

## ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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COMMITTEE	Finance, Policy and Resources
DATE	9 March 2017
DIRECTOR	Bernadette Marjoram
TITLE OF REPORT	ACVO and HMP Grampian Family Centre Grants
REPORT NUMBER	CHI/17/055
CHECKLIST COMPLETED	Yes

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### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report seeks approval to enter into a grant funding agreement with the Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations (ACVO). It also seeks approval to make a £32k funding contribution towards the Family Centre and Help Hub (FCHH) at HMP Grampian and to enter into a formal agreement with Action for Children for the funding period.

### 2. RECOMMENDATION

Committee is recommended to approve:

- a) Officers agree a grant funding agreement with ACVO to apply from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2020 for the provision of third sector interface, third sector engagement with the Council and support to the Civic Forum.
- b) Provision of £32,000 grant payment to Action for Children as funding contribution towards the Family Centre and Help Hub (FCHH) At HMP Grampian for 2016/17 and to agree a grant funding agreement with Action for Children to 31 March 2018.

### 3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- a) The value of the agreement with ACVO is £48,837. £43,837 is provided by the Council and has been agreed within the Council's budget 2017/18. £5,000 within the Community Planning Partnership's budget, which includes contributions from the NHS Grampian, Police Scotland and Nestrans.
- b) £32,000 is available in the 2016/17 in the contingency budget within the general fund for the FCHH. £32k funding has been agreed in the general fund budget 2017/18.

#### 4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

The Community Planning Aberdeen (CPA) element of funding for ACVO is expected to be agreed by the CPA Board on 27 February 2017.

Legal colleagues will be involved in drafting grant funding agreements.

#### 5. MAIN ISSUES

##### ACVO

The Council provides funding to ACVO to act as the Third Sector Interface in Aberdeen and provide the following services:

- Ensure the third sector is well represented in all aspects of community planning in the City and across localities
- Provide mechanisms to secure third sector involvement in the delivery of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-26 and Locality Plans 2017-27
- Lead the development and delivery of the Community Planning Partnership's Volunteering Framework
- Provide mechanisms that build the capacity of the third sector to engage effectively in local and city wide improvement activity
- Lead the development of the social enterprise sector to increase the economic value base of the third sector

Related to this, the Community Planning Aberdeen also provides funding to ACVO to support and administer Aberdeen's Civic Forum to enable it to represent communities of interest across Aberdeen in Community Planning.

The proposed grant funding agreement between the Council and ACVO would be in respect of the objectives set out above.

##### Action for Children

Robust evidence is available that prisoners with families who maintain contact with their families while in prison are less likely to re-offend and to this end the FCHH was set up at HMP Grampian when it opened in September 2015.

The FCHH involves a partnership including the Council, Aberdeenshire Council, Action for Children, Shelter Scotland, Families Outside and the Scottish Prison Service providing a range of supports to visitors and their families towards an overall objective of reducing re-offending.

A request was made to Community Planning Aberdeen for a funding contribution towards the FCHH requesting £32k per year. The FCHH was developed and implemented on the basis that Community Planning Aberdeen would make this contribution.

The request was considered by Community Planning Aberdeen and partners involved within the partnership. However, no funding was identified. Council representatives within the partnership intimated that the Council would give due consideration and hence this report seeking funding allocation.

During 2016 47% of adults and 45% of children helped and supported at the FCHH were from Aberdeen.

Providing £32k from the 2016/17 general funds would represent a 22% contribution towards total costs. Funding contributions are also provided by Aberdeenshire Council, Action for Children and the Scottish Government.

## 6. IMPACT

### **Improving Customer Experience –**

The FCHH provides a critical service to visitors to HMP Grampian. ACVO services support communities engage with the Council.

### **Improving Staff Experience –**

ACVO services will support staff involved in community and third sector engagement.

### **Improving our use of Resources –**

The FCHH assists in the reduction of re-offending and therefore contributes to future cost avoidance to the Council and the wider public sector.

### **Corporate -**

The proposals support community engagement and regeneration objectives within Smarter Aberdeen. Further they support implementation of Community Planning Aberdeen's Local Outcome Improvement Plan and developing Locality Plans, in particular People, Place and Technology themes.

### **Public –**

This report is unlikely to be of significant interest to the public. EHRIA to be completed – any impacts are anticipated to be positive.

## 7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

Failing to agree funding and/or grant funding agreements would result in services no longer being delivered. Further, this is likely to result in reputational damage to the Council. Agreements assist to ensure clarity of the Council's requirements and the terms applying to provision of grant funding.

## 8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Community Planning Budget 2017/18 Report to Community Planning Aberdeen Board, 27 February 2017.

## 9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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