

## Innovate and Cultivate Fund – Endorsement of Recommendations

To: Communities and Partnership Committee

Meeting Date: 1 April 2021

From: Service Director: Communities and Partnerships, Adrian Chapman

Electoral division(s): All, with particular relevance to the following:

- Littleport
- Waterbeach

Key decision: No

Outcome: To provide the Communities and Partnership Committee with the outcome of the 24 March 2021 Innovate & Cultivate Fund (ICF) Recommendation Panel.

Recommendation: The Communities and Partnership Committee is asked to:

- Agree to fund the following nine applications through the Cultivate funding stream:
  - Cambridge Hub
  - Cambridge United Youth & Community Trust
  - Cogwheel Counselling
  - Deafblind UK
  - Headway Cambridgeshire
  - Littleport Parish Council
  - Ramsey Neighbourhoods Trust
  - Sport Works (North) CIC
  - Waterbeach and Landbeach Action for Youth (WAY)

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## 1. Background

- 1.1 The Innovation Fund was initially launched in November 2016. A review and refresh of the fund was carried out the following year resulting in the current Innovate and Cultivate Fund as agreed by Communities and Partnership Committee on 24 August 2017.
- 1.2 In accordance with Committee decision of 24 August 2017, a Recommendation Panel considers applications to the fund and is made up of three County Council Service Leads or Assistant Directors, the Chief Finance Officer or Head of Finance, a senior officer involved in managing the fund, a representative of Cambridgeshire Community Foundation and five elected members from the Communities and Partnership Committee.
- 1.3 The fund is open to voluntary, community and social enterprise sector organisations based in and outside of Cambridgeshire and public sector bodies in Cambridgeshire to deliver projects and ideas that help address the needs of local residents.
- 1.4 There are two funding streams:
  - **Cultivate:** grants of £2,000-£15,000 aimed at encouraging local networks where people help themselves and each other. This is a single stage application process, where Communities and Partnership Committee consider the final recommendations of the panel before confirming award.
  - **Innovate:** grants of £15,001 - £50,000 for projects that demonstrate an innovative approach. This is a two-stage application process where second stage applicants present a more detailed project plan and quarterly activity and budget plans to the panel, after which the Communities and Partnership Committee consider the panel recommendations before confirming award. Note: This funding stream is currently suspended.
- 1.5 All applicants to the fund are required to demonstrate a number of stated criteria including the following key criteria:
  - Project outcomes align with key funding priorities for Children & Families services, Adult Social Care, or other council priorities
  - Projects show they will reduce pressure on council services and/or offer direct savings for the council
  - Projects must be either new or build on an existing project in a new location or with new beneficiaries.

## 2. Main Issues

- 2.1 On 24 March 2021 the Recommendation Panel considered 13 applications to the Cultivate funding stream.
- 2.2 The outcome of the panel is that 9 Cultivate applications have been recommended for funding and are reported to this Committee for final decision, namely:
  - Cambridge Hub
  - Cambridge United Youth & Community Trust

- Cogwheel Counselling
- Deafblind UK
- Headway Cambridgeshire
- Littleport Parish Council
- Ramsey Neighbourhoods Trust
- Sport Works (North) CIC
- Waterbeach and Landbeach Action for Youth (WAY)

2.3 The amount of grant funding committed to date is up to £1,689,554.90 for 68 projects. If the 9 Cultivate applications recommended to the Communities and Partnership Committee within this report are approved, the total committed will be up to £1,799,363.93 for 77 projects.

A summary of each of the recommended applications is attached at Appendix 1.

### 3. Alignment with corporate priorities

#### 3.1 A good quality of life for everyone

The following bullet point sets out details of implications identified by officers:

- The focus of the Fund is supporting people to live healthy and independent lives. It focuses upon the most vulnerable groups and enables a locally delivered approach which improves the outcomes for our citizens and communities, as well as to prevent and delay demand for statutory intervention.

#### 3.2 Thriving places for people to live

The following bullet point sets out details of implications identified by officers:

- The Fund affords opportunities for individuals and communities to develop their skills and resilience to undertake initiatives that improve and enable independence, health and well-being.

