



## Report to Leader (Communities and Health & Wellbeing Portfolios)

**Decision Date:** 9 February 2022

**Reference Number:** CO04a.21

**Title:** Buckinghamshire Council Grants Review Next Steps

**Relevant councillor(s):** Steve Bowles, Cabinet Member for Communities

Angela Macpherson, Cabinet Member for Health & Wellbeing

**Author and/or contact officer:** Katie McDonald, Head of Service Localism

Marie Mickiewicz, Specialist Commissioning Manager

**Ward(s) affected:** All Wards

### Recommendations:

- The grant funding at Appendix 1 totalling £2,557,522.87 is extended for a further year for legacy grants and up to 15 months for Adult Social Care Community Prevention Grants while relevant services conduct a commissioning approach to identify voluntary sector partners in relation to future service requirements, which will promote greater stability and resilience for the sector.
- That £16,000 from the Buckinghamshire Lottery Good Causes Fund is allocated to support the organisations identified at Appendix 2 Table 1 in 2022/23.
- That £38,799 from central government funding is allocated to support the organisations at Appendix 2 Table 2 in 2022/23.
- That those organisations identified at Appendix 2 Table 3 are encouraged to work with the Community Boards to identify project funding to tackle local priorities, with the understanding that if this is not possible, links will be made with the

**Strategic Funders Group and, if necessary further Lottery Funds are used where local members highlight significant risk**

## **1. Executive summary**

- 1.1 As part of the move to becoming a new unitary council, it was agreed by the Shadow Cabinet in February 2020 that a review of financial support provided to voluntary sector organisations across the legacy councils would take place to ensure a strategic approach to how Voluntary, Community & Social Enterprises (VCSEs) are funded, with a preference to phase-out grant funding towards a more robust and sustainable commissioning or service level agreement aligned to Council priorities.
- 1.2 In April 2020, the response to the Covid-19 pandemic not only highlighted the strong partner relationships that already existed in the county but also accelerated the need to think creatively and innovatively about the ways in which the sector works together. Since April 2020, new stronger alliances have been built through the establishment of the Voluntary Sector Recovery Board, with a focus on protecting our vulnerable residents. The Council has continued to build on its shared aspiration to work together with the VCSE sector and there is an evident need to be responsive, flexible, and adaptable to changing needs. [The Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector Strategy Framework](#) outlines the values the council has for the sector and the importance of strategic collaborative working.
- 1.3 Locally, Buckinghamshire has also experienced changes to some of the key voluntary sector partners, most significantly Citizens Advice, who underwent a merger to combine three branches, and is now known as Citizens Advice Buckinghamshire. These changes have presented new opportunities to explore collaborative partnership working and a more sustainable and strategic approach to long-term funding.
- 1.4 An initial assessment has now taken place on £2.3m of legacy grant funding across a range of council services. In addition, a review of the Adult Social Care Community Prevention Grant Scheme, administered by the Integrated Commissioning Service, has been undertaken alongside the corporate grant review using the same principles.
- 1.5 The schedule of grants covered in this paper are currently due to come to an end on 31 March 2022. This report seeks agreement to extend funding where appropriate whilst we move into a more detailed phase of the Council's grants review.
- 1.6 It should be highlighted that the list of grants in the appendix does not represent the full range of voluntary organisations with a financial relationship with the council. The organisations included are the organisations who received grants from the legacy council funding and via the Community Prevention Grant Scheme. Some

council services may/and do make additional grants to support service delivery. The preferred commissioning approach to the future of grant funding will allow council services to build a fuller picture of the valuable contributions to service delivery from legacy grant-funded providers.

## **2. Background**

- 2.1 When Buckinghamshire Council was established, it inherited a range of different relationships with voluntary and community sector organisations from the legacy councils. £2.3m of grant funding was identified in the legacy budgets, and it was acknowledged that there would be some duplication in the funding allocated, as well as some disparities in what was funded in different parts of the county. Those grants, which were due to cease in April 2021, were extended by a year to allow time to carry out further assessment of the impact of the grants on the council's priorities.
- 2.2 In addition to the core grant funding, the delivery of the Community Prevention Grant Scheme was inherited from the County Council. This scheme has been in place since 2014 and was designed to support community provision that promotes social inclusion and helps prevent increased dependency of vulnerable older people, enabling them to actively participate in constructive and interesting activities, and socialise in community settings.
- 2.3 A competitive application process has been undertaken since 2018 to allocate the community prevention grant funding in line with Adult Social Care priorities. Part of this funding had been allocated to the commissioning of countywide befriending service provision from the year 2020-21. Due to the pressures of the Covid pandemic, this commissioned service was abandoned prior to contract award and grant funding was extended to all previous recipients from 2019-20; this was also replicated into the 2021-22 financial year to protect the stability of organisations funded via this route.
- 2.4 Applicants to the Community Prevention Grant Scheme have also been encouraged to ensure that the costs of projects funded through the scheme include the overall cost to the organisation, with only 50% of the total project cost being available through the Community Prevention Grants scheme. Day provision is capped at £4,000 per annum per day of operation (i.e. a day centre offering 2 days per week could claim a maximum of £8,000 per year).
- 2.5 In addition to the funding from base budgets, the Council has three further key mechanisms for providing financial support to the VCS – Community Boards, government funding, and the Buckinghamshire Lottery.

## **Support to the VCSE from Community Boards**

- 2.6 In 2020, Buckinghamshire Council established 16 Community Boards. The Community Boards have supported a high number of voluntary sector organisation projects since they started in 2020, with VCSEs accounting for over half of all allocations. In 2021/22, the Boards had a budget of £3.9m to use in addressing local priorities. As of October 2021, following the first round of Community Boards meetings, approximately £170k of funding has been allocated to VCSE organisations for community-based projects. The Community Boards continue to support a large number of VCSE schemes with the intention of building resilient communities. It is important to note that the Community Boards can only fund projects on a one year basis and so any support for the voluntary sector from this source would need to be limited to specific projects, and not core funding.

## **Support to the VCSE from Government Funding**

- 2.7 Since April 2020, the Council has applied over £1m of central government grants to support VCSEs across the county to manage the additional demand for welfare support during the pandemic. This has included assistance with finance and debt advice, support for food, heating, and mental wellbeing as well as supporting clinically vulnerable residents who have been isolating.

## **Buckinghamshire Lottery**

- 2.8 The Buckinghamshire Lottery provides an important opportunity for the Council to support VCSEs. The weekly lottery is designed to support local organisations, with 60% of ticket proceeds going to good causes that benefit the community. Subscribers to the lottery have the option of sending funds to an organisation of their choice from the list of Buckinghamshire charities registered, or to refer the money to the general good cause fund, administered by the Council, to support local organisations and initiatives which have a beneficial impact on the community. To date, some 350 organisations are registered with the Lottery. In 2020/21, these organisations raised £91,000 through the Lottery to support their causes.

## **Grant Review**

- 2.9 A set of principles were agreed by which the Council would develop and deliver a review of grant funding and implement a future funding strategy for the Voluntary and Community Sector. These included:
- Funding for VCSEs which have strategic significance or are part of a countywide service which should be commissioned directly by services (or provided with long-term grant or service level agreements). This recognises the value that a commissioning approach can bring in terms of delivering value for money and increasing the stability and resilience of the sector through longer-term funding targeted at clearly identified areas of need.

