

## **STOCKPORT LOCAL FUND**

### **Report of the Deputy Chief Executive**

#### **1. Introduction and Background**

- 1.1.** This report provides an update on the implementation of the Stockport Local Fund (SLF). It includes information about the awards made as part of the first phase of the fund, proposals for phase 2 and the evaluation.
- 1.2.** Since the last update to Scrutiny in March 2018 work has been ongoing to engage communities in the Stockport Local process, understand communities needs and strengths, and develop the 'circle of support' as part of a wider Stockport Local Strategy. Whilst also testing the evaluation framework to inform developments to and scope of the next phase of the Fund.
- 1.3.** Phase 1 of the SLF went live in July following a launch event attended by more than 100 organisations. The fund invited applications from VCSE organisations, supporting the overarching priority of reducing social isolation and loneliness. In total 186 expressions of interest totalling over £900,000 were received. Of which 152 were for over £500 and 34 for under £500.

#### **2. Stockport Local Fund**

##### **Phase 1 Investments**

- 2.1.** Awards of under £500 totalling £3726 were made to 8 projects and included a range of different activities that will benefit areas across Stockport. Details of these awards are set out in Appendix 1.
- 2.2.** Following an initial screening of the expressions of interest for over £500, 24 organisations were invited to submit a full application. Consistent with the agreed process the applications were evaluated on a number of key objectives including alignment with council priorities, innovation, sustainability and the ability to measure the programme.
- 2.3.** A multi-agency panel was convened, consisting of senior Council officers and representatives from the local business, the Greater Manchester Community and Voluntary Sector, the community sector and a local public service Partner (in this case, GM Police). The Panel advised on investments over £500. Awards totalling £128,519.99 were made to 16 organisations. Details of these awards are set out in Appendix 2.
- 2.4.** Further checks will now be put in place, include relating to safeguarding and insurance. Once these are complete, it is expected that investments totalling £132,246 will be made.

- 2.5.** To ensure fair and transparent decision-making we will publish the outcomes of investment decisions online through the website GrantNav. Using the 360 giving standard ensuring we are adhering to the Local Government Transparency Code 2015. This tool will also be used to check whether applicants are accessing other funding streams via [www.360giving.org](http://www.360giving.org) – an open data standard allowing comparison and analysis of grant giving.

## **Phase 2 Proposals**

- 2.6.** It is intended that Phase 2 of the Fund open for expressions of interest in December and follow a similar process to phase 1 Applications for expressions of Interest will open on the 10<sup>th</sup> Dec and close on the 6th Jan.
- 2.7.** Discussions have taken place with Safer Stockport Partnership Theme Leads to explore how Greater Manchester monies allocated to Stockport to be used as community grants within the same timeframe can be aligned to the Stockport Local Fund in order to realise efficiencies and ensure a single streamlined process for community investment. It is proposed that objectives aligned with the Safer Stockport Priorities be included for phase 2. The proposal is to include the below additional objectives in phase 2, alongside those used in phase 1.
- 2.8.** To reduce social isolation and loneliness by
- Working collaboratively with or facilitating new collaborations between schools, police, youth offending services or local support agencies and the communities they serve.
  - Creating opportunities for those at risk of not fulfilling their potential to participate in activities that can improve their prospects
  - Building relationships between communities, peer groups or generations with a focus on mentoring and buddying.
- 2.9.** The overarching priority of reducing social isolation will remain throughout the programme, as will the focus on promoting organisational growth to create greater levels of sustainability for the sector and reduce reliance on grants.
- 2.10.** Workshops are being delivered across Stockport throughout November and include evening sessions to help support applications and maximise the quality of expressions of interest, and alignment with the objectives.

## **3. Stockport Local Strategy**

- 3.1.** In August, the Cabinet set out a series of Medium-Term plans to promote growth and reform services. Work is underway, as part of this, to develop a Stockport Local Strategy informed by the learning from the programme to date. The strategy will focus on how mutually beneficial relationships can be built between agencies and sectors.
- 3.2.** The learning from the Heatons place based early adopter has contributed to our organisational understanding of the diversity and opportunities for community collaboration.

- 3.3.** The insight from the early adopter identified energy from people who are keen to work together but often a lack of clarity or connections to shape their role impedes collaboration and innovation. To create the conditions for collaboration to thrive and to understand in more detail the different types of support that communities can offer each other, we have asked all SLF applicants what support they can offer, and what they could benefit from. Advice, Guidance, and Volunteer support were the primary areas of need and work is ongoing to understand the nature of support needed.
- 3.4.** Plans are in place to develop a matching process to link those offering support to those identifying need, Appendix 3, initial taking the form of networking events beginning in the new year, linking in with our Employee Supported Volunteer Policy and connecting with businesses through the work of the Corporate Social Responsibility Steering Group, as detailed below.
- 3.5.** It is intended these events will also act as catalyst for the larger voluntary organisations to support new and emerging organisations with resources, skills and expertise, strengthening the sector and reducing the need for public sector intervention.
- 3.6.** The challenge for business to connect with communities remains a challenge and whilst many businesses continue to express a desire to support their local community, and connections have been made on an ad-hoc basis for mutual benefit, a means and resource to systematically connect the VCSE and business sectors has yet to be identified.
- 3.7.** Further opportunities exist digitally; there is scope to develop a digital offer to create the platforms to facilitate support, matching and advice and guidance through a self-service model. These will be explored alongside the development of the events and feed into the strategy.

