

## CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

**AGENDA ITEM**

**REPORT TO CABINET**

**12<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2012**

**REPORT OF CORPORATE  
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

### **CABINET DECISION**

**Access and Communities: Lead Cabinet Member – Councillor David Coleman**

#### **VOLUNTARY SECTOR SUPPORT PACKAGE**

1. Summary

This report provides an update to Cabinet on the package of support provided by the Council to the voluntary and community sector. The package of support was developed following a review of the Voluntary Sector Support Fund (also referred to as 'core funding'). The report includes an early internal evaluation of the Stockton Investment Fund aspect of the support package. Stockton Council was independently nominated and successful in securing the North East Empowering Communities Award. The support package for the Voluntary and Community Sector was credited as the reason Stockton-on Tees Borough Council was awarded this by the regional Voluntary Organisation North East.

2. Recommendations

Cabinet:

Note the report and agree to receive a further update report reviewing the investment fund in particular and the wider support package at a future Cabinet.

3. Reasons for the Recommendations/Decision(s)

To keep Members up to date with the support provided by the Council to the voluntary and community sector.

4. Members Interests

Members (including co-opted members with voting rights) should consider whether they have a personal interest in the item as defined in the Council's code of conduct (paragraph 8) and, if so, declare the existence and nature of that interest in accordance with paragraph 9 of the code.

Where a Member regards him/herself as having a personal interest in the item, he/she must then consider whether that interest is one which a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Member's judgment of the public interest (paragraph 10 of the code of conduct).

A Member with a prejudicial interest in any matter must withdraw from the room where the meeting considering the business is being held -

- in a case where the Member is attending a meeting (including a meeting of a select committee) but only for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence, provided the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose whether under statutory right or otherwise, immediately after making representations, answering questions or giving evidence as the case may be;
- in any other case, whenever it becomes apparent that the business is being considered at the meeting;

and must not exercise executive functions in relation to the matter and not seek improperly to influence the decision about the matter (**paragraph 12 of the Code**).

**Further to the above, it should be noted that any Member attending a meeting of Cabinet, Select Committee etc; whether or not they are a Member of the Cabinet or Select Committee concerned, must declare any personal interest which they have in the business being considered at the meeting (unless the interest arises solely from the Member's membership of, or position of control or management on any other body to which the Member was appointed or nominated by the Council, or on any other body exercising functions of a public nature, when the interest only needs to be declared if and when the Member speaks on the matter), and if their interest is prejudicial, they must also leave the meeting room, subject to and in accordance with the provisions referred to above.**

**AGENDA ITEM**

**REPORT TO CABINET**

**12<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2012**

**REPORT OF CORPORATE  
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

**CABINET DECISION**

**VOLUNTARY SECTOR SUPPORT PACKAGE**

**SUMMARY**

This report provides an update to Cabinet on the package of support provided by the Council to the voluntary and community sector. The package of support was developed following a review of the Voluntary Sector Support Fund (also referred to as 'core funding'). The report includes an early internal evaluation of the Stockton Investment Fund aspect of the support package. Stockton Council was independently nominated and successful in securing the North East Empowering Communities Award. The support package for the Voluntary and Community Sector was credited as the reason Stockton-on Tees Borough Council was awarded this by the regional Voluntary Organisation North East.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Cabinet:

Note the report and agree to receive a further update report reviewing the investment fund in particular and the wider support package at a future Cabinet.

**DETAIL**

1. In November 2010, following extensive consultation with the voluntary and community sector, Cabinet approved a fundamental change to the way the Council financially supports local VCS organisations in terms of 'core' funding.
2. The outcome was the establishment of the Stockton Investment Fund which was implemented in the financial year 2011-12 as part of a wider package of support to the VCS arising from the EIT review of community engagement, at a time when other Councils across the country were withdrawing core funding from the voluntary and community sector.
3. The package of support to the VCS from the council is aimed at supporting the development and sustainability of a vibrant voluntary and community sector that is:
  - well placed to access public (and private) sector commissioning opportunities
  - less reliant on grant funding which is diminishing in the current economic climate
  - supported at an appropriate level to enhance the engagement and empowerment of local communities in influencing the policies and decisions of public sector organisations
4. The support package currently comprises:

- The Stockton Investment Fund
- The Stockton Community Fund
- The VCS workshop programme
- The Community Empowerment Network
- My Community Webpages on SBC website
- SBC Community Asset Transfer Strategy
- Access to the Community Engagement Team