#### 3.3 The best start for Cambridgeshire's children

The following bullet point sets out details of implications identified by officers:

- A key focus of the Fund is to enhance delivery against this priority e.g. where the support of the voluntary and community sector could make a real difference to the lives of children and families, providing opportunities for the whole population to succeed and to enable improved outcomes.

#### 3.4 Net zero carbon emissions for Cambridgeshire by 2050

There are no significant implications for this priority.

## 4. Significant Implications

### 4.1 Resource Implications

The report above sets out the implications for this priority in 2.3 and Appendix 1.

### 4.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications

The following bullet point sets out details of significant implications identified by officers:

- Although grants are exempt from procurement regulations, procurement advice has been taken on the grant application process and member involvement in recommending bids for award and final decision of award.

### 4.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications

The following bullet point sets out details of significant implications identified by officers:

- Legal advice has been taken in the setting up of this Fund and in the creation of the grant application and monitoring process.

### 4.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

The following bullet point sets out details of significant implications identified by officers:

- The focus of this Fund on supporting the most vulnerable will mean this investment will make a positive contribution to issues of equality.

### 4.5 Engagement and Communications Implications

The following bullet point sets out details of significant implications identified by officers:

- The plans for engagement and communication of this Fund are as agreed at 8<sup>th</sup> November 2018 Committee.

### 4.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement

The following bullet points set out details of significant implications identified by officers:

- Community empowerment sits at the heart of the Innovate & Cultivate Fund which enhances the opportunity for local community organisations to bid for projects which harness the energy of their community.
- Members play a key role in considering each application on its own merits and against the fund criteria. The Communities and Partnership Committee receive recommendations for funding from the Recommendation Panel.

## 4.7 Public Health Implications

The following bullet point sets out details of significant implications identified by officers:

- The Innovate and Cultivate Fund affords opportunities for individuals and communities to develop their skills and resilience to undertake initiatives that improve health and well-being. The approved projects also support interventions to support those most vulnerable to prevent their health and wellbeing needs escalating and service needs increasing.

Communities and Partnership Committee on 17 January 2019 agreed that officer clearance for future reports of this type would not be necessary, given that the content is repeated except for the information on the actual applications being recommended for funding.

## 5. Source Documents

### 5.1 Cambridgeshire Community Foundation Innovate and Cultivate Fund application forms and guidance:

Application Form:

<https://ukcf.secure.force.com/forms/ICF>

Guidance:

<https://www.cambscf.org.uk/icf.html>

## Appendix 1

Cultivate Fund applications recommended by the Recommendation Panel to the Communities and Partnership Committee for final decision.

<b>Applicant and Project Name</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Amount of funding requested</b>
<p>Cambridge Hub 'LinkAges'</p>	<p>The LinkAges project links 24 Cambridge University students with 24 older people in Cambridge and Fenland who are experiencing social isolation.</p> <p>Both older and younger people are experiencing loneliness more than ever and are particularly vulnerable to the mental health impacts of isolation. LinkAges provides moments of connection, light and community between these two generations.</p> <p>The project will build on the successfully piloted six-week 'Desert Island Discs' project that ran during the pandemic, inspired by the BBC Radio 4 Desert Island Discs programme. It promoted meaningful conversations between pairs of students and older people, around older people's favourite music at different stages in life.</p> <p>Age-UK and Care Network will offer support with recruiting older people in Cambridge and Fenland who are isolated and experiencing feelings of loneliness.</p> <p>Cambridge Hub will recruit student volunteers at the University of Cambridge and provide them with training on safeguarding and how to deliver the programme (including how to create a podcast).</p> <p>The programme will run across six weeks. Pairs will meet weekly and student volunteers will conduct informal interviews about older people's life stories, experiences, and meaningful music. When agreed, recordings will be edited and made into short videos/audio recordings for sharing with friends, family, fellow residents and/or care home staff. The programme will culminate in a final celebration event of the work created together.</p> <p>The longer term aim is to expand the project to include a wider range of intergenerational activities.</p>	<p>£6,307</p>

