

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee

4 July 2013

Innovation Fund

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To update the Committee on the current position of the operation of the Innovation Fund.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The coalition government's, 'Vision for Social Care' says that prevention is best achieved through community action working alongside statutory services. It emphasises the importance of local support networks and user-led organisations in reducing isolation and vulnerability and points out that this goes well beyond the social care sector and must also focus on what people can do for each other.
- 2.2 The North Yorkshire County Council wider vision for the voluntary sector has been set out by "*Securing the Future*" which represents a commitment to a continuing dialogue with the sector. This is set against a backdrop of significant challenges facing the Council over the next two years where savings of £37m have to be found.
- 2.3 In this context the previous Committee recognised the significance of the Innovation Fund and asked that periodic updates be submitted on progress. The Committee wanted to reassure itself that the results and evaluation of progress would guide Directorate actions in terms of low level prevention and intervention activity.

3.0 Innovation Fund

- 3.1 The Innovation Fund has been set up to support priority areas for transformation within adult social care and which show an innovative approach. The fund also represents a significant investment by the Council in the voluntary sector and an opportunity to develop a range of low level schemes of care and support despite significant funding pressures. In turn, the challenge for our voluntary sector partners is to help us change services and demonstrate a strong value for money approach.
- 3.2 The aim is to support active ageing and day activities for older people which help to keep people healthy and well. When people do need support and care, earlier intervention means they are less dependent on more costly intensive services.
- 3.3 It provides an opportunity to review and fundamentally change how Voluntary Sector Organisations approach the future and their sustainability using this time limited fund.

- 3.4 Launched in 2010 with a three year budget of £1.578m, this fund was created out of the performance reward grant monies from the former Local Area Agreement targets. The remaining amount of funding for 2013/14 is £657k. Table 1 below breakdowns the allocation in the first two rounds from the original allocation of £1.578 received from the Performance Reward Grant.

Table 1 – Innovation Fund Financial allocation

Round	Original Allocation	Awarded	Underspend	New allocation*
Round 1	£ 500k	£326k	£174k	
Round 2	£ 578k	£595k	£157k	£752k*
Round 3	£ 500k			£657k*
Total	£1.578k			
<i>*includes underspend</i>				

- 3.5 It is estimated that approximately 1300 people have been supported by the fund; just over 900 people (71%) were already known to the Directorate and the remaining 29% were not known. We would confidently expect that a number of these people have been either diverted completely from statutory services or their entry into statutory services has been delayed. Confirmation of this diversion, and determining the impact of the Innovation Fund of those already known to the directorate, will be further investigated as part of the independent evaluation.
- 3.6 Of the Innovation Fund projects in Rounds 1 and 2 listed in Appendix 1, the majority are making good progress.
- 3.7 The Supporting People partnership, consisting of the District and Borough Councils and the Probation service, which Health and Adults Services oversee, commission housing related support for a range of vulnerable and, in some cases, socially excluded groups and have a locally ring-fenced budget which is part of HAS cash limits. Housing related support can be what an individual requires to access and sustain independent living e.g. assistance with accessing appropriate accommodation, developing confidence about budgeting and domestic skills, or encouragement to become more involved in community activities.
- 3.8 The partnership has agreed, in principle that it would like to contribute £250,000 for Round 3 of the Innovation Fund subject to there being a housing related focus to the investment. For groups such as older people or people with mental health problems, the aims for the Innovation fund are similar to the Supporting People partnership and it would mean the benefits of innovation through housing related services would be more explicit and visible, and would reduce the administration required to manage the projects, so making better use of partners' resources.

4.0 Innovation Fund Co-ordination and Evaluation

- 4.1 The Directorate has concluded that it has limited capacity to manage the fund, in terms of tracking the activity against the original bid submission by the voluntary

organisations, and within the contracting team to monitor the returns submitted. It is important that the results and findings are captured effectively.

4.2 A tendering process has therefore been agreed to seek a third party provider to evaluate rounds 1 and 2, manage and co-ordinate any future projects that the Council would wish to commission in round 3. Soft market testing of this approach has identified a number of interested infrastructure organisations who will be able to undertake this work. We feel that this approach is a more effective way of offering support to providers and developing an innovative market offering community based solutions.

4.3 Possible priority areas for initiatives in the next round of the Innovation Fund are being considered in light of the Prevention Strategy currently being developed by Public Health staff, and to support the Directorate in the priorities set out in the Care and Support Bill. Following the launch of the strategy it is anticipated that additional funding will be passed to the provider to allocate through a series of prevention grants.

5.0 Committee Involvement

5.1 The previous Committee supported the planning of a series of discussions, visits and informal engagement providers and community interest groups that have benefited from the fund, to benchmark best practice. This will be followed by an evaluation of their success and how they can be encouraged in other areas. Your Group Spokespersons agreed that these be organised as the results from the use of the Innovation Fund become clearer. The emphasis will remain however, on people's experiences at ground level.