- Funding for local projects, activities and events should be signposted to alternative funding opportunities, including Community Boards and the Buckinghamshire Lottery.
- A single register of grant funding should be developed to ensure that the Council avoids duplication of funding across services.

2.10 It was acknowledged that time would be needed to either transition services to a new funding model or for some organisations to replace grant funding with other sources of funding. It was also recognised that there was a need for a more in-depth review of the council's support to VCSEs to develop a planned and sustainable approach to the future relationship.

2.11 An Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed for both the Corporate and Community Prevention Grants Scheme review and can be found in Appendix 3.

### **3. Proposed Strategy**

3.1 The Council values the work of the voluntary sector and recognises their significant reach in supporting and enabling residents. The established sector has gained the trust of residents and offers a diverse range of services. The effects of the pandemic have been far reaching including a significant impact on the VCSE sector, many of whom worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic. The VCSE Recovery Board has provided a good platform to have regular 'state of the sector' health checks as well as all funding bodies working collectively to avoid duplication, fill gaps or provide crisis interventions in an established Strategic Funders Group, chaired by Heart of Bucks.

3.2 The Council must continue to take a prudent approach to balancing budgets, maximising all funds available to fulfil core statutory responsibilities. This includes needing to continue with the Better Buckinghamshire Programmes for realignment of services, reducing duplication and increasing synergies as well as delivering on those reviews which were paused due to Covid-19. It is essential to ensure value for money and good collaboration with the sector. Through the Better Buckinghamshire Programme, each service is subject to a thorough review as the unitary council takes shape. One 'stress test' applied to each review is a consideration of the opportunities and risks associated with any changes for external partners particularly the VCSE sector.

3.3 Reviewing VCSE funding is always a challenging topic, given the potential impact on residents. Nevertheless, funding in all sectors is limited and it is essential to reflect on legacy practices and consider alternatives. An initial review has been undertaken of each of the legacy grants with relevant service areas to understand the volume and quality of services provided, and to assess the likely impact of withdrawing or reducing Council funding.

### **Strategic Commissioning**

- 3.4 In the majority of cases, it has been identified that legacy grants are integral to the current pattern of service delivery and a comprehensive review of the funding therefore needs to be integrated as part of a wider service review. Examples include homelessness services, domestic abuse services, and local transport services. These grants are identified in Appendix 1.
- 3.5 In these cases, it is recommended that grants should be extended for a further year, that the funding should be allocated to the relevant service budget, and that services investigate options to ensure that the VCSE activity is fully integrated within the service strategy and to ensure that the Council achieves value for money from this investment. Commissioning approaches should look to multi-year funding where this is possible to provide enhanced stability to the sector. Where appropriate, this may include generating savings.
- 3.6 By 2023/24, we would therefore expect the majority of these grants to be replaced with contracts for service delivery with VCS providers as appropriate. It is recognised that it may not be possible to complete a full review and re-commissioning for each service area in one year and the timetable will be developed in more detail as the review progresses.
- 3.7 In accordance with the shift to a commissioning approach, it is proposed that Community Prevention Grants are phased out over the next 15 months (April 2022 – July 2023), allowing for redirection of this funding into commissioned services. The phasing of this approach allows for the alignment of funding being ceased with known suitable opportunities for local VCSEs to bid to provide commissioned provision, namely the Day Opportunities Procurement Vehicle and the recommissioning of the Community Prevention Service Contract. Consideration is also being given to the inclusion of part of this funding within MTFP savings targets.

### **Buckinghamshire Lottery**

- 3.8 The review has identified a small number of grants that are not directly linked to the council's service delivery. These are primarily arrangements which support very local schemes in specific localities (see Appendix 2 Table 1). It is however recognised that these are good causes which the Council would wish to support. It is therefore proposed that £16,000 is allocated from the Buckinghamshire Lottery Good Causes Fund to support these organisations in 2022/23. There is currently £150k in the Fund so this would leave a balance of £134k to carry forward into 2022/23 which could be further utilised to support local initiatives.
- 3.9 Going forward, the Council will encourage these charities to register with the Lottery and participate in promoting the scheme to help raise funds. It is also recommended that the Council actively promote the Lottery scheme to Buckinghamshire residents in the year ahead, with the aim of increasing ticket sales, and thereby increasing

funding available for future years. A separate report will be presented to Cabinet in the Spring setting out proposed arrangements for the future allocation of the Good Causes fund.

### **Government Grants**

- 3.10 In several cases, the specific activity delivered by VCSE organisations aligns to the objectives of central government support funding received by the Council. See Appendix 2 table 1. In these cases, it is recommended that the Council uses the government funds to provide grant funding for these projects in 2022/23. In the event that these Government grants are not available to the Council in future years, we will need to work with the organisations to support them in identifying alternative sources of income.

### **Community Boards**

- 3.11 In the first two years of Buckinghamshire Council, Community Boards focused heavily on local grant giving which was critical in the civic pandemic response. As the Community Boards become more established, they can take an evidence-based approach to local collective problem solving with emphasis on local engagement. For 2022/2023, the Boards have £2m devolved. Although a reduced budget from previous years, there is greater emphasis on place shaping and leveraging external funds into Buckinghamshire communities.

Many members on Community Boards have commented on the duplication of local grants through the Boards and the continuation of the legacy centralised grants. It will therefore be helpful for all Boards to have access to the single register of grants allocated and be kept updated on any changes.

In two cases, it is recommended that grants (table 4) are discontinued and the groups encouraged to liaise with the relevant Community Boards. These are ***Chiltern Revitalisation Groups and Horatio's Garden***. Where these contribute to local priorities, the Boards can consider funding them, or linking them into the boards' wider plans for any associated projects.

### **Discontinued Grants**

- 3.12.1 Four grants were for one-year projects only and the projects will have been completed by the end of 2021/22. These are:

- Wycombe Wanderers Sports & Education Trust – changing rooms (£8,000)
- Autism Bucks – Proposal for online community (£500)
- The Princes Risborough Centre – Kitchen Creation (£3,689.78)
- Community Impact Bucks – Lunch clubs project needs assessment (£20,000)

These grants will be discontinued.

### **Building Relationships with the VCSE Sector**

- 3.13 The voluntary and community sector has always been held in well regard in Buckinghamshire, and the public sector has worked in close partnership with both large and small VCSE organisations in delivering residents' priorities, particularly in relation to our most vulnerable.
- 3.14 Since April 2020, new stronger alliances have been built through the establishment of the Voluntary Sector Recovery Board, with a focus on protecting our vulnerable residents. [The Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector Strategy Framework](#) outlines the values the council has for the sector and the importance of strategic collaborative working.
- 3.15 The Voluntary Sector Partnership Board is currently leading on a collaborative multi-agency data exchange project to collect and share data on needs, demand, and provision in Bucks for the VCSE community which aims to make sure funds in Buckinghamshire are directed to where they are needed most.
- 3.16 Grant beneficiaries have a long history of applying for core funding from the legacy councils and many have previously been familiar with a year-on-year application process. These grants often form an important part of funding the services of key local partners, which, in some cases, some projects may be at risk if the grants ceased. To mitigate this risk, it is proposed that the service works in partnership with the Voluntary Sector Partnership Board and where appropriate Community Impact Bucks (Voluntary and Community Sector Infrastructure contractor) to build a comprehensive funding guide detailing national and local funding opportunities. This guide will include how to link into Community Boards, Buckinghamshire Lottery, High Wycombe Town Committee, as well as rolling one-off grant programmes hosted by the council and our key VCSE partners and a link to the Bucks Funding Search Tool hosted by Community Impact Bucks. This platform also provides a good way of promoting specialist support to VCSEs including how to set up a charity, marketing, creating a fundraising journey as well as free training.
- 3.17 A single register of all the Council's grants to the sector will be developed in order to ensure that both the Council and the VCSE sector has a clear picture of the funding support.
- 3.18 In addition, a member of staff will be repurposed to ensure there is a dedicated advocate for the sector in the Council with responsibility for ensuring good links across the authority and proactively leveraging external funding opportunities for Buckinghamshire's VCSEs. This may be larger external government opportunities or smaller amounts which are known to be far reaching in often low-cost organisations. This will support a strategic approach to a healthy future for VCSE colleagues, especially those in high-demand services supporting vulnerable people. The VCSE