<p>Cambridge United Youth &amp; Community Trust</p> <p>'Forever United'</p>	<p>A project to combat loneliness and inactivity for 500 seniors within Cambridge and nearby areas through a wide offer of wellbeing and community sessions bringing people together, virtually and in person.</p> <p>The 'Forever United' programme to support older people was introduced during the 2020 lockdowns. Cultivate funding will build on the relationships made over the last year to empower more seniors to live healthy lifestyles using the power of sport, the brand of the local football club &amp; the strength of local community.</p> <p>Activities will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lunches/Afternoon Teas. Seniors meeting for online activities and in-person when possible.</li> <li>- Garden Gate visits. Seniors receiving bi-weekly visits at their house by a member of staff whilst lockdown/shielding.</li> <li>- Active Activity Packs. Sent via post including crosswords, quizzes &amp; other activities as well as Home Gym Equipment</li> <li>- Wellbeing monthly "check-in" phone calls.</li> <li>- Walking Football &amp; Super-vets Football (Abbey &amp; North Cambridge) Weekly sessions for those over the age of 50 keeping them active for longer.</li> <li>- Strength &amp; Balance Classes. Bi-weekly fitness sessions with qualified instructor in North Cambridge &amp; Abbey.</li> <li>- "United by Memories" (Dementia) Sports Cafe. Bi-weekly with Dementia Compass - for people living with dementia and their care partners.</li> <li>- Weekly Health Walks in Abbey &amp; North Cambridge</li> </ul> <p>The area of focus will be North Cambridge and Abbey, but the club will work closely with Healthy You Area co-ordinators to engage (on calls/virtual events/activity packs) with people in other key areas as set out by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Health Inequalities Strategy. The club plans to work closely with Abbey People and the North Cambridge Community Partnership to set out a roadmap of best practice before working in more depth in other areas such as Huntingdon, St Neots and South Fenland.</p>	<p>£15,000.00</p>
<p>Cogwheel Counselling</p> <p>'Cogwheel Family Counselling'</p>	<p>A project to provide affordable counselling for 28-32 low income families under stress at a time when the family unit is coping with unprecedented pressure from the impact of Covid-19.</p> <p>With statutory providers only able to support family therapy interventions in the most high priority of cases, this project meets a need for affordable provision for families on low incomes or on benefits before their needs escalate.</p>	<p>Requested: £7,540.00</p> <p>Panel proposes to offer additional funding of £1,600 to cover the £10</p>

	<p>Cogwheel's team consists of a mix of qualified counsellors (staff and volunteers), and counsellors in the final stages of their training. With this funding Cogwheel will engage an experienced, specialist family and relationship practitioner to provide four sessions per week.</p> <p>Each family will receive 8 fortnightly counselling sessions. It is important to make family sessions affordable: some clients will be able to afford the minimum family counselling contribution of £30 per session, but for others this will be difficult. As part of the application, funding for a bursary was requested to help provide very low income families with subsidised sessions costing £10 each.</p> <p>The Recommendation Panel proposes to offer Cogwheel additional funding of up to £1,600 to cover the £10 counselling session fee for very low income families.</p>	<p>counselling fees for very low-income families.</p> <p>Total grant offer up to: £9,140.00</p>
<p>Deafblind UK 'My life is now on hold'</p>	<p>A project to provide respite, through practical and emotional assistance, to carers affected by deafblindness in Cambridgeshire.</p> <p>This project will offer carers for deafblind people the chance to talk to their counterparts and discuss real, and deeply personal issues, with people who understand. Deafblind UK has the expertise and experience to offer the specialist support needed to support both those affected by deafblindness and their carers. There are an estimated 479 carers looking after a person with dual sensory loss in Cambridgeshire. The project aims to identify them and to increase the support and services available for unpaid carers aged 18+ who are supporting and/or living with deafblind individuals across the county. The project will offer the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Helpline providing a lifeline for carers.</li> <li>• Access to an intensive 6-week Wellbeing &amp; Emotional Support service</li> <li>• Access to a technical Helpdesk, an Online Forum and remote 'Virtual' Groups.</li> <li>• Access to additional online web content and resources.</li> <li>• Counselling to allow carers to discuss issues that may be causing anxiety, depression, stress, trauma, loneliness and isolation; 10 sessions of 50 minutes, carried out by a fully qualified counsellor.</li> <li>• A befriending programme</li> <li>• Access to Deafblind UK Holidays; discounted respite breaks for carers and their dependents.</li> </ul>	<p>£14,891.00</p>



