

# Voluntary Sector Funding 2020-2023

## Consultation Background Paper

The Council's Children, Adults and Health Department (CAH) has a well-established and effective mechanism to award funding to the voluntary and community sector through a programme called Better Care Stronger Communities (BCSC).

BCSC funding is targeted to community and voluntary sector groups and organisations whose activities provide support in the delivery of social care objectives for residents of South Gloucestershire. In 2019/20 this funding totalled £790,877.

This paper considers the relationship between this funding and the overall spending reductions which the Council needs to make. It explores the reasonableness and potential impact of the following proposal:

That the Council reduces voluntary and community sector funding for both Better Care Stronger Communities funding and specified voluntary sector activities by £138,800 p.a. from 1 April 2020.

### **Background**

The Council has to reduce our overall spending – a further £19.4 million in savings, by 2021/22 – but we are committed to minimising and mitigating the impact on services by early planning and robust governance. South Gloucestershire Council has a strong track-record of working with and supporting the local voluntary and community sector and by moving to a three-year funding cycle we have offered stability to the sector in recent years.

We have already achieved savings in excess of £80m since 2010, but significantly increasing demand for statutory services means that the Council has to continue making savings. The Council Transformation and Savings Plan (CTSP) is an integral part of the Council's budget and its delivery is critical to maintaining the financial sustainability and stability of the Council and keeping a balanced budget. £8.05m in savings is allocated to the Children, Adults and Health Department, which funds the Better Care Stronger Communities grant.

## Funding Reduction Proposals

In order to meet the savings target, it is proposed that part of the spending reduction should come from funding to the voluntary sector. A reduction of £138,800 p.a. from 1 April 2020 would mean the total budget available to fund voluntary and community sector activities would be £652,077.

The current funding cycle will come to an end on 31 March 2020 and those groups or organisations wishing to bid, or re-bid, for Better Care Stronger Communities funding, from the reduced budget aligned to revised criteria, will be invited to do so, once final decisions have been made in relation to this budget, in late 2019.

It is possible that some existing services which do not meet the criteria may not receive funding after 1 April 2020. There will also be specific tenders for certain voluntary sector activities. For examples of these services, please see page 6.

Services currently receiving Better Care Stronger Communities funding are listed in the table below:

Funding level and service
Less than £10,000 Carers' Groups, including Time for Carers, Carer Support at Paul's Place and holistic support for Chinese Carers Post Natal Support
£10,001 to £25,000 Dementia Support – Dementia Action Alliance Dysphasia Support HIV Support Mental Health Befriending
Over £25,000 Support to adult carers, young carers and support to carers in health settings Befriending Dementia Support – a suite of services to support people with dementia and their carers Stroke Support Health and Social Care Infrastructure Support

## **Better Care Stronger Communities Funding Proposals**

We propose that we continue to use a similar three-yearly process for 2020/21, 2021/22- 2022/23, unless there is a significant change in service need or a shorter period would be appropriate.

Better Care Stronger Communities funding is allocated to support individuals to achieve the following aims, which are the headings under which organisations will be invited to submit an application for funding:

1. Healthy ageing and independence
2. Living well and enjoying life
3. Preventing ill health and self-care

The following activities will be considered for funding:

- Contributing to our 'Three Conversations' agenda by supporting people to keep well and avoid the need for health and social care system intervention, reducing or delaying the need for more intensive support  
<https://www.southglos.gov.uk//documents/3-Conversations-external.pdf>
- Supporting families, carers and community groups to self-help, through peer networks and circles of support
- Strengthening capacity within communities and the sector, working with and involving people who use services, to deliver support which meets the health and social care priorities of the South Gloucestershire population
- Promoting positive ageing; active, engaged and informed older people
- Supporting people to stay physically and mentally well
- Reducing loneliness and isolation through participation and engagement
- Supporting people living with long term conditions, sensory impairments and/or life limiting conditions to live well, remain independent, be informed, be active and in control of their lives

This list is in line with our established priorities and has not changed from the previous funding cycle, except to add the Three Conversations pilot agenda.

The following activities will not be considered for funding (unchanged):

- Activity that would ordinarily be purchased to meet individual need, either as a commissioned service, or via Direct Payments
- Activity unable to demonstrate the potential to have a positive impact on reducing demand for adult social care services, improving outcomes for people who use services / carers
- Ordinarily we would not anticipate funding activity regularly delivered outside of South Gloucestershire, unless there is a clear justification for the use of a particular venue

Our proposal is that funding submissions are assessed against the following general criteria, with specific criteria, for each overarching aim or service:

- a. Alignment with the Council's CAH Department priorities  
<https://www.southglos.gov.uk/documents/Sustainable-Community-Strategy-2016.pdf>
- b. Taking active steps to promote the inclusion of protected and vulnerable groups
- c. Demonstrate quality: safe, reliable, effective and well led services
- d. Demonstrate how the proposed service will reduce social care expenditure
- e. Demonstrate innovative approaches to improve outcomes
- f. Demonstrate ways of working that align with Making Every Contact Count principles (<https://oneyou.southglos.gov.uk/for-professionals/making-every-contact-count/>)
- g. Demonstrate robust activities and monitoring the impact on social care throughout the life of the proposal
- h. Demonstrable evidence of leverage of external funding into South Gloucestershire
- i. Demonstrate evidence of added Social Value (in line with council policy: <https://www.southglos.gov.uk/business/tenders-and-contracts/creating-social-value-south-gloucestershire/>)
- j. Value for money
- k. Demonstrate how their outcomes will be sustainable in the longer term

We propose to have a four week window for organisations to make a funding proposal.

