

ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO AND DECISION OF HOUSING AND WELLBEING COMMITTEE ON 24 JANUARY 2021

SUBJECT: ACTIVITIES FOR OLDER PEOPLE

REPORT AUTHOR: Robin Wickham, Group Head of Community Wellbeing
DATE: December 2021
EXTN: 01903 737835
AREA: Community Wellbeing, Services Directorate

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Age UK West Sussex, Brighton & Hove has a history of providing a range of activities and services in Arun to older members of the community. This report reviews the grant Age UK receives for Activities East of the river Arun.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that the Housing and Wellbeing Services Committee:

1. approve the grant application of £50,000 from existing budgets for one year to commence in April 2022; and
2. future funding of enhanced support for older people's activities is reviewed in 2022/23 by the Housing and Wellbeing Committee.

1. BACKGROUND:

- 1.1 Age UK West Sussex, Brighton & Hove (Age UK) plays an important role in improving the quality of life for older people in Arun, particularly those who may be socially isolated or have long term caring responsibilities. Historically, Age UK has operated the Laburnum Centre in Bognor Regis and provided a range of building based activities in Littlehampton and other locations east of the river Arun. The Council has an formal working relationship with Age UK that dates to 2006.
- 1.2 In July 2018 Cabinet resolved (C/009/230718) to change the funding arrangements with Age UK. The level of funding to Age UK at that time was £173,773 and it was agreed to split the funding to focus on the Laburnum Centre in Bognor Regis and the provision of community activities east of the river Arun.
- 1.3 A long-term lease was provided for the Laburnum Centre (15 years) and a tapering operating fee which will reduce to nil cost to the Council by 2027 and for the remainder of the lease period (2034). In return, Age UK was tasked to provide a thriving activity centre for older people in the heart of Bognor Regis.

- 1.4 The absence of a suitable building in the east of the district resulted in a different arrangement. The Council agreed to fund Age UK £80,000 per year for three years to provide a programme of community-based activity sessions for older people at suitable locations.
- 1.5 Both of these arrangements have worked well despite the restrictions placed on Age UK by the pandemic. In the periods that it was not possible to operate from buildings Age UK were agile and flexible and quickly changed their offer to provide support to anyone in need, but particularly elderly residents. In addition to regular friendly welfare calls, Age UK mobilised the kitchen at the Laburnum Centre to provide hot meals and deliveries to vulnerable older people.
- 1.6 As restrictions lifted, Age UK reopened COVID-19 compliant buildings to allow its members to meet and participate in activities. Furthermore, the United Church in Littlehampton was set up as a central base for older people, a location complements the other community support providers that operate from the centre.
- 1.7 The end of Arun's three-year funding agreement coincides with the start of a new West Sussex County Council Social Support contract that it commissioned with Age UK earlier this year. This contract includes funding to help tackle social isolation and Age UK has partnered with the Royal Voluntary Service, West Sussex Mind and Community Transport Sussex to deliver this element of the contract.
- 1.8 In light of this development, but also in recognition of the large number of older residents, Arun District Council requested Age UK to review its service locally and identify services not provided by the WSCC Social Support Contract that would benefit from continued funding from Arun District Council.
- 1.9 The proposal from Age UK for consideration by the Committee may be found in Appendix 1. In essence it offers continued physical and social activities in the east of Arun, but a focus on the most deprived communities and those less well served currently. Age UK will also use its connections to survey older people and review assets to ensure needs are met in easily accessible locations. It will also enhance and add value to the current health inequality partnership work and accords with the aim of Arun's draft 'Our Vision – A better future: Improving the wellbeing of Arun: work with other agencies and services to focus on Arun's areas of greatest deprivation, inequality and to encourage healthy and active lifestyles'.
- 1.10 The proposal concludes with Age UK's vision:

'to be the expert voice to go to when addressing issues, challenges or opportunities for older people and be the trusted partner to help ensure Arun is an amazing place to grow old. This wider work means making sure communities of Arun are age friendly – from practical steps such as benches, toilets, drop kerbs and good transport links, to ensuring recruitment is not age discriminatory as well as providing good retirement advice, or bereavement support so that older people continue to be valued and active parts of the local community'.
- 1.11 Age UK West Sussex, Brighton & Hove has requested a grant of £50,000 from existing budgets to provide enhanced support for older people in Arun.

2. PROPOSAL(S):		
2.1 It is proposed that the Housing and Wellbeing Services Committee approve the grant application of £50,000 for one year to commence in April 2022.		
2.2 The grant is reviewed in 2022/23.		
3. OPTIONS:		
3.1 To support the recommendation as set out in the report (preferred option); or		
3.2 Not to support the recommendation.		
4. CONSULTATION:		
Has consultation been undertaken with:	YES	NO
Relevant Town/Parish Council		✓
Relevant District Ward Councillors		✓
Other groups/persons (please specify)		✓
5. ARE THERE ANY IMPLICATIONS IN RELATION TO THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL POLICIES: (Explain in more detail at 6 below)	YES	NO
Financial	✓	
Legal	✓	
Human Rights/Equality Impact Assessment		✓
Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime & Disorder Act		✓
Sustainability		✓
Asset Management/Property/Land		✓
Technology		✓
Other (please explain)		
6. IMPLICATIONS:		
Financial – Grant funding		
Legal – A service level agreement will be required to include service outcome measures.		

7. REASON FOR THE DECISION:
To provide a quality service for older people in Arun.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS:
Overview Select Committee Report (Jan 2015)
Cabinet Decision C/037/071215
Cabinet Decision C/035/121216

Cabinet Decision [C/047/120218](#)

Cabinet Decision [C/009/230718](#)

[Individual Cabinet Member decision April 2019](#)

Further Information: [Age UK West Sussex Website](#)

Appendix 1

[Age UK West Sussex, Brighton & Hove Funding Proposal](#)

[Littlehampton Timetable](#)