### The Stockton Investment Fund

5. The fund is valued at £246,350 and has been open to 2 rounds of bidding against an established criteria. Bids are assessed by a panel, following a 'diagnostic' by Catalyst aimed at endeavouring to ensure the bids are in line with criteria.
6. Historically the Voluntary Sector Support Fund supported the same 9 organisations over a number of years. Since the introduction of the Investment Fund model the number of organisations that have benefited is 22 (rising to 38 by the end of the financial year).
7. Beneficiaries of the fund are expected to broaden the benefits across the sector through 'pay it forward' arrangements.
8. Round 1 of the fund saw 16 organisations secure a total of £116,621 and Appendix 1 identifies the successful organisations alongside a summary of what the funding was used for. Round 2 of the fund saw 6 organisations secure a total of £69,255 to benefit 22 organisations and Appendix 1 provides further detail.
9. In both rounds 1 and 2 a number of organisations submitted bids for similar activity, namely securing a level of independently assessed quality assurance to give confidence to commissioners and support for marketing and publicity. In both of these cases the panel determined the best value for money could be obtained through Catalyst procuring support for quality accreditation and for marketing and publicity on behalf of the sector rather than each bidding organisation doing it individually.
10. Round 1 organisations received their funding in June and the 6-monthly monitoring was carried out in October.
11. The initial evaluations indicate that the investment fund approach is having a positive impact, Appendix 2 provides more detail but in summary the impact includes:
  - supporting the change in culture in the sector
  - enhancing the viability and sustainability of the beneficiary organisations.
  - Some organisations have reported the investment having a step change/springboard effect which has moved them up to the next level in being able to compete for contracts
  - some organisations have already seen an increase in income levels - one as much as 300% in the six months after the investment.
  - one organisation has reported savings of over £40k annually through the merger that was supported through the investment fund
  - 6 VCS organisations are well on their way to achieving the PQASSO quality assurance accreditation which will open up opportunities to compete for contracts
  - an organisation has gone through the second stage of a Big Lottery's bid having utilised the investment fund to address an issue raised by the Big Lottery about disabled access

12. The panel agreed the residual funds in the 2011/12 investment fund following the 2 rounds of bidding should be used to:
- Support the due diligence associated with the possible merger of Catalyst and SCGRA
  - Providing a package of support 'Step Change' to 'ailing' organisations
  - Establishing a VCS loan fund – a key identified need from the original sector consultation
13. Round 3 of the investment fund will be launched December 2012 in order that the panel process can be carried out within realistic timescales and the successful organisations receive the funding from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012. The funding for 2012/13 is identified within the MTFP and is at the same level as the funding for 2011/12.

#### Stockton Community Fund

14. The consultation on the VSSF identified a need for community and voluntary sector organisations who weren't looking to be commissioned to deliver large scale contracts to still secure funding on a much smaller scale. This is being delivered through the Stockton Community Fund which saw the management of a range of funds previously entrusted to the Council pass to Tees Valley Community Foundation. Following work with the Charities Commission around due diligence to ensure the original objects of the funds were retained Tees Valley Community Foundation have been able to increase the value of the funds through an endowment approach.
15. The Stockton Community Fund was launched in July 2011. To date there have been £3,500 worth of awards to 13 groups/individuals. TVCF will provide SBC with an annual report outlining awards and case studies of the impact of those awards and this will feature in the next update report to Cabinet.

#### The VCS workshop programme

16. The Policy, Improvement and Engagement team has led on the development and delivery of a workshop programme in partnership with Catalyst as indicated below:
- As part of the development of 'Let's Share – the asset transfer strategy' a workshop was delivered aimed at ensuring community groups/organisations considering taking on an asset were clear about what was involved and the liabilities associated with managing a community asset. The workshop was well attended with positive evaluation by attendees.
  - A workshop on commissioning is currently being planned that will take a targeted approach in line with potential opportunities
  - As part of the launch of the round 3 investment fund a workshop is planned for January 2012 that gives tips for what is required to enhance the chances of success based on the common issues arising from rounds 1 and 2. This is intended to reduce the amount of 'diagnostic' input required from Catalyst and improve the quality of the bids.
  - Consideration is also being given to working with the Business and Enterprise team in relation to offering a workshop for the sector on enterprise and also a series to support community centre management e.g., safeguarding, H&S, etc.

#### Community Empowerment Network

17. As a result of technical issues resulting in material changes to the procurement process for the CEN undertaken last year the contract with the existing provider was extended for a year.
18. Officers of the Council have been advised by the Boards of Catalyst and SRCGA that they have an in principle agreement to merge pending the outcome of an independent assessment of liabilities and due diligence and consideration of the independent assessment by the respective boards.

