



East  
Northamptonshire  
Council

## Scrutiny Committee – 14 March 2016

### The Voluntary and Community Sector in East Northamptonshire

#### Purpose of report

This report sets out our arrangements and relationships with the voluntary and community sector and the extent to which it operates across East Northamptonshire. The report is for information and will help support Members' discussions about future funding and working arrangements.

#### Attachments

Appendix 1: Voluntary Sector Organisations supporting residents in East Northamptonshire by location and target audience

Appendix 2: ENC voluntary sector funding arrangements for 2015/16

#### 1.0 Background

1.1 The voluntary and community sector provides a diverse range of support services to many of our local communities. The sector is vast and is made up of many different sub-sectors. The organisations making up the sector range from those providing specialist advice, advocacy and counselling services to smaller charities focusing on specific local issues.

1.2 Many of the sector's organisations provide services across the whole county. This includes contract-based services procured by the county council, NHS etc. Other services are supported with grants as in our case. Many contracted services have been reviewed as the public sector cuts have taken effect. This remains a major pressure point for the sector.

1.3 The sector has reacted to the public sector cuts in different ways. Some organisations have ceased to exist, whereas others have diversified and reduced their reliance on local government money. However, all of the organisations in the sector face:-

- An unclear picture about future commissioning arrangements particularly in the areas of social care and wellbeing.
- Continuing and progressive reductions in historical funding sources, particularly those based in the public sector.
- The potential for negative impacts on the "volunteering ethos" as a result of all of this.

1.4 The county-wide infrastructure organisation for the sector, Volunteer Impact Northamptonshire (VIN) recently published the 2015 "State of the Sector" report. This highlights the financial impact and the value of volunteering within the county.

#### 2.0 The East Northamptonshire picture – where are we now?

2.1 Set out in Appendix 1 is an analysis of the services provided to local residents across East Northants by the sector. This is presented by geographical location and by target audience. It hopefully gives Members a clear perspective of the extent of the services provided locally by this sector

2.2 We have supported the sector with many different financial grants over the last 15 years or so. These have covered single grants for projects such as village hall

developments and sports equipment to 3-year voluntary sector grants for specific services.

- 2.3 As part of our transparency arrangements, we publish on our website a log of all of our community grants: Member Empowerment Fund, Community Facilities Fund and the VCS grants. As a snapshot in financial year 2014/15 this totalled just under £400K. Hopefully it demonstrates that ENC maintains significant investment in its local communities and the voluntary and community sector, at a time when others are disinvesting as a direct result of financial constraints.
- 2.4 In 2010, Policy and Resources Committee approved a new framework for supporting the sector with 3-year Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Grants across three thematic areas which were identified as being in need of support from this council in relation to residents' needs and Corporate Plan priorities. The grants are awarded through a comprehensive application and criteria-based evaluation process. We are about to enter the final year (year 3) of the current and second tranche (2014 -17) of these grants.
- 2.5 Along with the VCS grants totalling £90K per annum, we currently make grant awards from our preventing homelessness funding and make a number of financial contributions to other partnership bodies. The total funding pot for 2015/16 has been around £143K and set out in Appendix 2 is a diagram illustrating the distribution of that money.

### **3.0 Identified gaps in provision**

- 3.1 Officers have analysed the various strands of work the sector covers and a few gaps have been identified. These are summarised below but officers will be able to provide more detailed information as part of the Committee's discussions around this work.

**Community transport:** Scrutiny Committee has been looking closely at public transport provision. Our VCS grant for community transport provides much-needed support for local people who find it challenging to get to places, medical trips being the priority for this grant. It is felt important to incorporate the Committee's work on this topic into the VCS work.

**Young people's services:** A key area of provision which has been scaled down is detached youth work. This involves youth workers going into targeted areas in towns and villages and engaging young people in positive activities. This approach has proved to be an effective method of diverting young people away from anti-social behaviour and committing criminal damage. ENC continues to support both Service Six and Groundwork to undertake specific projects in targeted areas. A number of the faith and church organisations also provide youth initiatives. However, NCC no longer procures detached youth work on a contract basis.