<p>Headway Cambridgeshire</p> <p>'Fenland Family Project'</p>	<p>A project to set up and deliver a family support project for 300 families in Fenland who are experiencing considerable stress as a result of the disability of a family member.</p> <p>Headway Cambridgeshire provides a range of services to people with a brain injury. The injury can be caused through a trauma or a range of other causes including brain tumour, stroke, encephalitis, birth injury. Data from Fenland indicates that the area has the third highest rate of death in under 65 year olds in the east of England for coronary vascular disease and a stroke rate higher than the English national average. There is evidence of increasing numbers of stroke in women and an increasing rate of traumatic brain injury in women in Fenland. There is also evidence from PHE and the CCG of an increase in underlying risk factors including obesity and coronary vascular disease.</p> <p>Headway has recently completed research with Anglia Ruskin University on the impact on families of brain injury. A review of the literature found that changes in cognitive functioning from brain injury, dementia and other neurological conditions results in significant family stress, reciprocal family and spouse anxiety and depression and consequent social isolation and poorer coping. These can lead to increased requirements for adult social care and residential services. This project is open to families who are struggling to manage the impact of disability.</p> <p>The project will offer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual and group sessions providing advice and information on the impact of head injury, understanding behaviours and responding to behaviours.</li> <li>• Working with the client and/or family member to develop strategies for managing stress</li> <li>• Access to meaningful activities including a range of crafts e.g. mosaics, up-cycling, the workshop delivered in partnership with CLPT social activities</li> <li>• Personal trainer facilitating one to one and group gym access and indoor and outdoor adapted sports programmes.</li> <li>• Access to our community connexions programme, a vocational support service with access to training and volunteering opportunities</li> <li>• Peer support groups</li> <li>• One to one keyworker/family support (face to face centre based, at home and on-line)</li> <li>• Outdoor therapies including 'grow share eat' and bushcraft</li> <li>• Counselling, groupwork and family interventions programme</li> </ul>	<p>£14,500.00</p>
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<p>Littleport Parish Council</p> <p>'Community Youth Worker'</p>	<p>Match funding to recruit a Community Youth Worker (CYW) to work within the Parish Council's Wellbeing Team to support 200 young people for an initial two-year period.</p> <p>Littleport has a successful youth group attended by 150+ children weekly, many from low-income families. The group is run solely by volunteers. Funding will allow the group to employ a CYW who can work at a professional level with partners to target high risk groups of children that require a higher level of support.</p> <p>The CYW will be employed by the Parish Council, and a separate constituted group will be formed (The Littleport Youth Partnership) to bring together professionals who work with young people within Littleport, such as the primary and secondary schools, the doctor's surgery, CSP/PSG, CCC - Youth Services ie. Youth Offending &amp; YCC, and Youth Mental Health Charities.</p> <p>The aim is to create a synergy between the organisations working with young people, to establish youth work priorities, and monitor/influence the direction and changing requirements of young people as the village grows. The Partnership will also offer safeguarding support and apply for funding for youth projects that is not available to local authorities.</p>	<p>£14,971.03</p>
<p>Ramsey Neighbourhoods Trust</p> <p>'Digital Inclusion Project'</p>	<p>Funding for a digital inclusion project for four local Timebanks aiming to help those excluded by the digital age learn to get online safely and confidently, thereby improving independence, community resilience, and mental health</p> <p>Ramsey Neighbourhoods Trust is the applicant on behalf of four Timebanks local to each other - Somersham &amp; Pidley, Sutton, Houghton &amp; Wyton, and Ramsey. This combined application can reach more people with the project, share volunteers, and achieve a better outcome overall – with less funding than if each Timebank applied independently.</p> <p>There are many residents with no access to digital devices who have been left out of the emergence of online social groups, unable to access online information/services, and have been less connected to their communities during the lockdowns. There is also a group of people who have devices and can use them for basics, but who lack knowledge or confidence to go further and get the most out of being online for their personal circumstances. The project aims to help both these groups to learn how to get online safely and to improve their basic technology skills.</p>	<p>£5,000</p>