19. A bid to the national Transforming Infrastructure Fund has been submitted by Catalyst on behalf of a number of partners which, if successful, would see £367,240 over 18 months invested in the infrastructure and sustainability of the sector in Stockton. There are 4 elements to the TIF bid:
- The establishment of a Catalyst Community Asset Trust/Group
  - Community Engagement and Empowerment
  - The creation of a business hub to provide back office support to the sector across the Borough and help develop an enterprise culture within the sector
  - A leadership programme for the sector
20. The TIF is a competitive bidding process and expectations are that there are likely to be no more than 3 or 4 successful bids in the North East. The outcome will be known in January 2012.

#### My Community Webpages

21. The My Community webpages which are aimed at showing people how they can get involved and influence what goes on in their community were launched in April 2011 and have proved very popular to date they have been viewed 12,404 times (7,845 unique) since launch.

#### Let's Share – Community Asset Transfer Strategy

22. The Community Asset Transfer Strategy was approved by Cabinet in July 2011 and is part of our commitment to supporting the development and sustainability of a thriving Voluntary and Community sector and is integral to our wider package of support to this sector. To date we have received 3 informal Expressions of Interest for Asset Transfer. Following the EIT review of Communication, Consultation and Engagement, the Policy Improvement and Engagement Team have taken over responsibility for the Community Centres and as part of their familiarisation with this area will be undertaking an audit of all centres covering governance, Health and Safety, Finances etc., which in itself would assist any centre wishing to undertake an asset transfer.
23. The support package to the Voluntary and Community Sector detailed in this report has been recognised and welcomed by the sector themselves through public acknowledgement by Catalyst and by the independent award of Empowering Communities by VONNE, the regional infrastructure body for the Voluntary and Community sector.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

24. N/A

### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

25. N/A

### **RISK ASSESSMENT**

26. This report is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

### **SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS**

27. The VCS supports the capacity building and relationships with the voluntary and community sector and delivery and as such would contribute to all the themes.

### **EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

28. This report is not subject to Equality Impact Assessment as it makes no proposals for service development or policy change.

### **CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS**

29. N/A

#### **Contact Officers:**

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**Title:** Head of Policy, Performance & Partnerships  
**Tel:** (01642) 527004  
**Email:** [lesley.king@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:lesley.king@stockton.gov.uk)

#### Background Papers

30. Report to Cabinet, 28<sup>th</sup> October 2010,  
Report to Cabinet, 26<sup>th</sup> November 2009

#### Ward(s) and Ward Councillors:

31. Not Ward specific

### Stockton Investment Fund First Round – Successful Applications

<b>Voluntary &amp; Community Sector Investment Fund 2011/12</b>	<b>Total £246,350</b>
<b>Round 1</b>	
<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Award £</b>
A Way Out	8,000
BCT Events	9,100
Blind Voice UK	7,339
Children's Society	9,000
Elm Tree	650
Tees Valley Professional Services Group (merger with Tees Valley Community Foundation)	9,100
Tees Valley Rural Community Council	3,700
Tees Valley YMCA	15,407
New Horizon (Teesside)	23,710
Tees Valley Professional Services Group (Team VIVA & VIVA Angels)	14,000
Catalyst- QA project- 6 organisations benefit	19,615
<b>Total Round 1</b>	<b>119,621</b>
<b>Round 2</b>	
<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Award £</b>
Billingham International Folklore Festival	4,000
Cultures CIC	6,905
Know How North East	35,400
Eastern Ravens Trust	5,250
Tees Valley Arts	1,200
Other support- Marketing and Business Support Workshop- 8 organisations will benefit	15,000
Emerging Leaders- another 8 organisations will benefit	1,500
Proposals to go back to the panel:-	
Step Change(to assist ailing organisations)	TBC
Sustainability Plan Support, includes- bridging loan (16,725) Management Board Development (5,000)	TBC
Catalyst/SRCGA merger- indemnity, Due governance -Professional fees	TBC
<b>Total Round 2</b>	<b>124,000</b>
<b>Total 2011/12</b>	<b>243,621</b>



## A Way Out

**Funding: £8,000**

**Background to Organisation:** A Way Out exists to reach out and support vulnerable and hard to reach women and young people, at risk from or experiencing problems of substance misuse; encouraging, empowering and supporting them to live healthy, drug free lives.

