

**NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL
DECISION**

**DECISION OF: DIRECTOR PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES
WITH ADVICE FROM: GERALD HUNT, HEAD OF COMMISSIONING
DIRECTORATE: PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES**



DECISION NO: P&C 98 – 2018/19 Scheme.

SUBJECT: PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES VOLUNTARY SECTOR GRANT
AGREEMENTS 2019 -2020

KEY DECISION: NO

BACKGROUND:

North Somerset People and Communities has historically provided grant funding to a number of voluntary sector organisations. The provision of grant funding has been provided where there is a clear link between the Council's supporting people agenda and where activities support the strategic aims and objectives of the Council.

These grants have been renewed on an annual basis and over recent years funding reductions have meant that the total number of grants have decreased and that the funding provided to the remaining organisations has also been reduced. These reductions have been made taking into account the effectiveness of each voluntary sector grant in supporting the Council's strategic requirements and outcomes.

DECISION:

For the Director to approve the issue of new grant agreements to our current voluntary sector organisations, at the same cost, for the continued delivery of services from the 1st April 2019 – 31st March 2020.

REASONS:

The current voluntary sector grant allocation supports the provision of services to some of the most vulnerable people in North Somerset.

Funding to the voluntary sector through grants has already been reduced to support the Medium Term Financial Plan during 2017. The grants for the following year in 2018-19 were fixed at the same value as the reduced 2017-18 grants.

The grants for 2019 -20 will be at this same level again with no increases.

Details of the grants and the services they support are set out below;

Organisation	Services provided	2018-19 Budget
NS People First (Adults)	Promotion and delivery of self-advocacy for people with a learning disability.	£38,265
NS People First (Childrens)	Provide support with in North Somerset children's centres.	£22,500
Homestart	Provide support to families, with at least one child under five years of age, which are experiencing difficulties.	£15,000
Brigstowe Project	Promote and deliver self-advocacy for people living with or affected by HIV.	£8,240
Remap	Programme of custom designed or adapted aids projects to help people with a disability.	£600
Woodspring Talking News	Recording of local news by digital means and distribution free to customers.	£1,600
Retired and Senior Volunteer Programme	Provision and promotion of volunteering activity, encouraging aged 50+	£500
Winter Warmth	Provision of meals to vulnerable people.	£300
	Total	£87,005

The People and Communities Directorate contributions to corporately managed grants for 2019/20 are as follows. Citizens Advice Bureau £54,168 and Voluntary Action North Somerset £28,500.

The award of grants has been made to voluntary organisations in North Somerset based on the voluntary sector organisations close links to the delivery of the Council's priority outcomes.

Individual quotes and tenders have not been sought as these awards are not contracted services but are the provision of funds through a grant to support the voluntary sectors activity.

The award of a six month grant to Healthwatch North Somerset, from the 1st April 2019, has been the subject to a separate decision. Contracts between North Somerset and the voluntary sector are not covered in this decision. The Council also has a number of contracts with voluntary sector organisations who are delivering services for People and Communities in North Somerset. These contracts will be reported separately at the appropriate times in line with the Councils Standing Orders.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED:

The process and options for grant allocation will be reviewed during the 2019 -20 financial year.

Costs

The voluntary sector grant budget was subject to MTFP reductions in 2017-18 and the grants for 2018 -19 were held at these reduced levels. Grants for 2019-20 remain at the same level with no increases or reductions.

The costs of the individual grants are set out in the table above.

SIGNATORIES:

DECISION MAKER: Director of People and Communities

Signed:

Date:

WITH ADVICE FROM: People and Communities Head of Commissioning

Signed:

Date: