

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

To: Communities and Partnership Committee

Meeting Date: 2 July 2020

From: Adrian Chapman: Service Director: Communities and Safety

Electoral division(s): Huntingdonshire and Fenland divisions.

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

Purpose: To provide the Communities and Partnership Committee with the outcome of the 30th June 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 Innovate funding stream:

- Ormiston Families
- Refuge

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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 four County Council senior representatives from the People and Community directorate (representing adults, children and families and community services), the Chief Finance Officer or Head of Finance, 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 5 project proposals to the Innovate funding stream and as a result 2 Innovate applications were invited to submit second stage details of their project proposals, including detailed project delivery and finance management plans.
- 2.2 The outcome of the 30 June Recommendation Panel is that 2 Innovate applications have been recommended for funding and are reported to this Committee for final decision, namely:

- Ormiston Families
- Refuge

2.3 The amount of funding committed to date is £1,244,786.75 for 56 projects. If the Innovate applications recommended to the Communities and Partnership Committee within this report are approved, the total committed will be up to £1,338,475.15 for 58 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.

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 8th 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 agreed on 17th January 2019 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: https://ukcf.secure.force.com/forms/ICF Guidance: https://www.cambscf.org.uk/icf.html

Innovate and Cultivate Fund

Innovate applications recommended by the panel to the Communities and Partnership Committee for final decision.

Applicant and Project Name	Project Description	Amount of funding requested
Ormiston Families Mpower Cambridgeshire	<p>Mpower helps women who have had children removed and placed into care. Building on the programme's success in Norfolk and Suffolk, MPower will be expanded into Fenland to help women who have previously had children removed, to reduce the risk of further unplanned pregnancies and subsequent child removals.</p> <p>The project will help women to address the negative, underlying issues that have dominated their lives in the past and led to their current behaviours. Practitioners will help women to address previous traumas, provide emotional and practical support and help them access local community and therapeutic services, including contraception. The outcomes will be that women will experience more positive futures, such as fewer unplanned pregnancies, fewer children removed, training, volunteering opportunities and employment.</p> <p>Through their 'Small Steps Together' project, currently funded by the Innovate & Cultivate Fund, Ormiston Families has built partnerships with local health visitors, early help, social care and NHS teams. They also deliver the Cambridgeshire Children and Families Centre contract in March, Whittlesey and Chatteris. They will use these existing partnerships and contacts to establish referral pathways and work with existing services.</p> <p>This is a one year funded project that aims to work with 24 women per annum and lead to savings relating to looked after children (LAC), including accomodation, fostering and legal proceedings. The project will continue providing savings beyond the funding period assuming continuation funding is procured.</p>	£44,308

<p>Refuge</p> <p>Cambridgeshire Health Based Domestic Abuse Outreach Project</p>	<p>This project will fill a gap in identifying domestic abuse victims within health services. It will enable services to better respond to domestic abuse by offering training to health professionals and providing domestic violence outreach support to victims who are referred by health services, including GP practices, health visiting and midwifery teams and pharmacies.</p> <p>This aim will be achieved through recruitment of a health-focused outreach worker who will build relationships with GP practices and other health services in Huntingdonshire and Fenland. She will work with these agencies to identify current levels of knowledge around domestic abuse and other aspects of violence against women and girls (VAWG); she will also hold a caseload of clients referred by health partners. Specifically the outreach worker will offer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialist trauma-informed casework, including: risk assessment; needs assessment; safety planning; holistic support with the whole range of women’s needs; warm referrals to appropriate external support, including other health services; advocacy with external partners; emotional support; support to build resilience and to recover • Development of health partners, including: delivery of training and awareness raising sessions to increase partners’ knowledge and recognition of domestic abuse and VAWG; provision of specialist materials; opportunities for discussion of potential referrals <p>This project will increase the ability of health services, particularly GPs, to identify domestic abuse victims at an early stage by embedding routine enquiry about domestic abuse as standard practice within health settings. This will enable patients and their families to access specialist, trauma informed support at an earlier stage, which is essential in helping them to build safe and happy lives going forwards.</p> <p>This two-year funded project is expected to support 100 clients per annum and lead to savings for the Independent Domestic Violence Advisory Service (IDVAs) and Children’s Social Care Early Help Services. The project will continue providing savings beyond the funding period.</p>	<p>£49,350.40</p>
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