



REPORT

Item No: 20

SUBJECT:	Commissioning of the Community Solutions Programme	North Lanarkshire Integration Review and Self-Assessment
TO:	Performance, Finance and Audit committee	Performance, Finance and Audit Sub-Committee
Lead Officer for Report:	Chief Officer	Ross McGuffie, Chief Officer
Author(s) of Report	Maddy Halliday, CEO and Gina Alexander, Community Solutions Programme Manager, Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire Head of Planning, Performance and Quality Assurance	Chief Officer
DATE:	13 th May 2021	27.04.21

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This paper is coming to the Sub-Committee:

For approval	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	For endorsement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	To note	<input type="checkbox"/>
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The purpose of this report is to:

- provide an update on the future process for the commissioning of the Community Solutions programme;
- note the positive decision of the IJB to confirm the recurring funding of the Community Solutions programme.

2. ROUTE TO THE IJB Sub-Committee

This paper has been:

Prepared	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Reviewed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Endorsed	<input type="checkbox"/>
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2.1 The paper was prepared by the authors above and agreed by members of the Senior Leadership Team.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 The Sub-Committee is asked to:

- Endorse the proposed commissioning approach for the Community Solutions Programme following approval of recurring funding at the March 2021 IJB meeting.

4. VARIATIONS TO DIRECTIONS

Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>
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5. BACKGROUND/SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

- 5.1 At the November meeting of the PFA Committee, an update paper was tabled setting out the significant pandemic response coordinated through VANL, that saw 83 community and voluntary organisations supporting vulnerable people across North Lanarkshire.
- 5.2 During this phase, the flexibility and adaptability of the Community Solutions programme has been clear, facilitating two key and innovative work programmes:
- The distribution of Covid-19 financial hardship payments to vulnerable people through 9 CVS organisations with funding from Scottish Government via North Lanarkshire Council. £188k was distributed over the course of seven weeks to over 1800 eligible people
 - Collaborative working with NLC Education and Families and four school clusters to support a rapid pilot of activities to support children and young peoples’ mental health and wellbeing, to support learning about effective approaches and decisions about ongoing investment
- 5.3 As the remobilisation efforts continue across the partner organisations, VANL is also continuing to develop and remobilise a range of activities through the Community Solutions programme.
- 5.4 Crucially, at its meeting on 23rd March 2021, the IJB approved the recurring funding of the Community Solutions programme, providing the sustainability required to continue the remobilisation and future development of the programme.
- 5.5 Moving forwards, a rolling funding agreement will be put in place that sets out the agreed work plan for the year ahead.
- 5.6 During the year, VANL will then provide the PFA Committee with two reports on progress against the Community Solutions Work Plan as follows:
- Mid-year report focused on activity against the agreed plan
 - End of year report focused on activity and outcomes against the agreed plan
- 5.7 Baseline funding will be set at the current annual funding position for 2021/22 (£1.141m), with any changes in future agreed through the planning process.
- 5.8 The reporting set out above will be built into the Programme of Work, which will be presented to the IJB for approval at its meeting on 22nd June 2021.
- 5.9 In line with the learning from the pandemic and the ongoing update of the Strategic Commissioning Plan Programme of Work, the following priorities have been identified for the Community Solutions programme in 2021/22 (in addition to the existing work plan presented to the PFA in November 2020):
1. Develop updated Community Solutions Strategy and Commissioning Plan 2022-24 with an associated rolling annual CS Work Plan, linked with the Strategic Commissioning Plan and Programme of Work, the Plan for North Lanarkshire (including tie in to the Community Boards) and Covid-19 Recovery and Remobilisation plans
 2. Agreeing a rolling annual Service Level Agreement with HSCNL.
 3. Managing delivery of new CS Commissioning Plan, including inviting proposals, making awards and supporting funded projects.
 4. Supporting six CS host projects and local collaboration with statutory partners to realign wider CVS sector investment through CS where appropriate.
 5. Implementation of revised CS Planning, Evaluation and Learning framework, to improve ability to evidence impact and Social Return on Investment (SROI). Provision of 6-month progress report and Annual Impact and Learning Report.

6. Facilitating cross-sector development, agreement and implementation of a NL Social Prescribing improvement plan for NL which raises awareness of and increases investment in CVS as an enabler and provider of community based early intervention, prevention and recovery supports.

5.10 The Community Solutions programme has been chosen as a spotlight session at the upcoming NHS Scotland Annual Conference, recognising the significant impact of the community and third sector in North Lanarkshire on the pandemic response.

6. CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Remobilisation of the Community Solutions programme is underway in line with the partnership's statutory services, with a dual focus on the ongoing pandemic response and remobilising the programme agreed as part of the work plan for 2021/22.

6.2 Following the approval of recurring funding by the IJB, the Community Solutions programme will now present on progress against the annual plan at mid-year and end of year, which will then support the development of the next year's priorities and plan.

7. IMPLICATIONS

7.1 NATIONAL OUTCOMES

7.1.1 This work has implications for all nine national outcomes but the Community Solutions programme and funded projects contribute particularly to:

1. People are able to look after and improve their own health and wellbeing and live in good health for longer;
For example, the physical health project supports older adults to develop strength and stability, remain mobile and combat the risks of falls.
2. People, including those with disabilities or long term conditions or who are frail, are able to live, as far as reasonably practicable, independently and at home or in a homely setting in their community;
The Community Alarms service further enables the ability of people in this category to remain independent, giving individuals and their families peace of mind.
Befriending projects funded through Community Solutions provide social connection for people who may otherwise be isolated, supporting their mental health, wellbeing and resilience.
6. People who provide unpaid care are supported to look after their own health and wellbeing, including reducing any negative impact of their caring role on their own health and wellbeing;
Unpaid carers are supported through a range of carer and befriending projects, providing activities or respite to enable carers to get a break from their caring role, overcome social isolation or benefit their own health.

7.2 ASSOCIATED MEASURE(S)

No further measures.

7.3 FINANCIAL

7.3.1 The March IJB approved the financial aspects included within this report.

7.4 PEOPLE

7.4.1 Funding insecurity has negatively impacted on the Community Solutions funded projects' paid and volunteer workforce, but the recent agreement of recurring funding should make a significant impact on workforce retention and satisfaction.

7.5 INEQUALITIES

EQIA Completed:

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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7.6 CARBON MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

9. APPENDICES



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CHIEF ACCOUNTABLE OFFICER (or Depute)

Members seeking further information about any aspect of this report, please contact Ross McGuffie on telephone number 01698 752 591