**Proposal:** Funding for update of IT and software to make the organisation more efficient and compliant with the requirements of potential commissioners, increasing ability to deliver both existing and future contracts more efficiently and to an ever increasing standard.

### Contact Information

Jessie Jacobs  
A Way Out  
The Gate, 1-2 Castlegate Quay  
Riverside  
Stockton on Tees  
TS18 1BZ  
info@awayout.co.uk  
01642 655071

## BCT Events

**Funding: £9,100**

**Background to Organisation:** The company looks to target local children and young people to improve participation in recreational activities. They aim to work with the most deprived, targeting areas such as; Port Clarence, Low Grange and Old Billingham areas. BCT Events is a Social Enterprise that is registered as a Community Interest Company Limited by shares.

**Proposal:** To support items that will build its capacity to deliver a full community led events service and become self-financing. Funding for assistance towards a professional PA system to provide the capability to stage both indoor and outdoor events. Funding was also awarded for two projectors and screens, one which will be used as a teaching aid and for small meetings and the other to use when hosting large scale events.

### Contact Information

Paul Burgum  
BCT Events CiC  
Billingham Synthonia Club  
Belasis Avenue  
Billingham, TS23 1LH  
[pburgum@bctevents.co.uk](mailto:pburgum@bctevents.co.uk)  
01642 533316

## Blind Voice UK

**Funding: £7,339**

**Background to Organisation:** The organisation provides services to blind and visually impaired people in Stockton borough. Blind Voice UK want blind people to have the same opportunities as sighted people. This is a key issue and through collaborative working with other organisations and stakeholders, they hope to improve services to prevent sight loss, treat eye conditions and support people living with sight loss.

**Proposal:** Funding for equipment and software to support the development of the transcription service to increase income generation. The equipment will increase capacity and considerably speed up production of CDs. Support will enable for much more investment in a wide range of other services which would increase the independence and quality of life for the blind.

#### **Contact Information**

Christine Durnion  
BlindVoice UK  
27 Yarm Road  
Stockton on Tees  
TS18 3NJ  
[Christine.durnion@blindvoice.co.uk](mailto:Christine.durnion@blindvoice.co.uk)  
01642 803590

### **Children's Society**

**Funding: £9,000**

**Background to Organisation:** The Children's Society Tees Valley project is based in Billingham South and the service reaches out across all Stockton localities.

**Proposal:** Installation of a permanent disability ramp to improve access to service users, enable more service users to engage with activities and strengthen their application to Big Lottery Fund. The Society had been invited to apply for continuation funding from Big Lottery which had noted feedback from service users on a need for a permanent ramp to improve access. It will encourage a greater number of disabled young people and their families to benefit from the project's facilities and provide an opportunity to form new friendships and support networks.

#### **Contact Information**

Peter Lowe, MBE  
The Children's Society Tees Valley  
23 The Green  
Billingham  
Stockton on tees  
TS23 1ES  
[pk1@childsoc.org.uk](mailto:pk1@childsoc.org.uk)  
01642 559147

### **Elm Tree**

**Funding: £650**

Background to organisation: Elm Tree Community Centre

**Proposal:** Funding for IT equipment of IT wireless filter and IT technical support to ensure that they can continue with their UK Online initiative which has been a source of income for the centre.

#### **Contact Information**

Marilyn Surtees  
Elm Tree Community Centre  
Elm Tree Avenue  
Elm Tree  
Stockton, TS19 0JF  
[Marilyn.surtees@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:Marilyn.surtees@stockton.gov.uk)  
01642 611333

### **Tees Valley Professional Services Group (PSG)**

**Funding: £9,100**

**Background to Organisation:** PSG has been established since 1996 providing local community groups with professional support at no cost.

**Proposal:** Funding for professional fees to cover the costs of the merger of PSG with Tees Valley Community Foundation. This merger will provide a 'one stop shop' to giving of money, time and volunteers to improve existing services to both beneficiaries and members, and to develop new services to support the development of the VCS in Stockton and the wider Tees Valley.

#### **Contact Information**

Hugh McGouran  
Tees Valley PSG  
Wallace House  
Falcon Court  
Preston Farm  
Stockton on Tees, TS18 3TX  
[h.mcgouran@teessvalleyfounaction.org](mailto:h.mcgouran@teessvalleyfounaction.org)  
01642 260860

### **Tees Valley Rural Community Council**

**Funding: £3,700**

**Background to Organisation:** TVRCC operates across the rural areas of the Tees Valley and deliver services in an outreach capacity in community venues across the area. TVRCC ensures the rural concerns of the Tees Valley are properly accounted for in the development of services and activities.

