

**INNOVATE AND CULTIVATE FUND – ENDORSEMENT OF RECOMMENDATIONS  
(APRIL 2020)**

**To:** Communities and Partnership Committee

**Meeting Date:** 22 April 2020

**From:** Adrian Chapman: Service Director of Communities and Partnerships

**Electoral division(s):** All (especially divisions in Huntingdonshire and South Cambridgeshire)

**Forward Plan ref:** N/A                      **Key decision:** No

**Purpose:** To provide the Communities and Partnership Committee with the outcome of the April 2020 Innovate & Cultivate Fund (ICF) Recommendation Panel.

**Recommendation:** The Communities and Partnership Committee is asked to:

**Consider the recommendations of the panel and confirm agreement to fund the following two applications through the Cultivate funding stream:**

- **Cambridgeshire Early Years Teaching Alliance (CEYTA)**
- **Disability Huntingdonshire (DISH)**

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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 the Communities and Partnership Committee on 24 August 2017.
- 1.2 In accordance with the Committee decision of 24 August 2017, a Recommendation Panel considers applications to the fund and is made up of three County Council Service 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-£19,000 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 £19,001 - £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.
- 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 In April 2020 the Recommendation Panel considered 10 project proposals to the Cultivate funding stream and 5 stage one project proposals to the Innovate funding stream.
- 2.2 The outcome of the panel is that 2 Cultivate applications have been recommended for funding and are reported to this Committee for final decision, namely:
- Cambridgeshire Early Years Teaching Alliance
  - Disability Huntingdonshire

- 2.3** The amount of funding committed to date is £1,228,861.75 for 54 projects. If the Cultivate applications recommended to the Communities and Partnership Committee within this report are approved, the total committed will be up to £1,244,786.75 for 56 projects.

A summary of each of the recommended applications is detailed in **Appendix 1** attached.

### **3. ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

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

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 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**

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**

Proposals with a potential impact on carbon emissions will be asked to demonstrate how these will be minimised.

### **4. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS**

#### **4.1 Resource Implications**

The resource implications are contained within the body of the report.

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

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**

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 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 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

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 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.

Implications	Officer Clearance
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.	

Source Documents	Location
Cambridgeshire Community Foundation Innovate and Cultivate Fund application forms and guidance.	Application Form: <a href="https://ukcf.secure.force.com/forms/ICF">https://ukcf.secure.force.com/forms/ICF</a>  Guidance: <a href="https://www.cambscf.org.uk/icf.html">https://www.cambscf.org.uk/icf.html</a>

**Innovate and Cultivate Fund**

**Cultivate Fund applications recommended by the 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><b>Cambridgeshire Early Years Teaching Alliance (CEYTA)</b></p>	<p>CEYTSA aims to support and provide research based high quality training for early year’s practitioners in settings in identified areas of Huntingdonshire.</p> <p>In the knowledge that STEP is being offered to primary schools in Cambridgeshire, the aim is to provide the same level of training to early year’s practitioners. By enabling practitioners to support children to regulate their own behaviour by implementing a consistent approach that will improve transition to school. The strength of the STEP approach is that all staff in each setting will be trained in the same way at the same time, which will lead to GLDs (Good levels of development) in PSED (Personal, social and emotional development) prior to school entry.</p> <p>STEP training in PVIs (Private, voluntary and independent) will replace Team Teach, the former local authorities approach to behaviour management. CEYTSA plan to implement the STEP approach in response to increasing school exclusion of younger children. The nature of the work in early years is such that access to intensive training is limited by cost and release time, thus the plan is to work cooperatively with Cambridgeshire STEP coordinator and the Cambridgeshire SEND lead to provide whole setting training as this has been identified as the most successful, sustainable training model. The STEP approach aims to support the development of inclusive practice by using a therapeutic approach to behaviour management.</p> <p>CEYTSA has four trained STEP tutors who have adapted the programme to respond to the needs of younger children in early year’s settings with the aim of complimenting the primary school STEP programme. Once training has been delivered, setting staff are offered regular surgery-style support by STEP tutors to monitor and embed this inclusive approach. By working with clusters of settings a network structure will be developed for future continuous professional development and refresher training.</p>	<p><b>£9,925.00</b></p>

<p><b>Disability Huntingdonshire (DISH)</b></p>	<p>The Recommendation Panel has recommended reduced grant funding to cover the IT upgrade element of a wider project proposal. This grant funding would cover the capital costs of an IT upgrade and the contribution to management costs for this work (£4,000 + £2,000).</p> <p>IT upgrade: DISH aims to assist every eligible person that is referred to the service but this often leads to long waiting times. Waiting times are exacerbated by DISH's inability to transfer their database onto a cloud based system, which means that staff cannot work remotely. By upgrading their core case management system, staff would not be required to visit the office for at least 2 days a week to update their admin, as they do now to complete case recording. Instead they could to do that remotely, freeing time to see more clients in the week. The extra hours requested could be split between case management and visits with clients. An upgrade to IT systems would also enable DISH to 'fine tune' the information captured which would enable more efficient management information and cleaner reporting and outcome information.</p>	<p>Amount requested: <b>£18,900.00</b></p> <p>Amount offered: <b>up to £6000</b></p>
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