

# ASSISTANCE TO HILLINGDON'S LOCAL VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS: 2019/20 FINANCIAL YEAR

<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Councillor Douglas Mills
<b>Cabinet Portfolio</b>	Community, Commerce and Regeneration
<b>Officer Contact</b>	Kevin Byrne, Residents Services
<b>Papers with report</b>	Appendix A : Voluntary Sector Core Grant Recommendations 2019/20 Appendix B : Assessment of Core Grant applications 2019/20 Appendix C : Dining Centre grant recommendations 2019/20 Appendix D : Transport grant recommendations 2019/20

## HEADLINES

<b>Summary</b>	<p>Cabinet is asked to agree:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Council's Voluntary Sector core funding Grants for 2019/20;</li> <li>2. The Council's Older Person's Dining Centre funding budget for 2019/20 - 2021/22;</li> <li>3. The Council's funding grants for Transport 2019/20;</li> <li>4. The Council's contribution to the London Councils Grants scheme 2019/20.</li> </ol>
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<b>Putting our Residents First</b>	<p>This report contributes to the following Council objectives: <i>Our People; Our Natural Environment and Financial Management.</i></p> <p>The grants budget is used to support a range of Voluntary Sector activity, which supports the Council in achieving its priorities and objectives.</p> <p>The Dining Centres grant is used to provide funding to 7 dining centres across the Borough that focus on providing a meals service and socialising opportunities for older residents.</p> <p>The Transport grant is used to facilitate the transport needs of members of a number of small voluntary organisations.</p> <p>The London boroughs grant scheme supports pan-London organisations under its priorities of tackling sexual and domestic abuse and combatting homelessness.</p>
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<b>Financial Cost</b>	<p>The report proposes the allocation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) up to <b>£1,941,150</b> core funding grants for the 2019/20 financial year</li> <li>ii) the allocation of <b>£169,700</b> to support the provision of Dining Centres for 2019/20.</li> <li>iii) the allocation of <b>£46,675</b> for the provision of Transport for 2019/20.</li> <li>iv) a contribution to the London Councils Grant scheme for 2019/20 of <b>£228,447</b>.</li> </ul>
<b>Relevant Policy Overview Committee</b>	Corporate Services, Commerce & Communities
<b>Ward(s) affected</b>	All.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### That the Cabinet agrees:

1. The overall allocation of grants to Voluntary Sector of up to **£1,941,150** for the provision of core grant funding for the 2019/20 financial year with specific awards as set out in the schedule - Appendix A.
2. The overall allocation of grants to Voluntary Sector of up to **£169,700** for the provision of dining centres grant funding for three years : 2019/20 to 2021/22 with specific awards as set out in the paper and in Appendix C. That total grants for the three year period amount to **£509,100**.
3. Grants totalling **£46,675** to organisations to enable the provision of transport as set out in Appendix D.
4. The Council's contribution of **£228,447** to the London Councils' Grants scheme for 2019/20.

### Reasons for recommendation

1. Hillingdon Council has been an established financial supporter of the Borough's voluntary sector for many years. The core grant programme ensures that Hillingdon has a vibrant and thriving voluntary sector providing support, guidance and services for local residents.
2. The Council seeks to maximise the benefits from investment in the Borough's voluntary sector to encourage activity that supports residents, reduces demand on Council services and provides value for money.

3. The ongoing commitment of significant financial support to the Borough's voluntary sector has served to sustain a wide range of voluntary sector activity. The certainty of core funding provides a platform for many groups to expand activity, diversify to meet new demands, to pursue new initiatives and to bid for additional external funding.
4. The provision of dining centre grant and transport grant ensures funding directly benefits priority groups of residents (the elderly and the disabled) and enables, often smaller groups, to provide valuable front line support for residents.

#### **Alternative options considered / risk management**

5. The Cabinet has the following alternative options:
  - Agree the recommendations subject to any changes the Cabinet wishes to make or;
  - Reject one or more of the recommendations.
6. In respect of the Council's contribution to the London Councils Grant Scheme, the Council has the option of not approving its contribution. For the overall London grants scheme to be approved, however, at least two thirds of the 32 London Boroughs plus the City of London must approve their individual budget contribution. If there is no agreement, under the legislation governing the grants scheme, the overall level of expenditure for the Grants Committee reverts back to the previous year's budget, which for Hillingdon in 2018/19 was £229,511

#### **Comments of Policy Overview Committee**

7. Along with the Cabinet's broader budget proposals, the Corporate Services, Commerce and Communities Policy Overview Committee will consider the 2019/20 grants to the voluntary sector at its meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2019 and report any comments back to the subsequent Cabinet meeting.