**Proposal:** To pay for the Para legal fellowship and the IT equipment requested. The fellowship course would allow them to have a specialist in the organisation, to aid them in their work, but also support the groups which they work with in Stockton. Funding for IT equipment included laptop, screen, projector and colour printer.

### Contact Information

Doff Pollard  
Tees Valley Rural Community Council  
2a Cadcam Centre  
High Force Road  
Riverside Park  
Middlesbrough, TS2 1RH  
[dpollard@teesvalleyrcc.org.uk](mailto:dpollard@teesvalleyrcc.org.uk)  
01642 213852

### Tees Valley YMCA

**Funding: £15,407**

**Background to Organisation:** Tees Valley YMCA is based in Stockton and operates throughout the whole of the Tees Valley

**Proposal:** To fund external training department for the Tees Valley YMCA, to enable them to sell bespoke training packages to individuals, organisations and the community across Stockton on Tees and the Tees Valley. Includes refurbishment of training room and office equipment and IT equipment. The proposal referenced Stockton Borough Council's Plan for 2011 – 2013 and contribution to the Tees Valley Employability Framework. The funds will allow the organization to run specialist courses suitable for the community and organisations.

### Contact Information

Claire Hill  
Tees Valley YMCA  
14 – 16 Yarm Road  
Stockton on Tees  
TS18 3NA  
[chill@ymcateesvalley.org.uk](mailto:chill@ymcateesvalley.org.uk)  
01642 676511

### New Horizon (Teesside)

**Funding: £23,710**

**Background to Organisation:** The aim of this charity is to support people with mental health problems and their carers in the four Unitary Authorities of Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland and Stockton-on-Tees.

**Proposal:** To further develop a Community Drop in service, at a new venue, aimed at improving mental and physical well being of those living in Stockton. At the current location they are limited by time and space, by moving to a larger building based off the high street in Stockton they aim to offer a more varied and accessible services to the public, with an aim to develop the following revenue streams to ensure the future sustainability. Proposal included some building work, kitchen units and equipment, furniture, IT equipment, legal costs, staff training, branding costs incl.shopfront and counselling course equipment. To develop revenue from:-

- Café Bar
- Counselling Service
- Groups and Courses
- Room Rental

**Contact Information:**

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 Parkside Community Mental Health Resource Centre  
 Park Road North  
 Middlesbrough  
 TS1 3LF  
[Jeannie.bloem@newhorizonsteesside.com](mailto:Jeannie.bloem@newhorizonsteesside.com)  
 01642 217847

**Tees Valley Professional Services Group (PSG)**

**Funding: £14,000**

**Background to Organisation:** PSG has been established since 1996 providing local community groups with professional support at no cost.

**Proposal:** Funding to resource the design, development and implementation of two income generating products; Team Viva & Viva Angels.

Team Viva are groups of individuals from the private sector carrying out blocks of volunteering within the sector and Viva Angels is specifically trained individuals who assist in health and social care, independent living and general community isolation. The application received part funding of £14,000.

**Contact Information:**

Hugh McGouran  
 Tees Valley PSG  
 Wallace House  
 Falcon Court  
 Preston Farm  
 Stockton on Tees, TS18 3TX  
[kath@teesvalleypsg.org.uk](mailto:kath@teesvalleypsg.org.uk)  
 01642 260875

**Catalyst**

**Funding: £19,615**

**Background to Organisation:** Catalyst role within the Voluntary and Community Sector is as a connector, intermediary, 'honest broker' and catalyst. Their role is about helping the different groups to work together for the benefit of the town by bringing their different ideas and strengths to bear on a range of strategic issues and opportunities.

**Proposal:** There were four applications to the Investment Fund for assistance with quality assurance support to enable the organisations to strengthen their bidding potential for contracts/external funding. Catalyst will be responsible for sourcing the delivery and

managing a pilot project providing quality assurance support to those four organisations and two infrastructure organisations to develop the potential to continue the project if successful.

Contact Information:

Allison Agius

Catalyst

27 Yarm Road

Stockton on Tees

TS18 3NJ

Allison@catalyststockton.org

01642 733908

**VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR INVESTMENT FUND- 6 MONTH EVALUATIONS****BCT Events****Funding: £9,100**

**Background to Organisation:** The company looks to target local children and young people to improve participation in recreational activities. They aim to work with the most deprived, targeting areas such as; Port Clarence, Low Grange and Old Billingham areas. BCT Events is a Social Enterprise that is registered as a Community Interest Company Limited by shares.