6.0 Recommendation

6.1 The Committee is recommended to receive further progress reports as appropriate, particularly the results of the evaluation process.

Mike Webster
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Background Documents: None

Innovation Fund Projects – Rounds 1 and 2

Project	Organisation	Grant	Round	Project Summary
Daytime Activities	Age UK North Craven	£37,000	1	Alternative day services for older people .A project to improve the quality of life, provide opportunities for socialising and ageing well support for people aged 50 and over.
Expand supported employment to Nidderdale	Paperworks	£41,000	1	A project to provide additional support to trainees working in the Paperworks social enterprise and expand the areas where trainees can work.
Fit as a Fiddle (Active ageing)	Age UK North Yorkshire	£46,000	1	A project to develop opportunities for exercise and other activities for older people in a number of sites across Hambleton and Richmondshire, to enable residents to stay active and enjoy a healthier lifestyle.
Individual Day Activities and Street Shopping	Age UK Knaresborough	£45,000	1	A dual project to support older people in the community: Individual Day Activities will reduce loneliness and isolation by planning activities for people who can no longer manage to stay socially active. Street Shopping will provide a practical solution for those who cannot get to the shops themselves and will also help to prevent isolation.
SIDE by SIDE	Scarborough, Whitby and Ryedale Mind	£50,000	1	A project to bring social prescribing to rural Whitby and Ryedale, enabling carers with mental health problems to benefit from support and inclusion.
Social Groups for People with Autism Spectrum Disorder	National Autistic Society	£7,000	1	A project to enable people with an autism spectrum disorder to develop long-term, self-sustainable support mechanisms; gain skills in a positive and safe environment; and to have better control over their social life.
Social Inclusion	Alzheimer's Society	£50,000	1	A project to provide a more localised and proactive approach to care activities, in order to reach people who are currently not accessing care and support services.
Under 1 Umbrella	Pioneer Projects	£50,000	1	A project to develop greater collaboration with other provider-community groups and organisations in order to offer a wider choice of activities to people with or without health and social care needs.

A1 Computer Works	A1 Community Works	£50,000	2	A social enterprise trading in IT maintenance, web design and the sale of second-hand equipment and offering employment and training for 15 people in Richmondshire.
All Together Now	Carers Resources & Carefree	£50,000	2	A project that aims to deliver innovative sessions across the Craven area for carers, those they care for and the isolated and vulnerable. The project will provide 300 places a year.
Creative Coffee	Creative Support	£47,255	2	A social enterprise project to run a coffee cart service in the Whitby area, offering training to enhance job prospects. The project will benefit 28 people by its third year.
Grow Your Own Community	Rural Action Yorkshire	£49,600	2	Development of seven community hubs in rural communities across North Yorkshire, offering preventative social care and early intervention, involving about 200 people and 50 volunteers.
Harrogate training project	Disability Action Yorkshire	£50,000	2	A project to train disabled people in the skills required to gain paid employment or volunteering opportunities, through a training programme linked to a furniture social enterprise in Harrogate. This will benefit 40 people by its second year.
Here to Help	North Yorkshire Centre for Independent Living (NYCIL)	£50,000	2	Peer Brokerage – advice and information on personal budgets and broker support plans.
Horton Community Café	Horton Housing Association	£50,000	2	A series of community café hubs, aimed at vulnerable adults, as an alternative to day care. They will provide daytime activities based around the needs identified in the community, such as independent living skills, educational opportunities, debt management and healthy cooking. This will benefit 300 people by its second year.
Purple Hub	Purple Patch Arts	£49,350	2	A self-sustaining organisation in Harrogate and Craven running groups and activities as an alternative to day care and offering a trainee programme to prepare people for work or volunteering. This will benefit 108 people by its third year.
Roll With It	Wilf Ward Family Trust	£50,000	2	A social enterprise project to run a sandwich delivery service in the Pickering and Kirkbymoorside area, as part of the social enterprise café at Vivis Lane in Pickering. The project will provide employment

				opportunities for up to 11 people with learning difficulties.
Selby Garden Enterprise	Groundwork North Yorkshire	£50,000	2	A gardening service providing training and work experience for 40 people a year in the Selby area.
Support to Voluntary sector	Your Consortium	£50,000	2	A programme of support for the voluntary sector county wide.
Unit Three	Adsetts Partnership	£48,500	2	A social enterprise offering a bespoke letterpress print service, a central hub for distribution for charity shops and an ironing service. The initiative is designed to help people who face significant barriers, such as learning disabilities or autism, to find work. Unit Three will employ 26 people by its third year.