	<p>The project will be supported by the Cambridgeshire Digital Partnership with Cambridge Online. Timebank volunteers and coordinators will be trained to become digital champions. The digital champions will then support residents by offering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Group sessions where people can try out different devices and be introduced to online functions.</li> <li>- Further sessions to concentrate on more specific areas based on feedback from attendees as to which areas they wish to learn about. These sessions would be run as informal 'Digital Cafes' to encourage those who would find the thought of formal lessons or workshops intimidating.</li> <li>- One-to-one sessions with trained volunteers available on request, or for those who need additional support.</li> </ul> <p>Devices can be borrowed by participants for an agreed time period and connectivity data gifted to them for this period to let them use the device at home. This will allow them to make an informed decision regarding purchasing a device for themselves.</p>	
<p>Sport Works (North) CIC  'Aspire Cambridge'</p>	<p>The Aspire Cambridge project will deliver a 45-week activity programme to forty-five 16–25-year-olds who have physical and/or learning difficulties, leading to improved confidence, physical/mental health, qualifications, employability, resilience, and independence.</p> <p>Aspire is an award winning sports, cultural and educational programme which aims to engage, motivate and enhance learning and employment opportunities for 'disengaged' individuals and families requiring specialist support. This delivery model will be used to target young people/adults (16-25 years) who have a range of physical and learning difficulties living in Cambridge. The Aspire project will implement a holistic approach to provision through engaging participants' families throughout the design/delivery of the intervention. Families without a formal SEND diagnosis but experiencing financial and/or social disadvantage can also access the service.</p> <p>Forty-five weekly 3-hour multi-activity sessions will be delivered at Arbury Community Centre, Castle School and the University Sports Centre and Gym. Sessions will accommodate up to 15 participants. The one-year project is expected to engage c45 different people with special educational needs and/or disabilities.</p> <p>Beneficiaries will be successfully engaged by working in partnership with a wide range of community organisations/</p>	<p>£15,000.00</p>

	<p>groups and support networks. Engaging the wider family unit (parent/carer/sibling) will strengthen family bonds and help sustain the positive changes the project will facilitate.</p> <p>A minimum of 15 beneficiaries will receive training and mentoring, working towards the attainment of a nationally recognised 'Sports Leadership' qualification developing the following skill outcomes; leadership, communication, managing-self and working in groups.</p>	
<p>Waterbeach and Landbeach Action for Youth (WAY)</p> <p>'Community Youth Worker - For WAY Youth Club and peer support to County youth clubs'</p>	<p>Match funding to create a new Community Youth Worker (CYW) post to strengthen existing youth services in Waterbeach and to help other local youth groups develop their own provision. The post will be match funded by the Waterbeach Parish Council and Urban and Civic Developers.</p> <p>The CWP will plan and deliver 2 youth club sessions per week for WAY and devote 5 hours per week to work with youth workers, volunteers and young people in other areas to develop youth services throughout the County. The CYW will engage with young people and community leaders to fully understand local concerns and provide youth services which offer early intervention to vulnerable young people. The CYW will help young people to access key services such as counselling and career / further education guidance.</p> <p>A key role of the CYW will be the safe recruitment and training of volunteers to build a network of youth workers to strengthen the diminishing number of youth services provided in local communities. They will need to make local communities aware of the support local young people require and give local decision makers encouragement to support and develop young people's services locally. The CYW can help community volunteers to access funding, plan sessions, link them to other support groups and deliver services on the ground.</p>	<p>£15,000.00</p>
		<p><b>Total:</b> <b>£109,809.03</b></p>