Infrastructure Contract provided by Community Impact Bucks will continue the much-needed operational support for smaller grassroots organisations.

## Phase 2 of the Review

- 3.19 The next phase of the review will oversee the detailed development of the commissioning approach set out in this report. It will also include the development of the Buckinghamshire Lottery, and the actions identified at section 3 above to continue to support the development of the resilience of the sector. Given the significant impact of the grants review, it is important that local members are fully engaged in the development of the plans. A new cross-party Task & Finish group will be established to oversee the development of the detailed plans and shape the way forward, ensuring appropriate engagement with the VCSE sector and local members, supporting prioritisation and monitoring impact. The Communities & Localism Select Committee will also be kept informed of key milestones.

## 4. Legal and financial implications

- 4.1 Of the current £2.676m of VCS funding (including prevention grants),
- £2,557,522.87 would be continued as grant funding next year (or in some cases for two years) and then transferred to a longer-term commissioning basis.
  - £38,799 funded from Government grant in 2022/23
  - £16,000 will be funded from Lottery Good Causes in 2022/23
  - £32,189.78 funding is due to end
  - £31,500 will be signposted to Community Boards
- 4.2 The phasing out of the Community Prevention Grants will mean that the budget position will vary over the next few years. The expected detail is listed in the table below:

	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Expected Budget				
Prevention Service	£507,000.00	£507,000.00	£507,000.00	£507,000.00
Prevention Grants	£286,000.00 <sup>1</sup>	£266,000.00 <sup>2</sup>	£266,000.00	£266,000.00
MH Grant <sup>3</sup>	£68,672.00	£68,672.00	£68,672.00	£68,672.00

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<sup>1</sup> reflects decision to waive the MTFP £20k saving for 2021-22 made prior to award of 2021-22 prevention grants

<sup>2</sup> reflects £20k MTFP saving delivered in 2022-23

<sup>3</sup> Part of the total budget for the Prevention Grants comes from a Mental Health Grant Budget. This supports the mental health befriending offer currently.

Total Budget	£861,672.00	£841,672.00	£841,672.00	£841,672.00
Expected Spend				
Prevention Service (Old)	£507,000.00	£507,000.00	£126,750.00	£0.00
Prevention Grants	£347,534.00	£325,351.00	£60,899.50 <sup>4</sup>	£0.00
Prevention Service (New)	£0.00	£0.00	£380,250.00	£507,000.00 <sup>5</sup>
TOTAL Expected Spend	£854,534.00	£832,351.00	£567,899.50	£507,000.00
Available budget <sup>6</sup>			£268,771.50	£329,671.00
Additional Savings available in year	£7,138.00	£9,321.00	TBC	TBC

- 4.3 The available budget refers to funding for which discussion is underway to allocate to activity for 23-24 and 24-25 onwards.

## 5. Engagement

### 5.1 Engagement with VCSE partners

Discussions have already taken place with key voluntary sector partners on the Buckinghamshire Strategic Funders Group who are committed to support a new way of working across the council, recognising that longer term funding provided by strategic commissioning increases stability and resilience across the sector by targeting areas of need.

- 5.2 VCSE organisations who receive grant funding from legacy council arrangements received letters from the Council in March 2020 and March 2021 following the [leader decision](#) to roll over grants for a further year.

- 5.3 There has been a dialogue over several years with Community Prevention Grant providers to ensure that the non-permanent nature of this funding is understood by local organisations bidding for funding through the programme. The non-permanent nature of the funding is also reflected within the application paperwork for the scheme across all years since 2018. This has also been communicated to providers via annual workshops (prior to Covid) supporting the application process for the grants.

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<sup>4</sup> Provides 1 quarter funding to befriending provision grant awardees to dovetail to Prevention Service recommissioning

<sup>5</sup> Indicative only – final budget to be revisited following detailed financial modelling after full needs assessment

<sup>6</sup> Available budget refers to funding for which discussion is underway to allocate to activity for 23-24 and 24-25 onwards

- 5.4 As part of these workshops, support has also been provided to support organisations to bid for other sources of funding via workshops provided by Community Impact Bucks and Integrated Commissioning. This has been particularly important for smaller organisations who apply for Prevention Grant funding and who would not be as well prepared to produce formal applications for Council funding. Attendee feedback from the 2020-21 application sessions was overwhelmingly positive, in particular about resources on improving sustainability and evidencing outcomes of projects.

## **6. Engagement with local councillors & community boards**

- 6.1 A Member Task and Finish Group was established in October 2021 and led by Cllr Steve Bowles, Cabinet Member for Communities to oversee and agree the approach in which Buckinghamshire Council are to provide future financial assistance to the Voluntary and Community Sector. The group had regard to the grant review led by key officers who presented a detailed assessment and evaluation of current grant agreements and funding streams, and subsequent proposals for implementation into new funding models. Community Board Chairmen have been notified of the grants review with regular briefings and a commitment provided through the Task and Finish Group to ensure support is provided to both Community Boards and VCSE partners to make connections.
- 6.2 Local members have been updated on the proposals of the grant review before recommendations on individual grants were approved for the report. Community Board Chairs and Ward members were also notified of the proposals of where VCSE organisations would be signposted to for 2022/23 and asked for their views.
- 6.3 Overall, Members have been supportive of the outcomes of the review but wanted to make sure that no undue pressure was put onto Community Boards to fill the gaps that the grant review created and that any wider cross county impacts are considered.
- 6.4 At the request of Members, the full list of proposals was shared with all Councillors for comment. Eight responses were received.
- In two cases, Members raised queries about individual organisations. One response, on behalf of 3 local members, raised concerns about the proposal for the funding of the Wooburn festival as an important cultural event. Rather than signposting to the Community Board, the proposal is now that the grant for this event should be extended for 2022/23 and be included in the commissioning funding for consideration as part of the wider cultural programme for the county (see Appendix 1).
  - Six of the responses raised some concerns about the proposals. Some of these felt that there should have been more extensive consultation with local members

and the voluntary groups affected. Concerns were also raised about the impact of the reduction in funding to Community Boards on the voluntary sector.

- A number of the responses focused on the need for a more comprehensive review of grant funding to the sector, which would include all funding sources available to the sector both from the Council and more widely in order to fully understand the impact of proposals.