**Investment Fund Award:** To support items that will build its capacity to deliver a full community led events service and become self-financing. Funding for assistance towards a professional PA system to provide the capability to stage both indoor and outdoor events. Funding was also awarded for two projectors and screens, one which will be used as a teaching aid and for small meetings and the other to use when hosting large scale events.

**What difference has the investment made?**

“The difference the funding made to the organisation was massive. It came at a time when the cost of hiring a PA system meant that we were losing money on events. Now we break even on the cost of events and make money from our catering trading arm which is then reinvested in the community arm of our CIC for social outcomes. It gave us a huge boost to move our organisation to the next level where we can compete for contracts.” Paul Burgum, BCT Events.

- Sustainability -Turnover:
  - Up over 300%, £48k in 2010/11, made that in first 4 months of 2011/12 forecast for year £175k
- Employment:
  - Workforce increased from 2.5 to 11 fte
  - 2 apprenticeships have been created for local people
- Awards:
  - Nominated for 3 Evening Gazette Community Champion Awards
- Other benefits:
  - Huge boost to relationship building creating better networks and profile
  - Netted new contracts- SBC Events Summer fayre, Catalyst Awards event management
  - They have calculated that there has been £65k of social outcomes – 55 volunteers have worked to provide an extension free of charge to support a Billingham youngster with disabilities
- Pay it forward:
  - Provided the PA system free at 3 community events and have supplied a sound engineer free of charge as well.

**Action** agreed that BCT Events would report back on their performance at the 12 month evaluation stage.

**New Horizon (Teesside)****Funding: £23,710**

**Background to Organisation:** The aim of this charity is to support people with mental health problems and their carers in the four Unitary Authorities of Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland and Stockton-on-Tees.

**Investment Fund Award:** To further develop a Community Drop in service, at a new venue, aimed at improving mental and physical well being of those living in Stockton. At the current location they are limited by time and space, by moving to a larger building based off the high street in Stockton they aim to offer a more varied and accessible services to the public, with an aim to develop the following revenue streams to ensure the future sustainability. Proposal included some building work, kitchen units and equipment, furniture, IT equipment, legal costs, staff training, branding costs incl.shopfront and counselling course equipment. To develop revenue from:-

- Café Bar
- Counselling Service
- Groups and Courses
- Room Rental

#### **What difference has the investment made?**

- Sustainability-
  - The café is paying for itself at present and also providing a good value for money meal for their clients.
  - Anger management courses lots of demand- are starting to look at business from Clifton House, Psychosis Team
  - NHS using rooms for their counselling requests-donation invoices. NHS Middlesbrough would like to increase their accommodation to 5 days a week.
  - Private patients pay £25 per session New Horizons have to pay £45 per counsellor (3 at present) a month to the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy
  - Counselling service up and running free to people not working – 4 private clients to date which they are looking to increase
  - Café-training up 10 volunteers on Food Hygiene course
- Other Benefits-
  - Clients get a meal for £1.50
  - Opened end of June/beginning of July at 3 Yarm Lane in the old Gazette Offices
  - Opening 3 nights only 4-8pm at this stage, the clients are requesting additional nights and Sunday
  - Café is open to the public 3 mornings a week (10am-3pm) – Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday – all food is home made,. The intention is to increase the opening days when staffing/volunteer levels will allow.

**Action-** The next evaluation meeting to be held at the facility on Yarm Lane.

## **A Way Out**

**Funding: £8,000**

**Background to Organisation:** A Way Out exists to reach out and support vulnerable and hard to reach women and young people, at risk from or experiencing problems of substance misuse; encouraging, empowering and supporting them to live healthy, drug free lives.

**Investment Fund Award:** Funding for update of IT and software to make the organisation more efficient and compliant with the requirements of potential commissioners, increasing ability to deliver both existing and future contracts more efficiently and to an ever increasing standard.



### What difference has the investment made?

- Sustainability-
  - the new equipment is much quicker which has increased productivity. Reporting that took upto two weeks to generate is now ready in 2 hours.
  - the new database is outcome based rather than output based.
  - An IT Strategy has been developed and they plan a move to cloud or web based reporting in years 3 and 4.
  - Income generation: Prospects are increased as the investment has demonstrably improved professionalism and A Way Out is now competing for DWP contracts. Also applying for core funding from Lloyds/TSB.
- **Action-** Case study to be supplied on the difference the investment in the equipment and software has made.