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

8. The voluntary sector core grants budget is unique in offering core funding to organisations that are key partners and provide services that contribute to the Council's priorities and support the wellbeing of residents. Recipients with stable core support are often able to attract additional income either via other funders or by securing contracts. Outline detail of the funding secured by each organisation is contained in the assessment of applications at Appendix B.

## Current funding climate

9. Funding and finance issues as highlighted in recent years, continue to impact on the sector:
- Organisations have experienced more competition in accessing funds resulting in less external funding being secured, more effort being necessary to be devoted to fundraising and more social enterprise type initiatives being developed or charges being made to clients where appropriate and affordable.
  - This reflects the changing nature of voluntary sector funding; that of increased competition in a harsher financial climate. Organisations have responded accordingly, with larger ones working more collaboratively and in consortiums, restructuring to gain efficiencies and relying on reserves to cover shortfalls. For some, especially smaller groups, though this has given rise to cash flow issues. Where this has arisen, officers continue to work with organisations to see what strategies might assist them.
10. In addition, the closure of Hillingdon Community Trust whose last grant round will be 2019/20 and has invested over £1m a year into Hillingdon's voluntary sector for over fifteen years means that there will be further need for groups to be innovative, to share resources and to reduce costs.
11. Hillingdon 4 All (H4All) is now well established as a Community Interest Company based on a consortium of Age UKH, Hillingdon Carers, Hillingdon Mind, DASH and Harlington Hospice. The H4All wellbeing service is an integral part of the Hillingdon Better Care Fund Plan and providing early intervention support which demonstrably reduces demand on higher cost services. The Council has supported H4All partners through their core grants and sought to encourage greater collaboration across the sector including reaching out to community based groups.
12. In line with this, the Council supported H4All's proposals to encourage more collaboration and networking and to improve the delivery of prevention activity. In December 2017, the Council jointly hosted a seminar for voluntary sector groups to explore; the support needs of the sector, how the sector can support and engage with health and social care and how H4All can support the involvement of groups in delivering against this agenda. The outcome has resulted in a co-produced proposal by H4All to strengthen groups in the Borough to the City Bridge Trust.

## 2019/20 Recommendations

13. Whilst the majority of the recommendations on the level of funding to be offered to organisations are consistent with those offered for the 2018/19 financial year, there are a few exceptions and recommendations concerning those and three new bids are highlighted below.

14. An analysis of each application, together with financial comments is attached at Appendix B. Where applicable, in the individual assessment of applications, reference is made to issues that the organisation is asked to address in respect of the funding offered.

## **New Applications**

15. The Council has received three new applications from organisations: Halo Children's Foundation, Harrow Mencap and a H4All application to support dementia befriending. A detailed assessment of each of the applications is included in Appendix B. The comment is summarised below.

### 15.1. Halo Children's Foundation

Halo provides advice and information and support for children and young people and their families dealing with bereavement. Through workshops children, young people and families are given the opportunity to express their grief and loss in a safe, welcoming and stimulating environment. Monthly group sessions provide an opportunity for parent and carers to meet with others whilst children or young people get involved in creative and expressive arts and play and make friends with other children dealing with similar loss. A Child Play Therapist and other professionals are available to support the families.

Halo has secured a Children in Need award of £10k, a Hillingdon Community Trust award of £10k both for Project Coordinators and a National Lottery award of £9k for memory boxes. For 2017/18 Halo was chosen as one of charities supported by Hillingdon's Mayor during her term in office and the group have been partnered as the Intu Uxbridge shopping centre chosen charity to support for 2018/19.

This is the first time the organisation has applied for a core grant and support would help Halo to continue to build on its success so far and to become more established. The application is to cover running costs of £600 per month rent/room hire for office and garden space at Hayes Business Studios to operate drop in support groups and counselling sessions. A grant of £7,000 is recommended.

### 15.2. MENCAP Harrow

The application proposes to build on four group activities operating in Hillingdon currently and seeks to expand on a programme originally developed to expand community fundraising but also recognised as supporting social networks for people with learning disabilities, mental health illness, their families and carers and older people. The funding of £46,046 sought would pay for a dedicated Hillingdon worker, their travel costs and includes £12k for volunteer expenses.

The proposal does not provide detail on how particular activities would be funded - how sponsor money and income raised would offset costs or how charges might be applied, perhaps utilising individual personal payments from participants, where appropriate.

