

SCRUTINY BOARD

Agenda Item: 8

Ward: All

Portfolio: Corporate Services and Projects

FROM: Cllr Liz Leyshon
Portfolio Holder

Date: 25th January 2021

SUBJECT: Performance Review for Mendip Citizens Advice Voluntary Sector Partnership Funding 2020/21

| Internal Use Only: Please complete sign off boxes below prior to submission to Democratic Services | | | |
|---|---|---------------|------------|
| Report Sign off | Seen by: | Name | Date |
| | Chief Executive/ Deputy Chief Executive(s) | Tracy Aarons | 11/01/2021 |
| | Legal | Lesley Nolan | 14/01/2021 |
| | Finance | Richard Bates | 14/01/2021 |
| | Group Manager | Sara Skirton | 11/01/2021 |
| | Portfolio Holder | Liz Leyshon | 13/01/2021 |
| | Ward Member(s) | | |
| Summary: | During the financial year of 2020/21 the Council allocated core funding of £98,000 and a one-off payment of £6,000 Local Assistance Scheme (LAS) funding to our strategic voluntary sector partner Mendip Citizens Advice. This report accompanies a presentation to be given to Scrutiny Board on 25 January by Ian Byworth, their Chief Executive Officer, which will cover service performance for the year to date, including the impact of COVID 19. | | |
| Recommendation: | Scrutiny Board is asked to note the report. | | |
| Direct and/or indirect impact on service delivery to our customers and communities: | Services provided by Mendip CA provide additional support to our residents and communities, in particular to some of the most vulnerable. | | |
| Contribution to Corporate Priorities: | Links to the following Corporate Priorities: Make Mendip a fairer place and Protect and enhance our towns and rural communities. | | |
| Legal Implications: | No Legal implications for the purposes of this report. Funding agreements are in place to cover this funding. | | |

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| Financial Implications: | The £98,000 core funding was allocated within the Council's overall 2020/21 budget. The £6,000 LAS funding represented an additional financial commitment. LAS funding requirements for 2021/22 will form part of a review. |
| Climate Change Risks and Opportunities: | This report has neither a positive nor negative impact on climate change. |
| Impact on Service Plans: | The allocation of this voluntary sector funding was included in the Corporate Services business plan and budget. |
| Crime and Disorder Implications: | There are none to note at this time |
| Equalities Implications: | Mendip Citizens Advice have an Equal Opportunities policy in place, which is in line with the MDC policy. The funding indirectly helps to tackle inequalities. |
| Risk Assessment and Adverse Impact on Corporate Actions: | The work of Mendip Citizens Advice has a positive impact on actions associated with the following corporate priorities: Make Mendip a fairer place and Protect and enhance our towns and rural communities |

INTRODUCTION

1. The Council has provided core funding for Mendip Citizens Advice via an annual Funding Agreement (FA) for a number of years . The core funding for 2020/21 is £98,000. The Council also provided a one-off amount of £6,000 which supports the Local Assistance Scheme (LAS) which is largely funded by Somerset County Council (SCC). As a result of a reduction in the funding in the LAS from SCC in 2019, all the district councils in Somerset agreed to fund an additional £6,000 to allow the Somerset CAs to continue to meet local need against this scheme. This additional LAS funding will be reviewed for 21/22 and is dependent upon SCC continuing to fund this scheme and local need.
2. Performance Reviews form a part of the FA and assist in monitoring and assessing the social impact, community benefits and the 'value for money' aspect of the council's funding.
3. Regular meetings are held between officers and the CEO of Mendip CA to aid partnership working and are also part of the performance review process. Normally these meetings would take place on quarterly at the very minimum but this changed in March 2020, when the first national lockdown was announced. Regular meetings are now held a minimum of three weekly and more frequently when required.
4. Mendip CA is a frontline voluntary sector organisation often working with those most at risk from social exclusion because of their health, nature of their lives, situation, rural isolation and/or those who maybe experiencing a time of vulnerability. They work in close collaboration with the Council and the Mendip CA is based on the Mendip Shepton Mallet site.
5. As part of the Council's monitoring process, annual performance reviews are undertaken; these reviews are measured against agreed objectives and outcomes. These will be covered in the presentation.

RECOMMENDATION

Scrutiny Board is asked to note the report and the presentation.

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Background Papers

The presentation will be circulated and published following the meeting