

Hull City Council Community Safety Partnership

Community Grant Funding Strategy 2017/18

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Introduction

The Hull Community Safety Partnership has been successful in recent years in obtaining external funding from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

This funding has enabled the Hull CSP to support various groups and community projects whose aims were to enhance community engagement, reduce crime and improve the lives of those living in Hull.

Although the Council directly funds some services it cannot finance all projects due to budget restraints. The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioners external funding grant plays a key part in helping to make these additional local projects possible.

To ensure the Hull CSP can secure funding in the future it is important that it has a strategy in place which clearly outlines how it will manage community grant funding moving forward. It must demonstrate a co-ordinated approach with clear goals and objectives.

As part of the 2017/18 Funding arrangements the OPCC intends to promote CSPs as the co-ordinating entity at the centre of community safety activity within each local authority.

The idea behind this changed approach to provision of funds is that CSPs will be able to better control where activity takes place within their area of operation and have closer links with the front-end delivery of activities, whether that be by the statutory agencies or other third sector or voluntary groups.

The hope is to pass the funding on with the least possible constraints, with the intention of working together to ensure continued flexibility in future years.

To provide assurance to the OPCC the funding allocated to the Crime Reduction Fund must be used to support those groups and projects which encourage community resilience; the criteria for these groups or projects should be agreed by the CSP itself.

The only other conditions attached to this grant are that the funding does not support any activity or pre-existing post for which another member of the CSP has withdrawn or reduced funding and, importantly, that the CSP adopt an outcome-based planning process that links strategic intentions to community activity

Hull City Council Community Safety Partnership

Vision

The vision of the Hull Community Safety Partnership is to be committed to working together to create safe, healthy communities where people and business can thrive.

Mission Statement

The key role of the Hull City Council Community Safety Partnership is to assess local community safety issues and draw up a partnership plan setting out priorities and planned responses. This includes tackling the causes and effects of crime and anti-social behaviour.

Values

Corporate ambitions - City Plan

Exciting plans and multi-million pound investments are revitalising Hull – capitalising on the city’s position at the heart of the UK’s biggest port complex and its role as UK City of Culture 2017.

The evolving City Plan aims to bring the whole community together to make Hull a place that is brimming with culture, enterprise and opportunity; a place where people want to live, work, play, study and do business; a city where those in the greatest need are valued and supported; a place that people will be proud to call home.

There are a number of ambitions listed within the City Plan aimed at improving the lives of those who live, work and visit Hull.

The 3 priorities of the City Plan are to make Hull:

- *A UK Energy City*
- *A World Class Visitor Destination*

And lastly, but most importantly from a Community Safety Partnership perspective

- *A place of community & opportunity*

Hull is a place where everyone matters and where everyone is supported to achieve their very best. Hull aims to be a place of opportunity for all, as highlighted by the three City Plan ambitions designed to build strong, resilient communities.

For the City Plan to succeed all partners including the CSP must understand how they can contribute to achieving these ambitions. A good example of the Community Safety Partnerships commitment to this vision is the Priority Families Program. The CSP continues to work on this project which involves all key partners working together to assist 3410 families over the next five years in a more co-ordinated and integrated way. Early support will be given to tackle deep-rooted issues.

Community Safety Partnership ambitions

For 2017-18, the key priorities outlined in the CSP Plan are:

- *Reducing Domestic Abuse and Violent Behaviour*
- *Reducing Offending and Re-offending*
- *Reducing Substance Misuse*
- *Supporting Victims, Vulnerable People and Communities*

Scope of the Community Grant Funding Strategy

The strategy will provide assurance to the OPCC that the requirements of funding being released are being met. The Hull CSP recognises that this key funding source provides a significant supplement to the statutory budget provided by the Council and has far reaching benefits to the communities in which these projects are implemented.