- 6.5 The report sets out under 'Next Steps' the plan for the next, detailed phase of the review, which includes a Members Task and Finish Group to oversee the process. This will give Members the opportunity to debate and shape the way forward, including consultation and commissioning plans for different aspects of the Council's support for the sector. Updates will also be presented to the Localism Select Committee at key milestones.
- 6.6 In responding, Members drew attention to the need for the Council to value the sector and recognise its many contributions to Buckinghamshire residents. The sector has always been held in well regard in Buckinghamshire, with both large and small VCSE organisations regarded as valuable partners in delivering on residents' priorities. The establishment of a dedicated VCSE partnership officer shows the Council's commitment to working with the VCSE infrastructure provider and VCSE Recovery Board to continue to be an advocate for the sector as well continuously reflect on the state of the sector and seeking to leverage external funds.

## **7. Next steps and review**

- 7.1 Once approved, Localities and Integrated Commissioning will further develop and implement the communications plan to inform all current grant recipients of the change in funding arrangements. This will be developed with involvement from other service areas to ensure that accurate messaging about the changes are communicated.
- 7.2 All current grant recipients at Appendix 1 will be contacted directly prior to written confirmation of future funding arrangements. Support information will be included to help groups source funding from other providers and where appropriate transition arrangements made. Local members will also be informed.
- 7.3 Funding agreements for 2022-23 financial year will be drawn up and sent out to providers retaining funding and those where extensions have been approved before moving to commissioned models.
- 7.4 The Member Task and Finish Group will be established. The Group will agree the terms of reference for the next phase of the review. A timeline for commissioning services within the relevant service areas will be drawn up for discussion with the Group. Members will continue to be involved as the programme develops through the expanded Member Task and Finish Group.

- 7.5 A single grant register will be developed to ensure that there is a single view for of how the council funds VCSE organisations.

**Your questions and views (for key decisions)**

If you have any questions about the matters contained in this report, please get in touch with the author of this report. If you have any views that you would like the cabinet member to consider, please inform the democratic services team. This can be done by telephone [01296 382343] or email [democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk]

## Appendix 1 - Grants to move to Strategic Commissioning basis

### APPENDIX – PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS FOR VOLUNTARY & COMMUNITY SECTOR ORGANISATIONS FUNDED VIA LEGACY GRANTS PROGRAMMES AND COMMUNITY PREVENTION GRANTS PROGRAMME

Table 1 - Grants to be extended by a year to 2022/23; funding to move to Strategic Commissioning basis from 2023/24

Organisation	Description of Service Delivery & Project	Funding	Community Board	Ward	Councillors
Lindengate	<p>The grant is to support the reopening of the Memory Pathways service. This service supports people with memory loss, mild to moderate dementia and their carers. Service users are involved in gardening activities and provides social interaction for vulnerable participants</p> <p>Grant funding is 2.2% of organisations income</p> <p>Wendover Community Board funded Lindengate £26,540 for a community-based wellbeing project in 2020/21</p> <p>Lindengate have received £74,343 from other council funding sources.</p>	£15,000	All	All	All
Bucks Mind	<p>Grant funding is 4.2% of organisations income</p> <p>Bucks Mind have received £38,527 from Community Board funding</p>	£5,000	All	All	All
Relate – Mid Thames and Buckinghamshire	<p>Funding provides counsellors to provide online relationship advice which helps to improve relationships, mental health, and well-being.</p> <p>Grant funding is 0.67% of organisations income</p>	£8,000	All	All	All
Space	<p>Space provides support and care to adults going through difficult times. Support is offered in the form of one to one counselling, drop-in sessions, art groups, wellbeing walks and much more.</p>	£12,000	Aylesbury	Aylesbury North	<p>Cllr Tim Dixon</p> <p>Cllr Raj Khan</p> <p>Cllr Susan Morgan</p>

	Grant funding is 24.9% of organisations income.				
LEAP	County Sports Partnership	£25,360	All	Countywide	All
Chiltern Rangers	Woodland management and education service	£125,000	All	Countywide	All
Active-In the Community	Sports Development Service	£80,000	All	Countywide	All
National Paralympic Heritage Trust	Organisation to protect and share British Paralympic History	£25,000	All	Countywide	All
Wycombe Heritage and Arts Trust	Wycombe Museum	£150,000	All	Countywide	All
Cultural Partnership	Bucks Cultural Partnership projects and activities	£12,000	All	Countywide	All
Bucks Record Society	Management of Bucks historic records	£1,200	All	Countywide	All
Bucks County Museum Trust	Bucks County Museum Funding and Management Agreement	£400,000	All	Countywide	All
Queens Park Arts Centre	Arts centre, events, and activities	£20,909	All	Countywide	All
Waterside Theatre	Waterside venue hire grants budget	£35,000	All	Countywide	All

Wycombe Swan Theatre	Wycombe Swan Theatre	£83,220	All	Countywide	All
Wooburn Festival	Music, Visual Arts, Talks & Film Festival Yearly funding towards a local festival	£2,000	South West Chilterns	The Wooburns, Bourne End & Hedsor	Cllr Penny Draydon, Cllr Stuart Wilson & Cllr Penny Kayani
Community Library Management x10	Community Library Management	£82,319	All	Countywide	All
Bucks & Milton Keynes Association of Local Councils	Advice for local councils	£30,000	All	Countywide	All
Nest (Formerly Home Start)	Support for parents who are going through extraordinary times. Offering parent to parent support to help get families back on track	£10,000	All	Countywide	All
Autism Early Support (Formerly Puzzle Centre)	Nursery support for early years children with autism or communication difficulties. Funding supported specialist support staff to help with daily activities	£5,000	All	Countywide	All
Carers Bucks	Project to support young carers to give them support and respite from caring duties.	£6,000	All	All	Countywide
The Healthy Living Centre	Funding for a youth worker to run an outreach programme	£8,000	All	All	Countywide



Wycombe Youth Action	Mentoring project for young males	£2,400	All	All	Countywide
Aylesbury Youth Action	Youth Support Service who provide opportunities for young people to gain life and employability skills whilst helping the local community.	£30,000	All	All	Countywide
New Meaning Toolshed Project	Youth employment skills project to help young people explore who they are, guide them through learning and support them in gaining an income.	£5,000	All	All	Countywide
Action 4 Youth	Youth mentoring project to support young people gain life and employability skills.	£30,000	All	All	Countywide
Wycombe Wanderers Sport & Education Trust	Youth mentoring project to support young males in gaining life and employability skills.	£30,000	All	All	Countywide
Aylesbury Women's Aid	DVA Refuge Service	£28,500	All	Countywide	All
Wycombe Women's Aid	DVA Refuge Service	£11,000	All	Countywide	All
Wycombe Women's Aid	DVA Refuge Service	£7,000	All	Countywide	All

Rape Crisis	Support for victims of sexual assault	£12,996	All	Countywide	All
Wycombe Women's Aid	DVA Refuge Service	£66,000	All	Countywide	All
Aylesbury Vale and Milton Keynes Sexual Assault Support Service	Support for victims of sexual assault	£15,000	All	Countywide	All
Three Rivers Citizens Advice	Citizens Advice Service	£42,023	All	Countywide	All
Citizens Advice Bucks	Citizens Advice Service	£455,780	All	Countywide	All
One Can Trust	Food Bank	£5,000	All	Countywide	All
Empower to Cook High Wycombe	Training in healthy eating and cooking	£4,000	All	Countywide	All
Aylesbury Multicultural Community Centre	Community Centre Management	£10,000	Aylesbury	Aylesbury North, Aylesbury West, Aylesbury South West	Cllr Tim Dixon, Cllr Raj Khan, Cllr Susan Morgan, Cllr Sarah James, Cllr Steven Lambert, Cllr Adam Poland-Goodyer, Cllr Mary Baldwin, Cllr Niknam Hussain and Cllr Waheed Raja

