the list of projects support to date up to 20th November 2020 is shown below:

Organisation Name	Funding Awarded
Beccles Sea Cadets	£5,000
Re-Utilise	£1,000
Halesworth Rifle Hall	£3,178
Bungay Black Dog Judo	£4,870
New Cut Arts, Halesworth	£4,150
Seagull Theatre, Pakefield	£4,900
The Art Station, Saxmundham	£3,864
Parham Village Hall	£2,988
ActivLives	£4,521
Inspire Suffolk	£3,927
1st Acton & Waldringfield Scout group	£230

Riding for the Disabled (Woodbridge & District Group)	£2,065
Gunton Baptist Church	£300
Bentwaters Aviation Society	£1,694
Leiston, Saxmundham & District Citizens Advice	£2,857
Apollo Youth Centre	£897
Team Waveney Swimming club	£1,344
Being Well in Suffolk	£2,075
Blythburgh Village Hall	£607
Lowestoft Sea Cadets	£2,461
Saxmundham Town Market Hall Trust Committee	£2,500
Middleton Cum Fordley Parish Council	£500
Siren	£1,645
Westleton Village Hall	£3,000

22. This leaves **£39,427.53** of the original £100,000 remaining in the Bounce Back Fund.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Board note progress in relation to the three projects that support delivery of the Social Isolation and Loneliness priority, namely Hidden Needs, Covid Community Funds and Grandpads, and spend to date from the Bounce Back Fund which delivers against both the Covid Impacts and Isolation and Loneliness priorities.

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