

Portfolio Holder Decision

Report Title: Social Franchise Award Round 6 – Connected Communities Centres

Portfolio Holder: Mick Warren – Cabinet Member for Communities

Senior Officer: Mark Palethorpe – Acting Executive Director for People

1. Report Summary

1.1. This report is to determine the award of social franchisee status to five applicants which meet the criteria approved by Cheshire East Council.

1.2. The report covers the sixth round of grants for 2019/20 in line with Cheshire East Council's revised Social Franchise Model. There are a total of 4 grants recommended to be awarded.

2. Recommendation/s

2.1. To award the Connected Communities Centre status to the following venues:

- Ettiley Heath Methodist Church, Sandbach Ettiley Heath and Wheelock
- Knutsford Community Hospital, Knutsford
- Sandbach Methodist Church, Sandbach Town
- Union Street Community Centre, Sandbach Heath and East
- Wilmslow Library, Wilmslow East

2.2. To award a grant of a maximum overall amount of £10,000 over 2 years to reserve the use of facilities for the delivery of early intervention and prevention services between the following venues: Ettiley Heath Methodist Church, Sandbach Methodist Church and Union Street Community Centre who between them will receive £5,000, Knutsford Community Hospital will receive £5,000 and Wilmslow Library will not receive any grant monies. The grants will be paid in a maximum of four instalments over two years (in 6

month intervals), each payment in advance e.g. if the grant is awarded in June 2019 it will run until June 2021.

2.3.To withdraw the Social Franchise Status offer to TS Ambuscade and Knutsford Town Hall who for their own reasons no longer wish to be part of the Connected Communities Centre initiative.

3. Reasons for Recommendation/s

3.1.The venues stated in 2.1, with support from their local network / neighbourhood partnerships, have agreed to become a Connected Communities Centre and adhere to the criteria set out in the revised social franchise model (Appendix 1).

3.2.The way in which the individual grants are spent will be determined by the local partnership to ensure that local priorities are being tackled through the most appropriate and effective early intervention and prevention services available.

3.3.In Sandbach to promote collaborative working between organisations the local neighbourhood partnership decided the funding allocation of £5,000 for one Connected Communities Centres (across Sandbach), should be split between three franchisee applicants, all three applicants have agreed a percentage split and if approved will receive a share of the £5,000 each over 2 years (Ettiley Heath Methodist Church, Sandbach Methodist Church and Union Street Community Centre).

3.4.TS Ambuscade and Knutsford Town Hall have decided not to pursue in becoming a Connected Communities Centres. This has provided the opportunity to approach other venues in those areas. Chance Changing Lives have become a Connected Communities Centre in Crewe East in replacement of TS Ambuscade and it is proposed that Knutsford Community Hospital becomes a Connected Communities Centre for Knutsford in replacement for Knutsford Town Hall. Knutsford Community Hospital will receive the full allocation of £5,000 over the two years.

4. Other Options Considered

4.1.The proposed organisations/venues have been selected by local neighbourhood partnerships made up of key stakeholders in that locality. No other appropriate venues within these localities to date have applied to be considered for franchise status. An evaluation process is in place if more than one organisation expresses interest in becoming a Connected Communities Centre within an identified priority location (Appendix 1, page 8).

Background

- 4.2. The Cabinet Member for Communities approved a pilot social franchise model for Community Hubs on the 20th July 2015. A model was adopted and monitored for development.
- 4.3. Cabinet agreed to a set of changes based on learning from the pilot franchise model in the Connected to Services report on 8th March 2017.
- 4.4. Detailed amendments to the franchise model were then approved by the portfolio holder for Finance and Communities on 11th July 2017.
- 4.5. The venues that have been agreed to become Connected Communities Centres to date are as follows:

Venue	Location
Audlem Public Hall	Audlem
Bridgend Centre	Bollington
St Barnabas Church	Crewe Central
The Welcome Café	Knutsford, Longridge
Jubilee House	Crewe Central
St Johns Church	Macclesfield, Weston and Ivy
Beechmere Extra care Village	Crewe North and St Barnabas
The Georges Community Centre	Crewe North and St Barnabas
St Andrews Parish Hall	Crewe South
Belong	Crewe South
Poynton Civic Hall	Poynton
Church of the Resurrection	Broken Cross and Upton Priory
Green in the Corner Community Café	Macclesfield, Hurdsfield
Lighthouse Centre	Crewe West
Sherbourne Bungalows	Crewe East
St Barnabas Church	Macclesfield South
United Reformed Church	Wilmslow West & Chorley
United Reformed Church	Macclesfield Central
Open Arms	Wilmslow Dean Row
Oakmere Extra Care Housing	Handforth
Holmes Chapel Library	Holmes Chapel
Everybody Leisure Community Centre	Dane Valley
Goostrey Village Hall	Dane Valley
Bromley Farm Community Development Trust	Congleton East
Bromley Farm Wellbeing Hub	Congleton East
Ruby's Fund	Congleton East
The Old Saw Mill	Congleton West
Booth Lane Methodist Church	Middlewich, Cledford
Changing Lives Community Centre	Crewe East
Stapley Village Hall,	Nantwich North & Stapley
Victoria Hall	Middlewich Town