Quarrendon & Meadowcroft Community Centre	Community Centre Management	£18,269	Aylesbury	Aylesbury North West, Aylesbury North	Cllr Anders Christensen, Cllr Tuffail Hussain & Cllr Gurinder Wadhwa, Cllr Tim Dixon, Cllr Raj Khan, Cllr Susan Morgan
Haydon Hill Community Centre	Community Centre Management	£9,762	Aylesbury	Aylesbury North West	Cllr Anders Christensen, Cllr Tuffail Hussain & Cllr Gurinder Wadhwa
Hilltop Community Centre	Community Centre Facilities in High Wycombe	£13,000	High Wycombe	Booker, Cressex & Castlefield	Cllr Mohammed Ayub, Cllr Karen Bates, Cllr Majid Hussain
Aylesbury Homeless Action Group	Homeless advice and support service	£23,290	Countywide	Countywide	All
Youth Concern (homeless support)	Homeless advice and support service	£15,000	All	Countywide	All
Connections	Padstones – supported housing service	£6,900	All	Countywide	All
Connections	HIT homeless prevention advice service	£40,000	All	Countywide	All
Wycombe Rent Deposit Guarantee Scheme	Housing Support Service	£62,500	All	Countywide	All

Wycombe Homeless Connection	Night shelter and advice service	£10,000	All	Countywide	All
Chiltern Dial a Ride	Community Transport Scheme	£47,000	All	Countywide	All
Community Impact Bucks	Community Transport Scheme	£21,457	All	Countywide	All
Community Impact Bucks	Community Transport Scheme	£23,051	All	Countywide	All
Chiltern Dial a Ride	Community Transport Scheme	£29,000	All	Countywide	All
Chiltern Dial a Ride	Community Transport Scheme	£26,800	All	Countywide	All
Flackwell Heath & Loudwater Age Concern Day Centre	The purpose of the project is to offer elderly people in the Flackwell Heath and Loudwater community and surrounding areas transport and the opportunity to attend day centre activities, exercises, companionship and above all a daily, healthy balanced 2 course meal, prepared and cooked on the premises.	£16,041	Beaconsfield & Chepping Wye	Flackwell Heath, Little Marlow and Marlow South East	Cllr David Johncock Cllr Jocelyn Towns Cllr David Watson
Hairoun Day Centre Ageing Well	The purpose of the project is to provide a four day a weekday centre to support older people especially those who may have a physical or mental impairment to prevent social isolation and to promote physical and mental wellbeing. In particular, service users are from Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic (BAME) groups.	£7,520	High Wycombe	Terriers and Amersham Hill	Cllr Tony Green Cllr Arif Hussein Cllr Sarafaz Khan Raja

Northall & District Day Centre	The purpose of the project is to provide transport to and day activities with a 2-course lunch to the elderly residents of the area	£3,283	Wing & Ivinghoe	Ivinghoe	Cllr Peter Brazier Cllr Chris Poll Cllr Derek Town
Waddesdon Wednesday Club	The Wednesday Club – Education & Entertainment. The purpose of the project is to provide support for 5 hrs on a Wednesday to older people over 70 for a day of companionship, mental and physical stimulation, good food and support.	£4,200	Haddenham & Waddesdon	Stone and Waddesdon	Cllr Mick Caffrey Cllr Paul Irwin Cllr Ashley Waite
Lindengate Mental Health Charity	Through the Gate - The purpose of the project is to provide nature based therapeutic services for people of all ages with mental health needs through Peer support in 5-acre garden and wildlife sanctuary.	£16,839	All	Countywide	All
Chiltern Music Therapy	Make Music Make Change. The purpose of the project is to provide specialist Music Therapy in people's homes as well as in the community to clients with early to late stage dementia, people / people with disabilities / people in ethnic minorities etc. adults and young adults with learning disabilities, mental health difficulties or dual diagnoses, those with multiple or complex health conditions, families with young children with additional needs. Health and social care professionals.	£8,405	Chesham & Villages	Chess Valley	Cllr Joseph Baum Cllr Emily Culverhouse Cllr Gareth Williams
The Monday Contact Club	The purpose of the project is to provide all the attendees with the opportunity to interact socially with some of their peers and help to fight some of the effects of isolation, and in doing so help to improve the mental wellbeing of the attendees.	£3,500	Aylesbury	Aylesbury West	Cllr Sarah James Cllr Steven Lambert Cllr Adam Poland-Goodyer

Quinton Monday Day centre	The purpose of the project is to provide a day out every week of the year – apart from Bank Holidays – for older people from rural locations who otherwise may be socially isolated, lonely and vulnerable to socialise , play games , complete craft activities and keep active	£4,200	Haddenham & Waddesdon	Great Brickhill	Cllr Phil Gomm Cllr Jilly Jordan Cllr Iain Macpherson
Afro Caribbean Day Care Scheme	The purpose of the project is to promote and maintain the independence of the local elderly and BAME residents, encouraging them to network and socialize with their own and other communities, to reduce isolation.	£4,200	Aylesbury	Aylesbury North	Cllr Tim Dixon Cllr Raj Khan Cllr Susan Morgan
Animal Antiks	Countrymen Club - The purpose of the project is to provide an alternative day provision based on a 230 acre working farm in North Marston, near Buckingham, for men over 50 years who find themselves isolated from their peers due to deteriorating physical or mental health or changing social conditions.	£4,000	Winslow & Villages	Great Brickhill	Cllr Phil Gomm Cllr Jilly Jordan Cllr Iain Macpherson
Bucks Mind	Befriending Project - The purpose of the project is to encourage self-confidence, independence, social integration, reduce loneliness and promote quality of life and community inclusion in those who are experiencing mild to moderate mental health problems and are at risk of needing more formal services without intervention.	£88,598	Countywide	All	All
Community Impact Bucks	Gardening wellbeing project - The purpose of the project is to use horticulture as a gateway to improved health and wellbeing, work together with our clients to determine an outcome for them that draws on their wishes, personal strengths, support network and community assets	£25,000	All	All	All
Age UK Bucks	The purpose of the project is to support people in Buckinghamshire manage the challenges and obstacles	£58,941	All	All	All

	experienced in later life including loneliness and isolation and those living with dementia				
Age UK Bucks	The purpose of the project is to provide social support to those people who experience loneliness resulting from social isolation	£71,058	All	All	All
Total		£2,557,522			