The strategy will therefore embed the following core principles into a revised Community Grant Funding Process:

- *Ensure the application process and information available is fit for purpose. This will be achieved by establishing the existing position through an investigation into current processes and implementing the recommendations which will come out of the CSP CGF report*
- *Improve the number of relevant applications by streamlining the current process and implementing better communication and marketing strategies*
- *Issue grants to suitable groups/organisations in a more timely manner based on applications meeting the eligible criteria set by the CSP*

- *Manage expectations of success by automatically embedding robust agreed performance frameworks and regular monitoring into the CGF funding agreements issued to successful applicants*

The strategy is split into the following areas:

- *Aim of the Strategy*
- *External Funding objectives*
- *Approval Framework*
- *Performance Frameworks*
- *Sustainability of projects*
- *Appraisal of funding opportunities*
- *Review of the strategy and further information*

Aim of the Strategy

The aim is to secure the maximum amount of external OPCC funding available where it clearly contributes to the achievement of the CSP ambitions namely:

- *Enrich the quality of life*
- *Provide the opportunity for people to achieve their full potential*
- *Improve community engagement*
- *Provide community focused, cost effective services*

The coverage of the funding opportunity should demonstrate value for money and enable the widest possible benefits for as many residents in the identified communities.

External Funding Objectives

When deciding on how the Community Grant Funding is distributed, the funding opportunities should ensure, where possible that an even balance is maintained between the groups/projects approved across the city.

This may not always be possible as some initiatives may be restricted to a particular area or sector of the community based on available intelligence and identified need.

Approval Framework

- *Bids for funding and funding arrangements made must comply with the funding objectives and be subject to the appraisal process stated in this strategy*
- *The eligible criteria will be set by the relevant CSP Board members to meet the requirements of the OPCC*
- *All suitable Community Grant applications will be considered by the CSP Board*
- *The process adopted for assessing and approving CGF will be transparent, all applications will be assessed and the outcomes recorded. This will ensure that if a decision is challenged or if the process is audited it will stand up to scrutiny*

Performance Framework

The risk associated with the likely achievement of the outcomes required from the funding should be fully evaluated. Procedures should be adopted to ensure that these are minimised:

- *In the case of partnerships arrangements, the risks of the other partners being unable to fulfil their obligations should be considered and appropriate strategies adopted to ensure the risks of such an occurrence are minimised*
- *All successful bids should include SMART key performance and quality outcomes indicators as part of their application*
- *Agreed performance monitoring frameworks and schedules for returns should form part of the CSP funding agreement*
- *Regular performance monitoring must take place*
- *Any issues identified must be addressed in a timely manner. This will provide the service provider with an opportunity to discuss any problems they may be experiencing which were not factored in to their original application. It will also give the CSP an opportunity to highlight and constructively challenge any areas it may have concerns with resulting in agreed solutions e.g. creation and implementation of robust action plans to improve service delivery*
- *Creation of a fluid CGF register of all successful/unsuccessful bids to allow regular monitoring and identify key themes. This will form the basis of an annual performance report presented at CSP Board meetings*

Sustainability

- *The CSP should ensure that projects enabled by external funding are sustainable in the case of the need or desirability to continue to provide the services associated with the project. This is particularly important in the case of projects which have a high political profile or involve the employment of staff*
- *The CSP should ensure that bids and funding arrangements are joined-up both internally and with public, private and voluntary sector bodies in the City*
- *Action is taken, at the time of bid or funding arrangement to ensure that bodies/organisations within Hull with similar objectives and service functions do not compete with each other for funding opportunities*
- *The CSP will monitor funding opportunities and appraise these in accordance with the following factors to determine if a funding arrangement should be made. Funding arrangements will be made where they comply with the strategy and where there is a reasonable probability of success*
- *The bids submitted or arrangements made, by the CSP, for external funding should be in accordance with the Council's ambitions and strategic external funding objectives as set out in this strategy*
- *The CSP should ensure that expectations regarding the likely success of bids are effectively managed during the bidding process.*
- *There should be adequate resources in place to deliver the outputs required by the funding body which comply with the terms and conditions of the allocation of funding*
- *The extent to which bids made could be linked to existing complementary service provision should be examined to ensure that possible economies of scale and consequential contributions to service objectives are fully exploited*

Review of the Strategy

- *The strategy should be subject to periodic review in light of changes in the OPCCs and CSPs approach to external funding and to ensure it continues to be relevant to the Council's ambitions and strategy objectives.*