Alsager Library	Alsager
Middlewich Library	Middlewich Town
Nantwich Library	Nantwich
Sandbach Library	Sandbach Town

4.6. The following venues have agreed to adhere to all of the criteria, offer and expectations and completed applications set out in Appendix 1:

- Ettiley Heath Methodist Church, Sandbach Ettiley Heath and Wheelock
- Knutsford Community Hospital, Knutsford
- Sandbach Methodist Church, Sandbach Town
- Union Street Community Centre, Sandbach Heath and East
- Wilmslow Library, Wilmslow East

4.7. The grants are for 2 years only and within that time the Council will be supporting the Connected Communities Centres to establish sustainable funds and activities to continue to provide local residents with a range of priority tackling services.

4.8. **About the venues:**

Ettiley Heath Methodist Church

Located in Ettiley Heath in the west Sandbach area, this church is ideally located to offer accessible services to residents outside of the centre of Sandbach Town. The centre is open to be used by and provides a welcoming environment to the whole community. The church hosts a variety of community groups and is keen to become a Connected Communities Centre to support the provision of more services relevant to the needs of the local community and to address the priorities identified by the Sandbach Connected Communities. As a venue located on the edge of a town, the centre will ensure the Sandbach Connected Communities is inclusive to all and extends further than the central more populated areas. Becoming a Connected Communities Centre will facilitate the opportunity for increased activity and accessible sign posting to services and information.

Knutsford Community Hospital

Knutsford whilst having high levels of affluence also has estates of deprivation within its footprint with many of the residents living in social housing.

Social isolation has been identified by the Longridge and Shaw Heath Partnership as one of their priorities. Representatives from the Town Council, along with other statutory agencies and the Voluntary, Faith and

Community Sector are among those who are involved in the Partnership. The partnership is keen and looking forward to joining with the town centre and working together collectively to address issues. Work has already commenced on establishing a leg clinic.

Knutsford Community Hospital is ideally situated in the Town Centre, has a staffed reception and provides many services to the community. It is ideally situated next to a supermarket, and close to the library. The building is user friendly for the whole community and a room has been identified which could be used to deliver additional services from, providing the opportunity to address the priorities of the Partnership and the needs of the residents. This building becoming a Connected Communities Centre highlights the aligning of work between Connected Communities and Care Communities in the Knutsford area.

Sandbach Methodist Church

The Wesley Centre is a well used, centrally located venue. They aim to prevent social isolation especially with disadvantaged groups and want their venue to be a place where:-

- Everyone finds a welcome
- People can find help and support
- People can learn life skills
- Early intervention services are facilitated to help vulnerable people and those with various health issues
- Groups with similar problems can share experience and support

They want to forge stronger links with other organisations in Sandbach and the surrounding area and tailor their services to local need by working with Cheshire East Council and partners in the neighbourhood to identify services which are lacking at present and encourage groups to provide these services from their premises.

They are an accessible building with good facilities, the Wesley centre has the desire to broaden the services they provide and sees the opportunity to do this being strengthened by becoming a Connected Communities Centre

Union Street Community Centre – Dane Housing –

Located in the area to the south of Sandbach Town, Union St Community Centre was created and developed with local residents and stakeholders; it has cooperative working at its core so it recognises the importance of working collectively to help bring the maximum benefits to local residents. Union Street Community Centre is:-

- Passionate about developing and maintaining a strong partnership with the Connected Communities initiative, one which benefits both parties
- Keen to raise the profile of the centre to ensure more local residents can be supported
- Passionate about working collaboratively with the Sandbach Connected Communities to ensure key priorities are being addressed via the centre.
- Keen to ensure residents can access wider support through the Live Well resource.
- Keen to enable priority tackling services to be delivered via a place based approach, enhancing how the centre can support local residents in an accessible way

The centre utilises its profiling data to assess what activities and projects are likely to benefit local residents, it maps the local offer to ensure duplication is avoided, furthermore, intelligence and partnerships with a range of key support providers ensures that targeted services are delivered to those who most need it. The centre is underpinned by Plus Dane Housing's Landlord Plus strategy, this strategy has a natural synergy to the Connected Communities strategy so this provides a great collective foundation to build upon.