*Table 2 - Grants to be funded from Lottery (Good Causes Fund) for 2022/23*

Organisation	Description of Service Delivery & Project	Funding	Community Board	Ward	Councillors
<b>High Wycombe Shopmobility</b>	Mobility scooters for visitors to High Wycombe Grant funding is 6.5% of organisations income	£6,000	High Wycombe	Abbey	Cllr Arman Alam Cllr Lesley Clarke Cllr Mahboob Hussain JP
<b>Lantern Club</b>	Music Therapy through Entertainment and Participation - The purpose of the project is to provide music therapy, entertainment and participation of elderly local residents (60+) who would benefit from social inter-action and stimulation due to age-related mental health issues such as memory loss/early dementia or the social effects of old age such as loneliness and social isolation.	£1,000	Amersham	Penn Wood and Old Amersham Amersham & Chesham Bois	Cllr Mark Dormer Cllr Mark Flys Cllr Jonathan Waters Cllr Graham Harris Cllr David King Cllr Liz Walsh
<b>Wendover Dementia support group</b>	The purpose of the project is to provide a support service to those living around Wendover who have a diagnosis of dementia and their families.	£3,000	Wendover	Wendover, Halton & Stoke Mandeville	Cllr Steve Bowles Cllr Richard Newcombe Cllr Peter Strachan
<b>Better Connected Beaconsfield</b>	Beaconsfield Community Bus - The purpose of the project is to provide a community bus for people living and working in Beaconsfield. It is free for bus pass holders and under 16s and £1 a ride for everyone else. The primary target and currently the majority of service users are the over 65s.	£6,000	Beaconsfield & Chepping Wye	Beaconsfield	Cllr Anita Cranmer Cllr Jackson Ng Cllr Alison Wheelhouse
<b>TOTAL</b>		£16,000			



Table 3 - Projects to be funded from Government funding for 2022/23

Organisation	Description of Service Delivery & Project	Funding	Community Board	Ward	Councillors
<b>Southcourt &amp; Walton Court Project</b>	Go Play! Holidays playscheme for children in Southcourt & Walton Court Areas. Grant funding is 19.1% of organisations income	£8,000	Aylesbury	Aylesbury West and Aylesbury South West	Cllr Sarah James/Cllr Steven Lambert/Cllr Adam Poland-Goodyer/Cllr Mary Baldwin/Cllr Niknam Hussain/Cllr Waheed Raja
<b>Enrych Bucks</b>	Support Service for Adults with Disabilities. The purpose of the project is to support adults who have a physical or sensory disability by pairing them with volunteers to enable them to carry out an activity or past time of their choice to combat loneliness and social isolation.  <i>Total grant funding is 61.4% of the organisation's income for this year but we are aware that this organisation has sufficient reserves for 2022/23.</i>	£7,469 (Prevention) £8,010 (legacy grant) Total £15,479	All	Countywide	All
<b>Wycombe Refugee Partnership</b>	Support to resettle refugee families (High Wycombe) Grant was for running costs for a interim housing and admin support  Grant funding is 6.1% of organisations income	£3,500.00	High Wycombe	Abbey, Ryemead & Micklefield, Totteridge & Bowerdean, Terriers & Amersham Hill, Booker, Cressex & Castlefield,	Cllr Arman Alam, Cllr Lesley Clarke, Cllr Mahboob Hussain, Cllr Andrea Baughan, Cllr Matt Knight, Cllr Nabeela Rana, Cllr Steve Guy, Cllr Imran Hussain, Cllr Julia Wassell, Cllr Tony Green, Cllr Arif Hussain, Cllr Sarfarz Raja, Cllr Mohammed Ayub, Cllr Karen Bates, Cllr Majid Hussain, Cllr Marcus Angell, Cllr

				West Wycombe and Downley	Darren Hayday, Cllr Orsolya Hayday, Cllr Maz Hussain, Cllr Melanie Smith, Cllr Paul Turner
<b>Mediation Bucks</b>	Mediation Service provides support helping with neighbour disputes and more to help clients take back control and find a solution that works for them.  Grant funding is 16.2% of organisations funding	£7,500	Countywide	Countywide	All
<b>Aylesbury Multicultural Community Centre</b>	Providing facilities for Elderly and other groups to meet (Luncheon clubs) and socialising activities. The purpose of the project is to provide accommodation at a subsidised rate, in order that 'ethnic minorities' Community groups can meet and socially, network with people of similar cultural background to take action against loneliness, social isolation and to enjoy a meal together of their choice which is prepared on site on the same day.	£4,320	Aylesbury	Aylesbury North, Aylesbury West, Aylesbury South West	Cllr Tim Dixon, Cllr Raj Khan, Cllr Susan Morgan, Cllr Sarah James, Cllr Steven Lambert, Cllr Adam Poland-Goodyer, Cllr Mary Baldwin, Cllr Niknam Hussain and Cllr Waheed Raja
<b>Total</b>		<b>£38,799</b>			

*Table 4 - Grants to be discontinued for 2022/23; Organisations signposted to Community Boards to discuss projects*

Organisation	Description of Service Delivery & Project	Funding	Community Board	Ward	Councillors
<b>Chiltern Revitalisation Groups</b>	Funding supports following groups; Amersham Action Group, Amersham Old Town Community Revite Group, Chalfont St Giles & Jordans Revite Group, Chalfont St Peter Revite Action Group, Chesham Connect, Gt Missenden & Prestwood Revite Group, Little Chalfont Community Association	£28,000	Amersham, Missenden, Chesham & Villages, Denham, Gerrards Cross & The Chalfonts.	Chalfont St Peter, Chalfont St Giles, Gerrard's Cross, Amersham & Chesham Bois, Little Chalfont & Amersham Common, Penn Wood & Old Amersham, Gt Missenden and Chess Valley	Cllr Isobel Darby, Cllr Jonathan Rush, Cllr Linda Smith, Cllr Timothy Butcher, Cllr Carl Jackson, Cllr Simon Rouse, Cllr Michael Bracken, Cllr Thomas Broom, Cllr Andrew Wood, Cllr Graham Harris, Cllr David King, Cllr Liz Walsh, Cllr Caroline Jones, Cllr Rachael Matthews, Cllr Martin Tett, Cllr Mark Dormer, Cllr Mark Flys, Cllr Jonathan Waters, Cllr Mimi Harker, Cllr Peter Martin, Cllr Heather Wallace, Cllr Joseph Baum, Cllr Emily Culverhouse and Cllr Gareth Williams
<b>Horatio's Garden</b>	Supports volunteering coordination of landscaped sanctuary in NHS spinal injury centre for patients and their families to enjoy away from the wards. <b>Grant funding is 0.19% of organisations income</b>	£3,500	Aylesbury	Aylesbury South East	Cllr Sue Chapple, Cllr Denise Summers, Cllr David Thompson
<b>Total</b>		<b>£31,500</b>			

*Table 5 – One Year Projects - Funding Completed end of 2021/22; no renewal of grant*