In addition, Hillingdon's core grant programme supports a number of existing Hillingdon based groups to offer support for vulnerable groups in a similar way, notably: Hillingdon Carers, AgeUKH, DASH and Hillingdon Mind. It is not clear how an expanded Harrow Mencap project would sit alongside provision to ensure joined up working and offer value for money. It is not clear how Harrow Mencap would work alongside the existing operation of Mencap groups in Hillingdon (North and South), who operate in the Borough and receive support via the transport grants and for the Jubilee Pool.

Whilst the proposals clearly offer worthy activities, they do appear to overlap with activities already being delivered in Hillingdon by established groups several of which receive core grant support. Given, also the substantial reserves held by the organisation, it is not recommended that Harrow Mencap be awarded a core grant.

### 15.3. H4All dementia befriending

Befriending support for people with dementia remains a clear need in Hillingdon as people come to terms with dementia and seek support to remain independent and enjoy active and healthy lives. The 2017/18 core grant programme included support for a scheme to be run by RVS that was later withdrawn due to difficulty in recruiting a co-ordinator. H4All were invited to apply to run a project more linked into existing provision across statutory and voluntary providers and which builds well on programmes of support through H4All, and delivered through an alliance of established Hillingdon voluntary groups. It is proposed that 2019/20 be considered a pilot year and that subsequent funding be based on evaluation. It is recommended, therefore, that grant of £30k be awarded for 2019/20.

## **Funding Levels**

16. Officers, having assessed the applications and are making recommendations for levels of funding for the 2019/20 financial year at the same amounts as those for the 2018/19 as set out in Appendix B, with the exception of where reductions have been requested and of the following changes to awards:

### 16.1. Northwood Live at Home

Northwood Live at Home MHA provides support to elderly people in Northwood Hills and Northwood to enable them to live independently in their own homes. Activities are aimed at promoting friendship, socialising, health and wellbeing and are all provided with the assistance of trained volunteers.

The increasing demand and the number of referrals are stretching staff, who are required to manage activities and volunteers. This year and last has seen both an increase in activities and numbers of clients with new members being referred from Ruislip, Eastcote, and Harefield. In order for the scheme to continue to meet this new demand, they have requested an increase of £6,300. It is recommended that a small increase be considered, recognising the growth in MHA activity away from Northwood of £3k to £18k and that further increase to the levels requested is considered pending review of December 2018 accounts.

## 16.2. Hillingdon Samaritans

Samaritans provide individuals with emotional support to reduce suicides by those in crisis. They also seek to prevent suicide by working with schools, colleges, businesses and community groups and services to increase understanding of emotional health and improve the quality of interventions provided for those in need.

The corporate grant is the only statutory income Hillingdon Samaritans receive. The rest of their local funding comes from local fundraising efforts, church groups and businesses and small trusts. They own their premises and have designated reserves for property maintenance. Hillingdon Samaritans is an entirely volunteer run organisation. The organisation continues to experience deficits but has reserves.

The small increase requested supports the Council's partnership approach to suicide prevention and will directly increase provision through training more volunteers and promoting the service in the Borough. Officers, therefore, recommend the grant is increased as requested by £2k to £5k for 2019/20.

## 16.3. Centre for ADHD and Autism Support

The Centre became an addition to the core grants programme when it moved offices to Eastcote roughly two years ago. It has since become established in Hillingdon and works with local people in a variety of innovative ways to assist in understanding and supporting people and families experiencing ADHD and autism.

The charity is constrained in its ability to support Hillingdon residents even further unless their current income can be increased towards that of the services commissioned by Harrow Council. Given the centre's success in supporting local people and in raising funding, it is recommended that an increase of £5k for 2019/20 would help the organisation to sustain its support for Hillingdon residents.

## 16.4. Hestia

Hestia has delivered a domestic violence refuge and floating support service in the borough, funded through a Council contract for a number of years. This work has recently been put out to competitive tender and the outcome was reported to Cabinet in October 2018.

Cabinet also agreed that, given the integral nature of the former core grant work to the wider provision of domestic abuse support the grant should be transferred to budgets held by the Council's community safety team and form part of the newly contracted arrangements.

## **Older People's Dining Centre Programme**

17. Hillingdon Council supports seven active older people's dining centres across the Borough, each providing a welcome place for older residents to meet people, relax and eat healthy meals. The programme for 2018/19 amounted to £155,692 in grants. The

centres are popular and busy. A recent article in Hillingdon People magazine summarised what is available at each location so as to promote the offer to even more older people, where there is capacity.