**Generalist advice:** ENC is quite specific with its advice and information VCS grant in that its primary focus is the provision of debt advice and specialist interventions. Central and East Northants Citizen Advice Bureau took the decision to withdraw general advice services for East Northants residents when it was not successful in securing our grant. It is currently funded by other sources to provide a limited range of services only available to our local residents who qualify under those specific funding arrangements. Whilst this has been a subject of debate, the environment for the provision of generalist advice is changing as so much more is now available on the internet or through advice line and other national and local provisions.

- 3.2 It needs to be kept in mind that the future financial predictions will bring further pressure on all areas of service provided by the sector.

#### **4.0 Discussions with the existing providers**

- 4.1 With the final year of this second tranche almost upon us, options will soon need to be prepared for how the VCS grants will operate beyond 31 March 2017. Policy and Resources Committee will be asked to consider these options at its July 2016 meeting. This is to allow sufficient time for an application process to be run if that Committee gives the go ahead for a further tranche of VCS grants or something similar.
- 4.2 Scrutiny Committee has an opportunity to help inform the options through discussions with the current providers and other related work. The providers of the current VCS grants have welcomed the opportunity to discuss their work and the outcomes they have secured for local people. This will look at case studies, which show how clients have been helped to overcome their problems: debt, mental breakdown or inability to access important medical services.
- 4.3 Through the rigorous monitoring of these grants, officers have been able to report and publish significant achievement with each of them. As stated above this is the second tranche of the VCS grants and to date there have been no instances where performance has had to be referred to Policy and Resources Committee.
- 4.4 It is proposed that the Committee holds its discussions with the providers at its meetings as follows:-

Provider	Grant theme	Date of meeting
Service Six	Counselling and support	14 March 2016
Community Law Service	Advice and information	8 June 2016
Serve/VA Oundle	Community transport	8 June 2016

#### **5.0 Equality and Diversity Implications**

- 5.1 At this stage there are no equality and diversity implications arising. However it is intended to prepare an Equality Impact Assessment as part of the report to Policy and Resources Committee about future options.

#### **6.0 Legal Implications**

- 6.1 There is no statutory requirement on us to provide financial support to the sector. The Localism Act 2011 makes provision for us to make financial grants available where the sector can deliver services or initiatives on our behalf.

#### **7.0 Risk Management**

- 7.1 All of our grants and financial contributions are managed by Grant Agreements and or Service Level Agreements. Each agreement is individual to the specific grant or service and the relevant provider. Our Risk Register identifies a risk of the providers failing to deliver against their Grant Agreements. The mitigation for this is that the Grant Agreements contain specific clauses for dealing with persistent under performance, which could result in a referral to Policy and Resources Committee to determine withdrawal of the grant.
- 7.2 Performance and achievement of outcomes is governed by those agreements and officers adhere to them in terms of performance monitoring.

#### **8.0 Resource and Financial Implications**

- 8.1 There are no immediate resources or financial issues arising from this report.

## 9.0 Constitutional Implications

9.1 There are no immediate constitutional implications arising from this report.

## 10.0 Customer Service Implications

10.1 Investing in the VCS to deliver specialist services supports our customer service provision. The work of the three VCS grant providers supports local residents with specialist interventions such as debt advice and management, counselling services and transport for accessing medical appointments.

## 11.0 Corporate Outcomes

11.1 The work and services provided by the voluntary and community sector in East Northants contributes to the achievement of our corporate outcomes in many ways. In particular:-

A good quality of life – the services provided by the sector help local residents in East Northamptonshire enjoy a better quality of life. This includes dealing with debt problems, helping with the effects of family breakdown and illnesses and providing transport solutions for accessing important services.

Good value for money – all three grants will focus on the achievement of specific outcomes relevant to their individual themes. Rigorous monitoring ensures that the performance expected by the providers is achieved.

## 12.0 Recommendation

12.1 The Committee is recommended to

- (1) Consider and note this report.
- (2) Hold discussions with the current providers of the three voluntary and community sector (VCS) grants to understand the impact of their work that could help inform future developments in this area.
- (3) Identify any further work it wishes to carry out in relation to this project.