Organisation	Description of Service Delivery & Project	Funding	Community Board	Ward	Councillors
<b>Wycombe Wanderers Sports &amp; Education Trust</b>	Changing Rooms	£8,000	High Wycombe	Abbey, Ryemead & Micklefield, Totteridge & Bowerdean, Terriers & Amersham Hill, Booker, Cressex & Castlefield, West Wycombe and Downley	Cllr Arman Alam, Cllr Lesley Clarke, Cllr Mahboob Hussain, Cllr Andrea Baughan, Cllr Matt Knight, Cllr Nabeela Rana, Cllr Steve Guy, Cllr Imran Hussain, Cllr Julia Wassell, Cllr Tony Green, Cllr Arif Hussain, Cllr Sarfarz Raja, Cllr Mohammed Ayub, Cllr Karen Bates, Cllr Majid Hussain, Cllr Marcus Angell, Cllr Darren Hayday, Cllr Orsolya Hayday, Cllr Maz Hussain, Cllr Melanie Smith, Cllr Paul Turner
<b>Autism Bucks</b>	Scoping for Autism Bucks Online Community - project to scope the proposal for an online community for autistic people and their families in Buckinghamshire.	£500	All	Countywide	All
<b>Community Impact Bucks</b>	Lunch Clubs Project Needs Assessment  The purpose of the project is to undertake a needs assessment of the clients of the Pub lunch club, rurality and consult with volunteers and venues regarding the possible resumption of the pub lunch	£20,000	All	Countywide	All

	club post Covid restrictions. This funding in previous years has supported the extension of the pub lunch clubs project.				
<b>The Princes Risborough Centre LTD</b>	Kitchen Creation - purpose of the project is to create a 'kitchen area' where older people with dementia can regain skills they may have lost, retain, and improve skills they have and continue to live independently.	£3,689	North West Chilterns	The Risboroughs	Cllr Gary Hall Cllr Alan Turner Cllr Matthew Walsh
<b>Total</b>		<b>£32,189</b>			

## **Appendix 2 – Equalities Impact Assessment**

### **EqIA – Full Equality Impact Assessment**

#### **Step 1: Introduction**

**Policy or Service to be assessed:** Corporate & Community Prevention Grants Review

**Service and lead officer:** Localities & Strategic Partnerships, Katie McDonald, Localism Head of Service, Marie Mickiewicz, Senior Commissioning Manager

**What are you impact assessing?**

1. Existing
2. New/proposed

#### **Step 2: Scoping – what are you assessing?**

##### **2.1 What is the title of your service/strategy/policy/project?**

Corporate and Community Prevention Grants Review

##### **2.2 What is the aim of your service/strategy/policy/project?**

The aim of the proposal is to deliver a review of our current grant funding arrangements, as part of a phased approach to developing the Council's wider funding strategy.

The grant funding at Appendix 1 in the report totalling £2,525,033.87 will be extended for a further year for legacy grants and up to 15 months for Community Prevention Grants while relevant services conduct a commissioning approach to identify voluntary sector partners in relation to future service requirements, which will promote greater stability and resilience for the sector

##### **2.3 Who does/will it have an impact on? E.g. public, visitors, staff, members, partners?**

There will not be an impact in the short term for VCSE organisations or members of the public who use services provided by these organisations due to the transition support being put in place. Any future impact will be mitigated through the strong partnership relationships, and support to future funding models and where an organisation meets the criteria through the voluntary sector infrastructure contract.

#### **2.4 Will there be an impact on any other functions, services or policies? If so, please provide more detail**

There will be an impact on other services, as some grants will be moved to a commissioning model and different service areas will be responsible for maintaining these relationships and continuing to provide funding depending on which service is the best fit based on the nature of the organisation.

The proposal describes a phasing out of funding over a two-year period whilst supporting organisations to engage with the work of the Community Boards to potentially obtain funding to meet Council priorities or to source external funding. In addition, support will also be provided to facilitate engagement with Integrated Commissioning where activity to commission day opportunities via a procurement vehicle will be taking place during 2022/23 financial year. It is planned to dovetail sources of funding wherever possible to reduce the potential impact on all groups.

#### **2.5 Are there any potential barriers to implementing changes to your service/strategy/policy/ project?**

Not at this stage.

### **Step 3: Information gathering – what do you need to know about your customers and making a judgement about impacts**

#### **3.1 What data do you already have about your service users, or the people your policy or strategy will have an impact on, that is broken down by equality strand?**

##### **A. Age:**

The majority of the provision (16 projects) funded through the Community Prevention Grants is primarily directed at older people and reducing social isolation.

The most recent information available based on application projections from 2019 - 2021 indicates that 11,665 people have been supported through services directed at older people via the Community Prevention Grant Scheme.

##### **B. Disability**

There are 6 projects funded through the Community Prevention Grants that are primarily directed at supporting those with disabilities.

The most recent information available based on application projections from 2019 – 2021 indicates that 712 people have been supported through services directed at people with disabilities via the Community Prevention Grant Scheme.

**C. Pregnancy and maternity\*:**

There is currently no provision across Corporate or Community Prevention Grants funded projects that are aimed directly at people who are pregnant or who have recently given birth, however the widening of the Community Prevention Grants Scheme has resulted in the opportunity for any community group to apply for Community Prevention Grant funding. Removal of the opportunity to apply for funding may impact on this group but there is no current information on how people who are pregnant or who have recently given birth are accessing wider grant-funded provision currently, so it is not possible to make any determination on impact.

**D. Race\*:**

There are approximately 116 people per week, based on 20-21 and 21-22 projections, who are currently supported by the Aylesbury Afro-Caribbean Elderly Day Scheme, the Asian Elders group, DOSTI and Hairoun day centre.

**E. Marriage & Civil Partnership\*:**

There is currently no provision across Corporate and Community Prevention Grants aimed directly at particular marital status groups. Removal of the opportunity to bid for funding may impact on this group but there is no current information on how those with particular marital status are accessing wider grant-funded provision currently, so it is not possible to make any determination on impact.

**F. Religion or belief\*:**

There were previously 30-40 people per week projected to be supported via the Asian Elders Group (which is a primarily Muslim community). However, this did not operate in 2020-21 due to Covid.

**G. Sex\*:**

There are 2 groups that are single sex focussed included within currently grant funded providers, DOSTI for women and Countrymen Club for men. Removal of the opportunity to apply for funding may impact on this group but there is limited current information on how men and women are accessing wider grant funded provision, so it is difficult to make a useful determination of impact

**H. Sexual orientation\*:**

There is currently no provision across Corporate and Community Prevention Grants aimed directly at those from LGBTQ+ groups, however the widening of the Community Prevention Grants Scheme has resulted in the opportunity for any community group to apply for Community Prevention Grant funding. Removal of the opportunity to apply for funding may impact on this group but there is no current information on how those who are from the LGBTQ+ community are accessing wider grant-funded provision currently, so it is not possible to make any determination on impact. There is however opportunity for these groups to access community board funding.



**I. Gender re-assignment\*:**

There is currently no provision across Corporate and Community Prevention Grants aimed directly at those who have undergone gender reassignment, however the widening of the Community Prevention Grants Scheme has resulted in the opportunity for any community group to apply for Community Prevention Grant funding. Removal of the opportunity to apply for funding may impact on this group but there is no current information on how those who have undergone gender reassignment are accessing wider grant-funded provision currently so it is not possible to make any determination on impact.

**J. Gender identity:**

There is currently no provision across existing Corporate and Community Prevention Grants aimed directly at particular gender identity groups, however the widening of the Community Prevention Grants Scheme has resulted in the opportunity for any community group to apply for Community Prevention Grant funding. Removal of the opportunity to apply for funding may impact on this group but there is no current information on how groups are accessing wider grant-funded provision currently, so it is not possible to make any determination on impact.

**K. Carers:**

There is currently no provision across the Community Prevention Grants aimed directly at carers, however the widening of the Community Prevention Grants Scheme has resulted in the opportunity for any community group to apply for Community Prevention Grant funding. Removal of the opportunity to apply for funding may impact on this group but there is no current information on how those who are carers are accessing wider grant-funded provision currently, so it is not possible to make any determination on impact.