18. The Voluntary Sector partnership team took over administration of the Dining Centre Grants programme early in 2018, so that support could be aligned to the core grants programme. The terms and condition of support have been reviewed, simplified and shortened. Following feedback from the centres earlier in 2018, it was also agreed to consider awarding grant for a period of three years (2019/20 to 2021/22), to provide certainty of funding and to also consider small inflationary type increases in grant, where there was a strong case.
19. Appendix C sets out in detail the requests received and recommendations for increases in support. These figures are also summarised in the table below:

Organisations	Grant Award 2018-19	Grant Requested 2019-20	Grant Requested 2020-21	Grant Requested 2021-22	Grant Recommended per annum 2019-20 / 2021-22
DINING CENTRES	£	£	£	£	£
Age UK Hillingdon	38,700	38,700	38,700	38,700	38,700
Bell Farm Christian Centre	16,892	35,998	35,998	35,998	18,000
Dovetail Community Centre	15,000	20,000	21,000	22,000	20,000
Northwood Live at Home Scheme	3,500	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000
Ruislip Northwood Old Folks Association (RNOFA) x2 clubs (Elm Park Club & Tudor Club)	79,600	85,000	87,200	89,400	84,000
Yiewsley Methodist Church	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>155,692</b>	<b>188,698</b>	<b>191,898</b>	<b>195,098</b>	<b>169,700</b>

20. Small increases are recommended for Bell Farm (to £18k) and to RNOFA to (to £84k) to assist in meeting increased costs. An increase of £5k a year is recommended for Dovetail, reflecting the expanded volume of support and to meet costs. An increase of £3.5k is recommended for Northwood Live at Home to reflect recent growth and activity in new areas. Other dining centre grants are recommended to continue at same level as 2018/19. All awards are recommended for a period of three years.

## Transport Grants

21. In addition to the funding the Council offers to support the core costs of organisations, it has traditionally awarded grants to support some of the Borough's smaller voluntary groups which have been used to meet the transport needs of group members. The organisations supported from this budget cater mainly for clients with disabilities who require specialist transport and that would find it challenging to travel by public transport. The proposed grants budget to support these organisations for 2019/20 is £46,675. Details of the organisations and the level of grant recommended are attached as Appendix D.

## London Councils Grant Scheme

22. The London Councils Grant Scheme supports voluntary sector activity and specifically funds voluntary organisations across all 32 London authorities and the City of London. The London Councils Grants Committee proposes that its overall budget for the London Councils Grants scheme for 2019/20 should total £6,909,000.
23. Hillingdon's contribution for 2019/20 is £228,447 a decrease of £1,064 over the Council's 2018/19 contribution of £229,511.
24. Individual borough contributions are based on the Office of National Statistics mid-year population estimates for June 2016, with Hillingdon's percentage of London's total calculated at 3.43%.
25. It is anticipated that the individual boroughs will agree to accept the recommendations on their contributions.

## Financial Implications

26. This report proposes an allocation of £2,110,850 grant funding from the Voluntary Sector Grants budget for the 2019/20 financial year. This is inclusive of £1,941,150 core funding to support a range of Voluntary Sector activity within the Borough and £169,700 to support the provision of Dining Centres. A further allocation of £46,675 funded from by Passenger Services to support the provision of transport is also proposed.
27. Recommendations also include a centrally funded contribution to the London Councils Grant Committee of £228,447. This is a reduction of £1,064 relating to planned use of balances by the Grants Committee and funding included within the draft 2018/19 budget.
28. The draft 2019/20 budget presented to Cabinet on this agenda contains sufficient budgetary provision to fund the recommended level of award totalling £2,385,972. A full review of the financial statements and application forms of each organisation has been undertaken and brief financial commentary has been included for each organisation in Appendix B to this report.

## RESIDENT BENEFIT & CONSULTATION

### Consultation / What will be the effect of the recommendation?

29. The overall effect of these proposals will be to strengthen and support Hillingdon's voluntary sector with new growth and initiatives, which will directly benefit residents.

### Consultation Carried Out or Required

30. No formal consultation has been undertaken on the proposals for agreement at this Cabinet.

## CORPORATE CONSIDERATIONS

### Corporate Finance

31. Corporate Finance has reviewed the report and concur with the financial implications set out above, noting that the draft 2019/20 budget presented to Cabinet on this agenda contains sufficient budgetary provision to fund the recommended level of awards to the Voluntary Sector, Dining Centres, Transport organisations and the London Boroughs Grant Scheme. It is also noted that any award of grant monies is subject to the review of satisfactory accounts for the last financial year if they are yet to be received.

### Legal

32. Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 gives the Council a power of general competence which provides local authorities with the power to do anything that individuals may generally do. It includes the power for Council to make grant payments to voluntary organisations.

33. With regard to the London Councils Grant Scheme, this Scheme is established under Section 48 of the Local Government Act 1985. As stated in the report, if two-thirds of the London boroughs do not approve their individual budget contribution, the previous year's budget will continue to apply to the Scheme.