Wilmslow Library

Wilmslow library is situated in the centre of the towns and with good parking available, and ideally located to serve the needs of each local community. The library has accessible meeting rooms with kitchens and toilet facilities. The meeting rooms are currently well used by community groups but do have capacity for more usage and service delivery. The library is staffed by friendly and welcoming personnel who are committed to enhancing the health and wellbeing of local residents.

A library is a neutral venue, easy to find, well used, open to all and is recognised as a safe, well-maintained space and is utilised and enjoyed by the whole age demographic. Residents are using the libraries for far more than traditional library services and becoming a Connected Communities Centre in Wilmslow they would attract more people to the library and help make even more effective use of the information and resources available for the benefit of the community as a whole. The libraries would not receive any grant funding as part of this initiative.

5. Implications of the Recommendations

5.1. Legal Implications

5.1.1. The Council has the power to award grants to organisations using its general power of competence in section 1 of the Localism Act 2011. In exercising the power the Council must satisfy its public law duties. In essence this means that in making the decision the Council must have taken into account only relevant considerations, followed procedural requirements, acted for proper motives and not acted unreasonably. An application process is a clear statement of the criteria that the Council is applying and is essential if the Council is to defend any challenge to its decision making process.

5.1.2. Franchises and grants to reserve the use of facilities for the delivery of early intervention and prevention services are being awarded to defined organisations following an application process and against set criteria. By entering into a formal grant agreement with the Council the organisations activity can be monitored and required to report back to the Council upon their compliance with the franchise requirements and expenditure of the grant. The decision making process was delegated to the Portfolio Holder in order to ensure that decisions can be made expeditiously and at the appropriate level.

5.1.3. Grant funding to organisations based on the application of the Council's published scheme satisfies the Council's public law duties.

5.2. Finance Implications

5.2.1. The Connected Community Centres were previously funded via the "Community Investment ear marked reserve"; recorded on the Public Health and Communities Team Plan.

5.2.2. This funding will now come from the Public Health ringfenced budget.

5.2.3. This proposal will complete the plan to establish 30 Connected Communities Centres. This was approved as part of the Connected Communities Strategy by Cabinet on 8th November 2016.

5.2.4. The cost of the proposal is £10,000 and is affordable in relation to the original plan to establish 30 centres with a start up grant of £5,000 each.

5.3. Policy Implications

5.3.1. Procurement policies will be adhered too in relation to the financial payment.

5.4. Equality Implications

5.4.1. An Equality Impact Assessment is not required for this report.

5.5. Human Resources Implications

5.5.1. No HR implications are expected

5.6. Risk Management Implications

5.6.1. All risks will be mitigated through continuous monitoring of the franchise model.

5.7. Rural Communities Implications

5.7.1. Not all rural areas can be offered this support as the resource needs to concentrate initially on the in Connected Communities identified priority locations including the top 25% areas of deprivation.

5.8. Implications for Children & Young People/Cared for Children

5.8.1. The five proposed Connected Communities Centres will be the flagship venues for public health service delivery in communities. The consideration of these venues in future commissioned contracts as delivery points to achieve outcomes will be of benefit to local hard to reach residents, achieving a greater reach and assisting with outcomes for the commissioned providers.

5.9. Public Health Implications

5.9.1. The five proposed Connected Communities Centres will be the flagship venues for public health service delivery in communities. The consideration of these venues in future commissioned contracts as delivery points to achieve outcomes will be of benefit to local hard to reach residents, achieving a greater reach and assisting with outcomes for the commissioned providers.

5.10. Climate Change Implications

5.10.1. By delivering services more locally in targetted neighbourhoods, this should require less people to travel for early intervention services.

6. Ward Members Affected

6.1. Sandbach Ettiley Heath and Wheelock, Knutsford, Sandbach Town, Sandbach Heath and East and Wilmslow East.

7. Access to Information

7.1. All further information associated with this initiative can be found here:
https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/council_and_democracy/connected-communities/connected-communities.aspx

8. Contact Information

8.1. Any questions relating to this report should be directed to the following officer:

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