

Name of proposal/policy	Administration of small grants programme for building social capital in communities across Northamptonshire	Budget number (if applicable)	N/A
Service area responsible	Public Health	Cabinet meeting date	N/A
Name of completing officer	Lorraine Meads	Date EqIA created	30 July 2017
Approved by Director / Assistant Director	Lucy Douglas-Green	Date of approval	Final approval for publication 14 th September

The Equality Act 2010 places a ‘General Duty’ on all public bodies to have ‘Due regard’ to:

- Eliminating discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- Advancing equality of opportunity
- Fostering good relations

We do this by undertaking equality impact assessments (EqIAs) to help us understand the implications of policies and decisions on people with protected characteristics – EqIAs are our way of evidencing this.

All assessments must be published on the NCC equalities web pages. All Cabinet papers where an EqIA is relevant **MUST** include a link to the web page where this assessment will be published. If you require assistance in getting your EqIA published, please contact equalities@northamptonshire.gov.uk

PART 1

Description of current provision/policy and main beneficiaries/stakeholders

First for Wellbeing (FfW) currently commissions Northamptonshire Community Foundation (NCF) to manage a Small Grants Programme, providing funding for voluntary and community groups and individuals within Northamptonshire. The main objective of the grants is to help local groups to undertake activities that will build or improve social capital in communities across Northamptonshire. The total contract value for the service is £518,720 p.a., of which 90% is used for grants to support projects that improve the wellbeing of people, young and old, across the county. The remaining 10% of the total contract value covers the administrative cost for the provider.

As part of the current contract with NCF, the small grants programme offered grants into two specific strands:

- Strand 1: offering grants from £500 to £10,000 for the development and initiation of projects that support people's health and wellbeing across Northamptonshire. Grants issued under this strand will be 60% of the yearly total funding allocation
- Strand 2: offering grants from £1000 to £20,000 for more targeted projects specifically targeting people and communities who are vulnerable or socially isolated or suffer from loneliness and poor mental wellbeing in specific Wards across Northamptonshire

Recipients must source match funding of at least 25% of the overall cost of the project. The key aims of the Small Grants Programme is to enhance engagement and involvement within the communities within Northamptonshire and improve people's health and wellbeing. Grants are available to organisations who meet basic criteria agreed by FfW and NCF, however grants are not available for capital projects, profit making organisations or for activities of a political or religious nature. The grants do not aim to meet ongoing revenue costs. Applicants need to demonstrate that the activity will help to support one of the First for Wellbeing's core purposes of 'Helping you to Help yourself, and therefore the aim is for projects to be self-sustaining. Within the contract NCF was expected to link with Local, Regional and National funders in relation to possible match funding projects to lessen the reliance on the public purse.

Description of proposal under consideration/development

Given the Council's proposed change in focus to tertiary prevention, and the impact assessment set out below, the Council has taken the decision to cease to make provision for community grants.

Over the last few years, NCC has gone through a huge transformation as part of its new generation agenda and through FfW has been able to deliver cost effective and efficient services to tackle unemployment, homelessness, domestic violence, social isolation and other factors that impact on people's lives and communities. This has led to more focussed commissioning of the Voluntary & Community sector to provide targeted outcomes making more impact on statutory delivery areas, than a general programme.

FfW's Social Wellbeing Provider Commsortia will be looking at how it can build social capital and community resilience, and part of this growth will be through community action supporting communities. Commsortia has started to redesign the service in order to target more effectively, part of which may be via using a percentage of the contract value to encourage grass roots developments.

The current contract has a three month break clause and therefore FfW's intention is to give notice on 1 August 2017. The contract with NCF will therefore expire on 31 October 2017.

Data used in this Equality Impact Assessment (general population data where appropriate but each EqIA should contain information on people who use the service under consideration – if this is not applicable to your proposal then you probably do not need to do an EqIA)	
Data Source (include link where published)	Please summarise what the data tells us – for example “X number of people use this service, X are male, Y are female etc”
Grants programme administered and Contract Management meetings	The data states that the small grants programme has had some successful outcomes. It is not a directly delivered front line service but capacity builds within the community by providing seed funding to kick start community projects. The community project has to be sustainable. Therefore grants already received should not be reliant on continued revenue funding. The NCF contract terms requested NCF to look for further funding opportunities locally regionally and nationally and to work towards the FfW aim of ‘helping people to help themselves’.

Tick the relevant box for each line by using a capital ‘P’ to make a <input type="checkbox"/>	Based on the above information, what impact will this proposal have on the following groups?			
	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Unsure
Sex			✓	
Gender Reassignment			✓	
Age			✓	
Disability				✓
Race & Ethnicity				✓
Sexual Orientation			✓	
Religion or Belief (or No Belief)			✓	
Pregnancy & Maternity			✓	
Human Rights (Please see articles in toolkit)			✓	
Other Groups (rural isolation, socio-economic exclusion etc)			✓	

Initial impact	
Explain your findings above	Actions identified to mitigate, advance equality or fill gaps in information
NCC does not consider this to have a major impact on any individual as the majority of previous small grants awarded should now be self-sustaining / secured	In addition to the funding provided by FfW, NCF receives additional income from other sources including local businesses, bringing the total annual value of grants

<p>alternative funding avenues. NCF have access to other funding opportunities to meet local community needs, and have an excellent track record of winning funds from other philanthropic sources.</p>	<p>allocated by NCF directly to individuals and communities within Northamptonshire in the region of £9m p.a.</p> <p>NCF hse access to other funds to mitigate the potential impact of decommissioning of the contract between FfW and NCF.</p> <p>FfW has a Social Wellbeing contract with Commsortia this has a target to increase the contract value by 10% annually and make provision for awarding small grants.</p> <p>The majority of local authorities have ceased to fund a community grants programme. NCF have shown a successful track record in funding the majority of its community grants programmes without reliance on Public funds.</p>
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Do you need to undertake further work (e.g. consultation, further equality analysis) based on the impact and actions identified above? If yes, set this out below and then carry out the work and complete Part 2

Final contract meeting arranged for 27 September 2017 to close off and confirm exit plan with NCF.

PART 2 – if required

Consultation, follow up data and information gathered from actions identified above	
<p>n/a</p>	<p>What does this information tell us?</p>

Final impact analysis (taking the findings from Part 2 into account) – including review date if required
<p>n/a</p>