## Children's Society

**Funding: £9,000**

**Background to Organisation:** The Children's Society Tees Valley project is based in Billingham South and the service reaches out across all Stockton localities.

**Investment Fund Award:** Installation of a permanent disability ramp to improve access to service users, enable more service users to engage with activities and strengthen their application to Big Lottery Fund. The Society had been invited to apply for continuation funding from Big Lottery which had noted feedback from service users on a need for a permanent ramp to improve access. It will encourage a greater number of disabled young people and their families to benefit from the project's facilities and provide an opportunity to form new friendships and support networks.

### What difference has the investment made?

- Sustainability
  - Successfully through to the second stage of the lottery bid
  - The need for the ramp had been highlighted to the Big Lottery by service users
  - "The investment from the Council was the first mini success and we are now on a winning streak. The investment gave the Children's Society credibility as an organisation. It was the missing piece of the jigsaw which made all our projects accessible." Peter Lowe, Children's Society
  - Home Office bid was successful and funding was granted through to March next year.
- Wider benefit- A local Billingham business was awarded the contract to build the ramp.
- **Action-** Children's Society to report on the performance indicators at the 12 month point via email.

## Tees Valley Rural Community Council

**Funding: £3,700**

**Background to Organisation:** TVRCC operates across the rural areas of the Tees Valley and deliver services in an outreach capacity in community venues across the area. TVRCC ensures

the rural concerns of the Tees Valley are properly accounted for in the development of services and activities.

**Investment Fund Award:** To pay for the Para legal fellowship and the IT equipment requested. The fellowship course would allow them to have a specialist in the organisation, to aid them in their work, but also support the groups which they work with in Stockton. Funding for IT equipment included laptop, screen, projector and colour printer.

#### **What difference has the investment made?**

- Sustainability-
  - Succession planning, the award has allowed the upskilling of staff to pick up the reins in anticipation of colleagues retiring.
  - Portfolio being completed as part of para legal fellowship- developing partnership agreements, revisions memorandum
  - The IT equipment has allowed staff to take laptops out into village halls to deliver accounting packages to clients in their own facilities
  - Partnership working- has been strengthened particularly with Age Concern
- Pay it forward- TVRC are running two workshops in accounts one of which will cater for those experiencing difficulties
- Action- TVRC to report on the performance indicators at the 12 month point via email. Two scenarios/case studies from the portfolio to be included in the return.

### **Elm Tree**

**Background to organisation:** Elm Tree Community Centre

**Funding:** £650

**Investment Fund Award:** Funding for IT equipment of IT wireless filter and IT technical support to ensure that they can continue with their UK Online initiative which has been a source of income for the centre.

#### **What difference has the investment made?**

- Sustainability
  - Launched new website in July- has 2359 hits to date
  - Made £769 from UK OnLine work through going out to deliver services in sheltered accommodation.
  - Successfully bid for another laptop from UK OnLine
  - Anticipate income of an additional £900 from sign ups following a national promotional event.
- Pay it Forward- Grangefield Residents Association are setting up a UK Online Centre and Elm Tree will provide mentoring support based on their experience of setting up a centre. This to include accessing funding for upto £5k of equipment.

### **Tees Valley YMCA**

**Funding:** £15,407

**Background to Organisation:** Tees Valley YMCA is based in Stockton and operates throughout the whole of the Tees Valley

**Investment Fund Award:** To fund external training department for the Tees Valley YMCA, to enable them to sell bespoke training packages to individuals, organisations and the community across Stockton on Tees and the Tees Valley. Includes refurbishment of training room and office equipment and IT equipment. The proposal referenced Stockton Borough Council's Plan for 2011 – 2013 and contribution to the Tees Valley Employability Framework. The funds will allow the organization to run specialist courses suitable for the community and organisations.

#### **What difference has the investment made?**

The YMCA regretfully decided to return the investment money largely due to a missed window of opportunity to generate sub contract arrangements with lead providers for the DWP contract. The Manager's departure had resulted in a delay in progressing timely discussions with the lead providers.

### **Tees Valley Professional Services Group (PSG)**

**Funding:** £9,100

**Background to Organisation:** PSG has been established since 1996 providing local community groups with professional support at no cost.

**Investment Fund Award:** Funding for professional fees to cover the costs of the merger of PSG with Tees Valley Community Foundation. This merger will provide a 'one stop shop' to giving of money, time and volunteers to improve existing services to both beneficiaries and members, and to develop new services to support the development of the VCS in Stockton and the wider Tees Valley.

