

**Record of decision taken under delegated powers
by a council officer**



Title:	Surrey County Council Response to Covid: Hardship payment to VCF sector organisations
Divisions Affected:	All divisions
Key Decision:	Yes
Reason Key:	Affects two or more Divisions
Decision taken under delegation by virtue of:	Cabinet decision 31 March 2020 Min ref: 41/20

Summary

Applications for financial support for Voluntary, Community & Faith sector organisations are being received by the Council. These requests for support are a direct result of financial hardship felt as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak, due to either additional costs being incurred by these organisations to meet increased demand for their services or enable remote working, or as a result of reductions in their usual funding sources (eg donations and fund raising events).

Applications are submitted on a standard request from and are being considered initially by a panel made up of Strategy and Finance colleagues. The panel is assessing requests against the following criteria:

- Small and medium sized organisation with an annual income of less than £1million during the financial year 2018/19
- Are not in receipt of any outstanding, adverse judgements from relevant regulatory bodies e.g. Charities Commission, CQC
- Operate within and provide services to meet needs in the county of Surrey
- Provision of services to support vulnerable residents during the COVID-19 pandemic, and/or later in the recovery phase
- Have provided SCC commissioned and/or funded services between 2015-2020, including organisations funded via grant, contracts and/or one-off commissioning
- Provision of broader, strategic services to Surrey residents that SCC considers vital to maintain
- Have evidenced and substantiated the additional financial pressures caused to the organisation as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic
- Will remain viable and able to assist Surrey during the post COVID-19 recovery phase, taking account of financial pressures already incurred and those that are forecast
- Where funding will support the long term, future sustainability of the organisation.

In addition, applications must also demonstrate that:

- Funding is actively being sought from alternative, relevant sources e.g. central government and Community Foundation for Surrey. SCC hardship funding will particularly favour residual pressures that cannot be met from other available means.
- Organisations can remain viable between the receipt of staged payments from the SCC COVID-19 Hardship Fund which may be paid in several tranches

The following applications were recommended by the Panel and approved by the Executive Director for Transformation, Partnership & Prosperity & the Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Fire & Resilience.

Name of organisation	Amount approved	Reason
Eikon	£10,000	Eikon is an important partner providing services supporting CFCL. The application met the criteria of the Surrey Hardship Fund including financial hardship and loss of income as a result of Covid-19. This was shared with and recommended for approval by Dave Hill.
Peer Productions	£5,000	Peer productions is a provider of important youth services across the county. The organisation has met the criteria of the Surrey Hardship Fund including demonstrating the steps they have taken to adapt their income and mitigate the impacts of Covid-19 and the grant requested is a proportionate to what is needed overall.
Relate Mid Surrey	£10,000	The applicant met the criteria for the Surrey Hardship Fund including providing evidence of the negative impact Covid-19 has had on the organisation, ie, loss of income. Relate Mid Surrey will be able to provide subsidised counselling services for vulnerable residents as a result of this grant.
Brigitte Trust	£11,750	It was agreed to partially fund the applicant – the original request was for £25,000. The organisation met the criteria for the Surrey Hardship Fund and the panel acknowledges the critical befriending services the organisation provides for residents however partial funding was recommended to take into account other funding streams successfully secured to meet the identified gaps in first 3 months of lost income. Also, other costs listed have not been incurred yet and as a result, did not meet the criteria.
Age Concern Epsom & Ewell	£27,604	It was agreed to partially fund the applicant. The organisation initially asked the panel for £47,526 from the Surrey Hardship fund however after the Panel requested further information, the organisation reduced the amount of funding requested to £29,660. The panel recommended

		supporting £27,604 of the amount requested which aligned to the fund criteria but not the additional £2,056 which was for a new post.
High Cross Church	£10,000	The church is playing a critical role at this time and is the base for the Surrey Heath Prepared Covid 19 response which has significantly increased their operating costs whilst income generated has been reduced as a result of Covid-19.

Decision made

Decision made:

It was AGREED that:

The following applications met the agreed criteria for financial support during the COVID-19 pandemic:

Eikon	£10,000.00
Peer Productions	£5,000.00
Relate Mid Surrey	£10,000.00
Brigitte Trust	£11,750.00
Age Concern Epsom & Ewell	£27,604.00
High Cross Church	£10,000.00

A one-off payment of £74,354.00 will be made to support the above organisations.

Reasons for Decision:

To ensure the sustainability of the organisations and the continued provision of their services to the residents of Surrey during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

Decision taken by:	Michael Coughlin – Executive Director for TPP Denise Turner Stewart – Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Fire and Resilience
Decision taken on:	20 th May 2020
To be implemented on:	Payment to be made following CLT and Cabinet confirmation of this decision. This is due to take place on 21 st May 2020.

Alternative options considered

The alternative is to not provide financial support and leave the organisations to try to find alternative means of financing additional costs incurred and loss of income due to COVID-19. This could put the continued delivery of the services they provide to residents of Surrey at risk.

Summary of any financial implications

The cost to SCC will be £74,354. It is anticipated that this will be funded out of the COVID-19 funding SCC is receiving from central government.

Declarations of conflicts of interest

None

Consultation/Process Followed

Decision taken in consultation with the Head of Strategy, the Strategic Lead for Partnerships, Policy & Commissioning, the Strategic Finance Business Partner for TPP & Resources, the Executive Director for Transformation, Partnerships & Prosperity and the Cabinet Members for Member for Community Safety, Fire and Resilience.

Background Documents

Exempt:

Cabinet report 31 st March 2020 setting out the council's response to Covid-19.	
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