**L. Rural isolation:**

Prior to Covid, there were 34 lunch clubs run across the county through the Pub Lunch Clubs Scheme across the county serving approx. 900 people per month. This provision has not yet restarted, and the provider are carrying out an extensive needs assessment in how this offer may be undertaken in future years.

These clubs are predominantly sustained through community volunteers with support from a county wide coordinator.

The Northall and District Day Centre currently support 25 people a week in a remote area of the county.

There are also a number of other projects that serve specific areas of the county that are rural (namely The Countrymen Club – North Marston, Quainton Day Centre, Lantern Club – Holmer Green and Waddesdon Wednesday Club) who support a total of approximately 56 people each week across 4 different localities.

**M. Single parent families:**

There is currently no provision across existing Corporate and Community Prevention Grants aimed directly at single parent families, however the widening of the Community Prevention Grants Scheme has resulted in the opportunity for any community group to apply for Community Prevention Grant funding. Removal of the opportunity to apply for funding may impact on this group but there is no current information on how single parents or their families are accessing wider grant-funded provision currently, so it is not possible to make any determination on impact.

**N. Poverty (social & economic deprivation):**

Neither historic nor current grant criteria focus specifically on poverty or social deprivation. However, it is recognised that historically a number of projects have been focused in areas of deprivation.

**O. Military families / veterans:**

There is currently no provision across existing Corporate and Community Prevention Grants aimed directly at military veterans or military families, however the widening of the Community Prevention Grants Scheme has resulted in the opportunity for any community group to apply for Community Prevention Grant funding. Removal of the opportunity to apply for funding may impact on this group but there is no current information on how this group are accessing wider grant-funded provision currently, so it is not possible to make any determination on impact.

**Proposals to remove or minimise negative effects, impacts or consequences**

**How is it proposed to mitigate or minimise the negative effects, impacts or consequences identified in Section 7?**

The proposal lays out the approach planned to mitigate the impact of the redirection of funding to commissioned services rather than the Community Prevention Grants Scheme.

The first measure is to ensure early engagement with providers who will be affected by this change. Early communications with providers will include a clear explanation of the agreed route forward and identify clearly when funding will be ending for each provider. Providers will be linked with support to identify alternative routes of funding via encouraging them to contact the VCS Infrastructure Contract provider to obtain information on other sources of funding, and linking providers with the Community Board Coordinators in respect of any support for Council priorities via the Boards and funding available to support this contribution.

For day opportunities, the proposal describes how funding will be continued to dovetail with the start of the Day Opportunities Procurement Vehicle, thereby enabling providers the opportunity to bid to provide as part of the new approach to Day Opportunities. This is due to be completed in 2022-23 and so

providers who are successful through the procurement would continue receiving funding via the Council as part of commissioned provision rather than grant funding.

The services falling into the final group are all providers offering Befriending Support to varying groups of residents (for instance, older people or those with mental health conditions). It is envisaged that befriending provision will be included within the Community Prevention Service specification due for recommissioning by July 2023 and funding for these groups will dovetail to that procurement to ensure continued investment in these valuable services until provision is commissioned.

**Other factors to take into consideration:**

The phasing out of Community Prevention Grant funding will prevent or reduce any duplication of grant funding across the Council. The transition to a commissioned model will provide more control and oversight of provision, enabling improved monitoring arrangements, including groups with protected characteristics, that have not been possible via the current grant funding arrangements. This will in turn enable future provision to be adapted in line with the needs of these groups.

As part of the review, the council has committed to developing a single register of funding to ensure that the Council avoids duplication of funding. The Voluntary Sector Partnership Board is currently leading on a collaborative multi-agency data exchange project to collect and share data on needs, demand, and provision in Bucks for the VCSE community.

The funding guidance provided to VCSE organisations will include how to link into Community Boards, Buckinghamshire Lottery, High Wycombe Town Committee, as well as rolling one-off grant programmes hosted by the council and our key VCS partners and a link to the Bucks Funding Search Tool hosted by Community Impact Bucks. This platform also provides a good way of promoting specialist support to VCSEs including how to set up a charity, marketing, creating a fundraising journey as well as free training.

**Is there any potential for direct or indirect discrimination?**

ü Yes

1. No

**If yes, please provide more detail on how you will monitor/overcome this**

Allow time for VCSE organisations to find other funding sources and provide support with doing so where necessary.

## Conclusion:

The grants review will consist of an assessment of our current grant funding arrangements, as part of a phased approach to developing the Council's wider funding strategy. The review will need to be agreed by Cabinet by before it can be fully implemented.

As the grant review process continues, we will keep engaging with VCSE organisations and continue the assessment process with certain VCSE groups. For groups that will be signposted, we will communicate throughout the process, providing support to them in finding other funding avenues and ensuring they are aware of timescales so that support will not suddenly be removed. Once we know which VCSE organisations will be signposted to external funding sources, we will get in touch so we can understand the demographics of their service users. This will enable us to provide the most appropriate support, and put measures in place to mitigate any negative impacts.

We will ensure that any new application and decisions processes are fair, transparent and accessible, and support will be provided as needed for those completing the process for the first time.

We will also look to map the possibilities of cross border applications (where applicants may apply to one or more community boards due to their location) and decide on a process on how these should be completed.

## Step 4: Improvement plan – what are you going to change? (future planning)

Issue	Action	Performance target (what difference will it make)	Lead Officer	Achieved
No longer providing grants for VCSE groups	Signposting VCSE groups to external sources of funding/to Community Boards/moving VCSE groups to a	Enable VCSE groups to continue to carry out local projects to support residents	Localities	Ongoing

	commissioning model			
No data about which groups use which organisations	Create a list of groups who may lose funding and get in touch with them to find out demographics of those who use their services	Allow us to put measures into place to mitigate the effect of losing funding if external funding sources cannot be found	Localities	In progress
Potentially inconsistent amounts of funding available in different places	Consider & check allocations to ensure fairness (procedures now and to review once new process is not put in place)		Localities	In progress
Miscommunication of messages	Develop clear communications strategy to	Increased awareness of approach to Community Prevention	Localities & Integrated	In progress

regarding grants	VCSE in conjunction with Localism Service to align with corporate grant review messaging	Grant process for 2022-23 onwards amongst VCSE  VCSE supported to source alternative funding	Commissioning Service	
Ability of CBs to process increased applications in a fair and transparent way	Measure the anticipated increase in applications per area to see if this is likely to be manageable		Localities	In progress
Lack of information on users of the funded organisations	Gather data on the users of the organisations to get a better picture of the effects of the grant review		Specialist Projects Team	In progress

### **Monitoring Arrangements**

What are the plans to monitor the actual and/or final impact? (The EqlA will help anticipate likely effect, but final impact may only be known after implementation and continued analysis)

What are the proposals for reviewing and reporting actual impact?

Member Task and Finish group and continued engagement with local members and VCSE organisations.

### **Part A and B Sign off – (If Part B has not been completed please complete Section 4)**

Officer completing Part A and B assessment:

Marie Mickiewicz & Katie McDonald

Equality advice sought from: Maria Damigos & Natalie Donhou Morley

Date: 14 December 2021

Service Director sign off: Tracey Ironmonger/ Claire Hawkes

Date: 14 December 2021

Next review date: 6 – 12 months