#### **What difference has the investment made?**

- Sustainability
  - The two charities merged 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2011.
  - £40k Savings annually- from reduced staffing costs, rent reductions and professional fees including annual account audits.
  - They are now commercially viable.
  - Increased productivity with grants now being turned around in 2 weeks whilst previously it was 3 months. They are using desktop assessments and virtual panels.
- Wider benefit
  - Voluntary and community sector organisations who apply to the Foundation for grants will now know in two weeks if they have been successful. Being able to access the funding quicker will make a big difference to grassroots organisations in the Borough.

**Action** agreed that:-

- Performance against the evaluation measures agreed as part of their terms and conditions be submitted via email at the 12 month point.

### **Tees Valley Professional Services Group (PSG)**

**Funding:** £14,000

**Background to Organisation:** PSG has been established since 1996 providing local community groups with professional support at no cost.

**Investment Fund Award:** Funding to resource the design, development and implementation of two income generating products; Team Viva & Viva Angels.

Team Viva are groups of individuals from the private sector carrying out blocks of volunteering within the sector and Viva Angels is specifically trained individuals who assist in health and social care, independent living and general community isolation. The application received part funding of £14,000.

### **What difference has the investment made?**

- Sustainability

#### **Viva Challenge Days**

- Six Team Viva Challenge days are planned to date
- VIVA Challenge days have realised an income of £800 to date, the first of the 2 days were delivered free
- There are 3 further challenges in the development stages all of which will generate income for the project.
- Profile- there have been two positive newspaper articles on the Challenge days
- *Client feedback-*
  - *“ it was a good day and it was great to be given the opportunity to give something back whilst learning new management skill”* participant from Teesside University Leadership and Management Programme.
  - *“what an absolute treat – painting this huge area takes us week, its taken Viva Challenge volunteers one day!”* Clare Pitt, Unicorn Centre Manager.

**Viva Angels-** Under development, progress at the six month point set out below:

- Extensive research and interviews with Peter Smith SBC Re-ablement Manager and Heads of Service from Stockton DAAT and treatment providers and the manager of Stockton Navigation Service (Catalyst) has concluded that a potential key element in taking this further is the creating of a training programme for volunteers.
- They have been talking with other agencies about the potential of a ‘skills shares’ training programme focusing on safeguarding issues, with more specialist knowledge if required provided by the volunteer placement. This will be taken forward during the final stages of the project.
- Marketing the Viva Angel Offer is now under consideration, creating a menu of roles that Viva Angels can provide individuals wishing to identify and pay for their own care needs from Self-Directing Payments.
- A recruitment drive for volunteers interested in this type of volunteering is planned.

**Action** agreed that:-

- Two case studies are submitted at the 12 month evaluation stage.

### **Catalyst**

**Funding:** £19,615

**Background to Organisation:** Catalyst role within the Voluntary and Community Sector is as a connector, intermediary, 'honest broker' and catalyst. Their role is about helping the different groups to work together for the benefit of the town by bringing their different ideas and strengths to bear on a range of strategic issues and opportunities.

**Investment Fund Award:** There were four applications to the Investment Fund for assistance with quality assurance support to enable the organisations to strengthen their bidding potential for contracts/external funding. Catalyst will be responsible for sourcing the delivery and managing a pilot project providing quality assurance support to those four organisations and two infrastructure organisations to develop the potential to continue the project if successful.

#### **What difference has the investment made?**

- Sustainability for the sector
  - 6 organisations of various sizes are being supported and mentored through the PQASSO level 1 QA system.
  - Level 1 will enable the organisations to gain full membership of any consortia within Stockton.
  - The PQASSO QA mark will add credibility bids for funding and contract in the future
- Wider benefit – Organisations are networking and supporting one another creating further cohesion in the sector.

The funding is used to pay for the external support and the organisations accreditation fees.

- **Action-** Catalyst to report on the performance indicators at the 12 month point via email.

#### **Blind Voice UK**

**Funding:** £7,339

**Background to Organisation:** The organisation provides services to blind and visually impaired people in Stockton borough. Blind Voice UK want blind people to have the same opportunities as sighted people. This is a key issue and through collaborative working with other organisations and stakeholders, they hope to improve services to prevent sight loss, treat eye conditions and support people living with sight loss.

**Investment Fund Award:** Funding for equipment and software to support the development of the transcription service to increase income generation. The equipment will increase capacity and considerably speed up production of CDs. Support will enable for much more investment in a wide range of other services which would increase the independence and quality of life for the blind.

Evaluation is to be forwarded to us following the manager returning from leave.