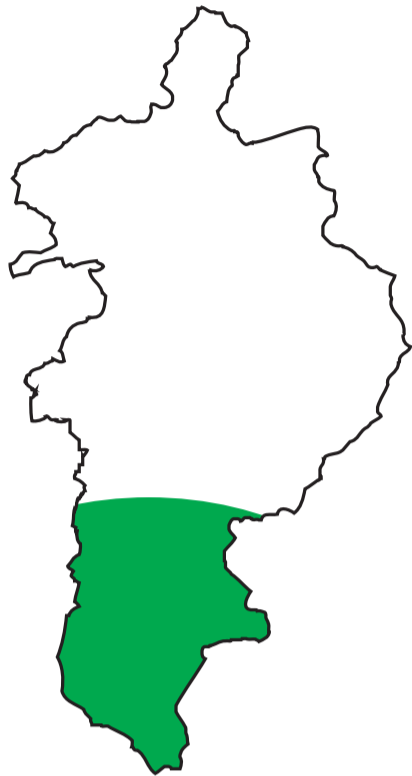
*Reason: to help inform the options this council will need to consider for future working arrangements with the voluntary and community sector in East Northamptonshire.*

<b>Legal</b>	Power: Localism Act 2011				
	Other considerations: None				
<b>Background Papers:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reports to Policy and Resources Committee regarding awards of VCS grants in 2011 and 2014, published on ENC's website.</li><li>• State of the Sector report 2015 – published by VIN and available at: <a href="http://www.voluntaryimpact.org.uk/news/2015/state-of-the-sector-2015-building-communities/">http://www.voluntaryimpact.org.uk/news/2015/state-of-the-sector-2015-building-communities/</a></li><li>• Log of grant awards by ENC published on our website: <a href="http://www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/site/scripts/documents_info.php?documentID=1473&amp;pageNumber=1">http://www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/site/scripts/documents_info.php?documentID=1473&amp;pageNumber=1</a></li></ul>				
<b>Person Originating Report:</b>	Mike Greenway – Community Partnerships Manager ☎ 01832 742244 ✉ mgreenway@east-northamptonshire.gov.uk				
<b>Date: 24 February 2016</b>					
<b>CFO</b>		<b>MO</b>		<b>CX</b>	



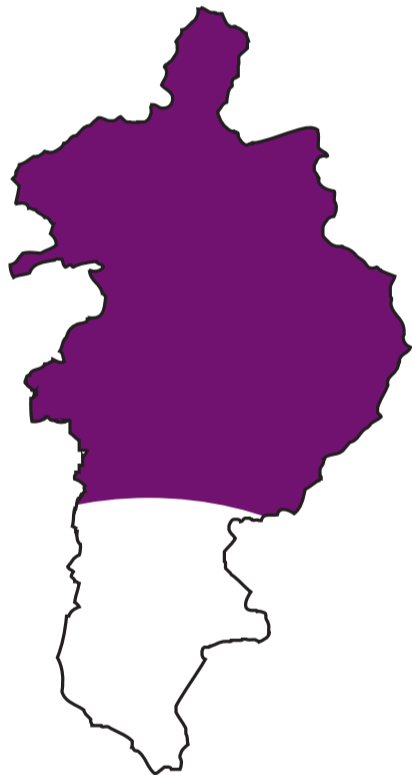
# Voluntary Sector Organisations supporting residents in East Northamptonshire by location and target audience