## **4. Workforce Development**

- 4.1.** Work is underway to share the learning from Phase 1 of the SLF with stakeholders. Focusing on how services and partners are supported to start a new conversation with communities that will facilitate a stronger relationship and reinforce our values of putting residents at the heart of what we do.
- 4.2.** A range of services across the council have identified champions within teams to help develop the approach, ensuring that we are not reliant on a minority of staff who understand communities but an approach that is embedded across the council.
- 4.3.** A workshop with the Public Realm service took place in September, with further workshops planned with the Youth Offending Service, GMP and Stockport Family. We are also working closely with partners including Stockport Homes,

and Stockport Together to ensure that we collaboratively contribute to strengthening this approach.

## **5. Monitoring and Evaluation**

- 5.1.** The evaluation of the fund is key to justifying further on-going investment after the initial two-year period. There are many challenges to measuring impact through such a dispersed investment but we are gathering learning from across the UK to help shape our framework.
- 5.2.** We are currently working with the Policy Evaluation and Research Unit at Manchester Metropolitan University to develop this framework and are taking learning from The Ambition for Aging Programme across Greater Manchester <sup>1</sup>.
- 5.3.** To develop a robust approach to evaluation we are also using national surveys *The Community Life Survey*<sup>2</sup> and the *UK Household Longitudinal Study*<sup>3</sup> these studies will provide a sound research base and allow us to develop a framework based on nationally recognised standards.
- 5.4.** Evaluations of funded projects will be proportional to the level of investment they receive and will work on multiple levels, which will all bring a variety different insight into the impact of the investments.
- 5.5.** As a process evaluation during the lifetime of the project to performance manage the reach and take up of the fund, and inform priorities and related work streams in the programme using the metrics such as; the geographical and thematic spread of applications, the proportion of successful bids and the reasons for unsuccessful applications.
- 5.6.** At sector level to capture the impact on capacity of the recipient organisations, using an organisational survey to capture the baseline position and a follow up survey at appropriate intervals. Proposed metrics include Organisations reporting increased volunteer capacity; financial stability and future plans.
- 5.7.** Evaluation at the level of the individual beneficiary has been tested with groups funded through the Beta phase, using a primary research questionnaire to assess individual health and well-being. The results will also allow for measurements against singular interventions allowing us to understand which programmes have the most impact in Stockport.
- 5.8.** Metrics and options for evaluating the impact of Stockport Local Fund investments on current and future service demand is being scoped.

## **6. Next Steps and Recommendations**

- 6.1.** Note progress and investments made to date.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ambitionforaging.org.uk/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/community-life-survey>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.understandingsociety.ac.uk/>

**6.2.** Support the proposals for phase 2 proposals outlined in section 2.6-2.8.

**6.3.** Consider the proposed framework for evaluation set out in section 5.

**6.4.** Receive future progress updates in line with award phasing.

## Appendices

### Appendix 1: Successfully funded groups under £500

Project Title	Group Name	Funding Agreed
Football group participating in local disability league.	SPARC (Stockport Progress and Recovery Centre)	£490
Supporting victims of domestic abuse.	OWLS (Ongoing Women's Local Support)	£486
Supporting people with dementia and their carers.	Heaton Norris Dementia Group	£500
Basic cooking skills for children	Rotary Club	£350
Rugby team for children with disabilities.	Stockport RUFC All Stars	£400
Weekly session to improve health and wellbeing.	Practice Champions	£500
Setting up a friendship group.	Cale Green Women's Institute	£500
Marple URC Day Centres	Luncheon Club for older members of the community	£500
<b>Total Amount</b>		<b>£3726</b>

### Appendix 2: Projects Funded over £500

Organisation	Title	Funding Agreed
Walthew House	Making More Happen	£7,500.00
Beacon Counselling	Safe Space	£10,000.00

Christ with All Saints Parochial Church Council	Wonderful Things in Heaton Norris!	£4,500.00
Pure Innovations	The Kitchen	£9,985.99
Yaran northwest cic	Here To Help	£8,500.00
EDUCATE - Early Dementia Users Co operative Aiming To Educate	'Its all about Music and Laughter'	£4,700.00
Individual	HEART domestic violence prevention CIC	£9,759.00
North West Media	I am	£10,000.00
Redeeming Our Communities	ROC Community Mentoring	£5,375.00
Olive Community Project	Olive Harvest	£5,000.00
Arc	Arts for Ageing Well	£3,600.00
Alvanley Practice Champions	Alvanley Practice Health Champions Community Allotment	£9,800.00
Jump Space	Independence through bounce	£10,000.00
Project.INC	Isolation Nation- connecting the disconnected	£9,800.00
<b>Total Amount</b>		<b>£108,519.99</b>

**Provisional funding offer subject to change**

Cheadle Heath Community Association	Friendly Fridays	£10,000.00
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Mode Rehabilitation	Helping people live their potential youth outreach	£10,000.00
<b>Total Amount</b>		<b>£20,000</b>

### Projects not funded

Organisation	Title
Spaces of Hope	Spaces of Hope Connectors Cafe
Speaking Out Group. Stockport Advocacy	Stockport Speaking Out Group
STOCKPORT Volleyball Club	Volley Pop
Stockport Art Guild	StockpART (Stockport Community Art Project)
InnovateHer	InnovateHer programme for teenage girls
Manchester County Bridge Association	Learn to Play Bridge - Stockport

### Appendix 3: Type of Support Organisation Requesting

Number of Organisations	Type of Support
85	Volunteering Support
57	Venue Support
77	Mentoring
102	Advice and Guidance
73	Network Opportunities

*Please note organisations may have requested more than one type of support need.*

### Type of Support Organisations can offer

Number of Organisations	Type of Support offered
5	Volunteers



33	Venues
42	Mentoring
104	Advice and Guidance
45	Network Support