### Relevant Service Groups

34. Relevant teams in Residents Services, Finance, Adult Social Care and Children and Young People's Services have been consulted on the proposals.

## BACKGROUND PAPERS

Previous Assistance to Voluntary Sector Cabinet reports, December annually

<b>Appendix A</b>			
<b>Organisations</b>	<b>Grant Award 2018-19</b>	<b>Grant Requested 2019-20</b>	<b>Grant Recommended 2019-20</b>
<b>ADULT SOCIAL CARE</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Age UK Hillingdon	<b>582,400</b>	582,400	<b>582,400</b>
Community Cancer Service (delivered by Harlington Hospice)	<b>20,000</b>	20,000	<b>20,000</b>
Carers Trust Thames (previously Crossroads Care)	<b>135,000</b>	135,000	<b>135,000</b>
Crown Centre for the Deaf	<b>10,000</b>	11,000	<b>10,000</b>
DASH	<b>98,000</b>	98,000	<b>98,000</b>
EACH - Pukaar	<b>30,000</b>	30,000	<b>30,000</b>
Heathrow Travel Care	<b>45,000</b>	45,000	<b>45,000</b>
Hillingdon Aids Response Trust	<b>15,000</b>	25,000	<b>15,000</b>
Hillingdon Carers	<b>105,000</b>	125,000	<b>105,000</b>
Hillingdon Citizens Advice	<b>280,000</b>	295,000	<b>280,000</b>
Hillingdon MIND	<b>80,000</b>	80,000	<b>80,000</b>
Hillingdon Shopmobility	<b>22,000</b>	22,000	<b>22,000</b>
Hillingdon Women's Centre	<b>25,000</b>	30,000	<b>25,000</b>
Mencap Jubilee Pool	<b>5,000</b>	5,000	<b>5,000</b>
MHA - Northwood Live at Home Scheme	<b>15,000</b>	21,300	<b>18,000</b>
RELATE London North West & Herts	<b>12,000</b>	13,210	<b>12,000</b>
Samaritans of Hillingdon	<b>3,000</b>	5,000	<b>5,000</b>
Victim Support Hillingdon	<b>10,000</b>	10,000	<b>10,000</b>
RVS (Royal Voluntary Service)	<b>40,000</b>	0	0
Recycle-A-Bike	<b>13,000</b>	13,000	<b>10,000</b>
<b>CHILDREN &amp; FAMILIES SERVICES</b>			
Bell Farm Christian Centre	<b>50,000</b>	55,000	<b>50,000</b>
Centre for ADHD and Autism Support	<b>10,000</b>	21,583	<b>15,000</b>
Hestia*	<b>43,000</b>	0	0
Hillingdon Autistic Care & Support	<b>40,000</b>	40,000	<b>40,000</b>
Hillingdon Outdoor Activities Centre	<b>54,500</b>	54,500	<b>54,500</b>
Home-Start Hillingdon	<b>120,000</b>	120,000	<b>120,000</b>

P3	<b>42,000</b>	42,000	<b>42,000</b>
Uxbridge Child Contact Centre	<b>3,000</b>	3,368	<b>3,000</b>
<b>RESIDENTS SERVICES</b>			
Friends of No 11(F) Group Operations Rm	<b>6,000</b>	2,000	<b>2,000</b>
Groundwork South	<b>7,000</b>	10,000	<b>7,000</b>
Green Corridor	<b>10,000</b>	10,000	<b>10,000</b>
Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust	<b>2,500</b>	2,500	<b>2,500</b>
Hillingdon Community Transport	<b>32,000</b>	32,000	<b>32,000</b>
Hillingdon Federation of Community Associations	<b>7,000</b>	12,000	<b>7,000</b>
Hillingdon Natural History Society	<b>1,000</b>	1,000	<b>1,000</b>
London Wildlife Trust (Hillingdon)	<b>10,000</b>	10,000	<b>10,000</b>
Pinner & Ruislip Beekeepers Association	<b>750</b>	750	<b>750</b>
<b>NEW APPLICATIONS 2019/20</b>			
Halo Children's Foundation	<b>0</b>	7,200	<b>7,000</b>
Harrow Mencap	<b>0</b>	46,046	<b>0</b>
Hillingdon For All (H4All)	<b>0</b>	30,000	<b>30,000</b>
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1,984,150</b>	<b>2,065,857</b>	<b>1,941,150</b>
*formerly a Corporate grant - £43k will transfer to Community Safety in 2019/20 budget (Cabinet decision October 2018)			
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>1,984,150</b>	<b>2,065,857</b>	<b>1,941,150</b>