Target audience key: ● All ● Adults ● Young people ● Older people



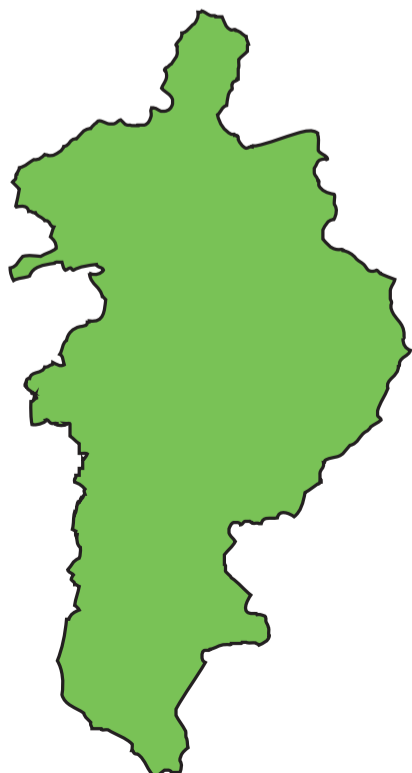
## South of A14

- Serve
- Rushden Historical Transport Society
- Irthlingborough Historical Society
- Whitefriars Church, Rushden
- Salvation Army
- Rushden MIND
- Raunds Youth Action Group
- Irthlingborough Old People's Welfare Association
- Higham Ferrers Gateway Club
- Thrapston Historical Society
- Raunds and District History Society
- Higham Ferrers Chichele Society
- Rushden Museum
- Rushden and District History Society Research Group



## North of A14

- Volunteer Action Oundle
- Transition Oundle
- Transition King's Cliffe
- King's Cliffe Heritage
- Project No.1 – Oundle Baptist Church
- Oundle Rural MIND
- King's Cliffe Active
- Underground Children's and Youth Centre
- Ark in Oundle
- CHAT Youth Counselling
- Oundle Museum



## District-wide

- Service Six
- Community Law Service
- Groundwork Northamptonshire
- Age-UK Northamptonshire
- Northamptonshire Association of Youth Clubs
- Northamptonshire ACRE
- Spurgeons
- Royal Voluntary Service
- East Northants Community Services / East Northants Faith Group
- Catch 22
- CANDO CARE Co-operative CIC
- Voluntary Impact Northamptonshire
- Northamptonshire Sport
- Nene Valley Community Action
- BCN Wildlife Trust
- Aspirations Wellbeing
- Northants Rights and Equality Council
- Northampton Women's Aid
- Victim Support
- Headway East Northants
- Northamptonshire Young Farmers
- Northamptonshire Carers
- Home-Start East Northants
- Action for Aspergers
- The Royal British Legion
- Northamptonshire Community Foundation
- Healthwatch Northamptonshire
- East Northants Child Contact Services
- Total Voice Northamptonshire
- The University of the Third Age (U3A)
- Peterborough and District Mediation Service
- Citizens Advice Central and East Northamptonshire
- Family Action
- Solve It
- CAN
- Relate



# Voluntary Sector Organisations supporting residents in East Northamptonshire by service areas

Location of service key: ● South of A14 ● North of A14 ● District-wide

## Access to services

- Serve
- Volunteer Action Oundle
- Voluntary Impact Northamptonshire
- Nene Valley Community Action
- East Northants Community Services / East Northants Faith Group
- Royal Voluntary Service

## Community

- Groundwork Northamptonshire
- Northamptonshire ACRE
- Voluntary Impact Northamptonshire
- Nene Valley Community Action
- Transition Oundle
- Transition King's Cliffe
- East Northants Community Services / East Northants Faith Group
- Whitefriars Church, Rushden
- Salvation Army
- Serve
- Northamptonshire Community Foundation
- Northamptonshire Sport
- Project No.1 - Oundle Baptist Church

## Older people services

- AgeUK Northamptonshire
- Royal Voluntary Service
- Serve
- The University of the Third Age (U3A)

## Health and wellbeing (Type of H&W)

- Service Six (Counselling)
- Serve (General)
- Volunteer Action Oundle (General)
- Northamptonshire Sport (Recreation)
- Aspirations Wellbeing (Recreation)
- Rushden MIND (Mental health, Counselling)
- Oundle Rural MIND (Mental health, Counselling)
- Northamptonshire Association of Youth Clubs (Recreation; Social)
- CHAT Youth Counselling (Counselling)
- Raunds Youth Action Group (Recreation; Social)
- King's Cliffe Active (Recreation; Social)
- Headway East Northants (Disability)
- Underground Children's and Youth Centre (Recreation; Social)
- Irthlingborough Old People's Welfare Association (General)
- CANDO CARE Co-operative CIC (General)
- Nene Valley Community Action (Volunteering)
- Ark in Oundle (Recreation)
- Northampton Women's Aid (General; Counselling)
- Northamptonshire Young Farmers (Social)
- Northamptonshire Carers (Disability)
- Higham Ferrers Gateway Club (Disability)