Historically we have asked organisations to submit an application for funding against a particular heading. We would like to understand whether organisations would prefer to submit an application for funding using the following overarching headings:

1. Healthy ageing and independence
2. Living well and enjoying life
3. Preventing ill health and self-care

Or whether organisations would prefer to submit proposals to a deliver to a defined list of activities, each with a defined budget.

There will also be specific criteria relating to the overarching headings or defined activity.

Organisations will be able to apply for funding in two different ways, depending on the amount of funding required:

1. Small grants of up to £2,000 per year will be required to submit a simple application form
2. Funding between £2,000 and £55,000 per year will be required to submit a detailed application form

A two part process will be used to commission services, as the funding is likely to be oversubscribed. This will include a negotiation stage with successful bidders, to define proposals within the funding envelope.

We have already been working with the voluntary sector, to co-produce an outcome framework, to support the delivery of Better Care Stronger Communities funding. The aim of the outcome framework is to better demonstrate the impact that spending in the voluntary sector has, on health and social care, during the delivery of the initiative.

A draft version of the framework can be found using the following link:

[https://consultations.southglos.gov.uk/gf2.ti/-/1034690/52064325.1/PDF/-/Outcomes\\_Framework\\_consultation\\_v3\\_Comms.pdf](https://consultations.southglos.gov.uk/gf2.ti/-/1034690/52064325.1/PDF/-/Outcomes_Framework_consultation_v3_Comms.pdf)

The framework includes four aims, with a number of outcomes and suggested indicators relating to each of the outcomes. We are proposing that the number of outcomes each organisation delivers against, will be proportionate to the level of funding it receives:

Funding level	No of framework outcomes to deliver against
Less than £10,000	At least 2 outcomes from 2 different aims
£10,001 to £25,000	At least 4 outcomes from 2 different aims
Over £25,000	At least 5 outcomes from 3 different aims

We believe that there needs to be a balance between reporting on service delivery and ensuring that the impact of the activity being delivered is demonstrated. For each outcome you will deliver activity against, we propose that you report on the following numbers of indicators, depending on the level of funding you receive:

Funding level	No of indicators selected for each outcome from the framework	No of indicators you define for each outcome
Less than £10,000	1	1
£10,001 to £25,000	1	2
Over £25,000	2	2

### **Other Voluntary Sector Activities**

The following service activities will be delivered by undertaking appropriate commissioning activities:

- Visual Impairment Service (from September 2019)
- Carers' Support Services currently delivered by the Carers Support Centre
- Voluntary Sector Infrastructure Support
- Dysphasia Support
- Information Advice and Guidance

The process for each service will be defined by the specific requirements for that service.

### **Timescales for Commissioning Services from 1 April 2020**

<b>Milestones</b>	
Open VCS consultation 8 weeks	17 June
2 engagement events	26 June & 2 July
Close consultation	9 September
CAH Exec members meeting	4 October
Finalise procurement process and publish on Portal	11 October
Open BCSC grant process 4 weeks	14 October
Close BCSC grant process	11 November
Evaluate proposals	15 November
Exec member decision	January 2020
Awards notified	Jan/Feb
Contract award	Feb
Start contract	1 April

### **What Happens Next?**

Children, Adults and Health Executive Members have requested that a consultation takes place, on the potential impact of saving reductions that will be made, against Better Care Stronger Communities Funding and specified voluntary sector activities, with effect from 1 April 2020. Views can be submitted from **17 June 2019 until 9 September 2019**.

We would also like your views on the process we will use to agree Better Care Stronger Communities Funding from 2020-2023.

We welcome comments on the proposals and partner agencies are asked to give their own feedback and to encourage individuals that use services and relevant stakeholders to submit their views.

We will hold two meetings to share information on the funding envelope, the proposed tender process and to share what we are looking to achieve from this funding which are provisionally booked for:

- **Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2019, 4.30-6.30pm, South Gloucestershire Council Offices, Badminton Road, Yate, BS37 5AF**
- **Tuesday 2 July 2019, 9.30-11.30am, The Cullimore Room, Emersons Green Village Hall, Emersons Green Way, BS16 7AP**

Due to demand, a further meeting will be held as follows:

- **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> August 2019, 2.00-4.00pm, the Vassal Centre, Gill Avenue, Fishponds, BS16 2QQ**

Relevant background papers and the consultation questionnaires are available on the South Gloucestershire Council website using this link:

[https://consultations.southglos.gov.uk/consult.ti/BCSC\\_2020/consultationHome](https://consultations.southglos.gov.uk/consult.ti/BCSC_2020/consultationHome)

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