## Advice and information

- Community Law Service
- Northamptonshire ACRE
- Voluntary Impact Northamptonshire
- Nene Valley Community Action
- Northants Rights and Equality Council
- Northampton Women's Aid
- Voice (Victim Support)
- VoiceAbility Total Voice Northamptonshire
- Citizens Advice Central and East Northamptonshire
- The Royal British Legion
- Solve It

## Heritage

- Rushden Historical Transport Society
- Irthlingborough Historical Society
- King's Cliffe Heritage
- Whitefriars Church, Rushden
- Serve
- Oundle Museum
- Thrapston Historical Society
- Raunds and District History Society
- Higham Ferrers Chichele Society
- Rushden Museum
- Rushden and District History Society Research Group

## Financial

- Community Law Service
- Citizens Advice Central and East Northamptonshire

## Environmental

- Groundwork Northamptonshire
- Transition Oundle
- Transition King's Cliffe
- BCN Wildlife Trust

## Young people services

- Service Six
- Spurgeons
- Catch 22
- East Northants Child Contact Services
- CAN

## Faith

- Northamptonshire Association of Youth Clubs
- East Northants Community Services / East Northants Faith Group
- Whitefriars Church, Rushden
- Project No.1 – Oundle Baptist Church
- Salvation Army
- Ark in Oundle

- Home-Start East Northants (General)
- Spurgeons (General)
- AgeUK Northamptonshire (General)
- Action for Aspergers (Mental health; Counselling)
- Project No.1 – Oundle Baptist Church (Recreation; Social)
- Royal Voluntary Service (General)
- Salvation Army (Recreation; Social)
- Voice (Victim Support) (Counselling)
- BCN Wildlife Trust (Recreation; Volunteering)
- The Royal British Legion (General)
- Healthwatch Northamptonshire (General)
- The University of the Third Age (U3A) (Recreation)
- Peterborough and District Mediation Service (Counselling)
- Voluntary Impact Northamptonshire (Volunteering)
- Northamptonshire ACRE (Social)
- East Northants Community Services/ East Northants Faith Group (Disability; Social)
- East Northants Child Contact Services (General)
- VoiceAbility Total Voice Northamptonshire (Mental health, Disability)
- Family Action (Mental health; Domestic abuse)
- Solve It (Counselling)
- CAN (General)
- Relate Northamptonshire (Counselling)



# ENC voluntary sector funding arrangements (2015/16)

**£50k**

## Community Law Service

- Reduced debt across East Northamptonshire
- Effective personal financial management for residents
- Increased benefit take up across East Northamptonshire
- Increased access to financial and legal advice

**£20k**

## Serve and Volunteer Action Oundle

- Accessible community transport services for medical-related appointments across East Northamptonshire
- Enhanced range of community transport solutions for those transport disadvantaged

**£20k**

## Service Six

- Enhanced counselling and support services for adults and young people across East Northamptonshire
- Increase awareness of counselling and support services

**£10k**

## Groundwork Northamptonshire

- £3.5K core funding for the organisation
- £6.5K project funding – committed to Rushden JAM in the Hood project

**£17k**

## East Northants Faith Group

- Operate the 4 bedded direct access emergency Night Shelter hostel facility at the Full Gospel Church
- Homelessness support work for those in night shelter and moving on to settled accommodation
- Help assist with costs of accommodation and support at the Recovery House
- Operate the Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) at the Full Gospel Church

**£143,303**

**£7.5k**

## N Sport

- Plan, consult and lead on long-term strategy for sport and active recreation in Northamptonshire
- Advocate for sport and active recreation to key non-sporting organisations in Northamptonshire
- Seek new and effective ways to raise the profile of sport and active recreation opportunities across the county
- Seek to increase investment in sport and active recreation in Northamptonshire
- Provide the most up-to-date information, advice and expertise with regard to sport and physical activity

**£1,943**

## Peterborough and District Mediation Service

- Mediation services for residents referred by agencies

**£16,860**

## Midland Heart

- Support for single people in temporary accommodation at 50 High St South, Rushden to foster independence and prevent repeat homelessness
- Support for families in temporary accommodation at Shoemaker Court, Rushden to foster independence and prevent repeat homelessness