



Monitoring Form – Voluntary Organisation Support Grant

As part of your application to the Council's Voluntary Organisation Support grant, you agreed that in the first twelve months of funding, your organisation would meet the achievements detailed below.

Part of the application process was an agreement to provide evidence in relation to what you are doing to achieve these targets. We therefore require you to complete this simple monitoring form on a quarterly basis. The sheets are to be returned to us no later than ten days after the end of the following periods:

Q1 April – June 2017

Q2 July – September 2017

Q3 October – December 2017

Q4 January – March 2018

Please demonstrate how you are achieving:-

Development of a 1 year pilot scheme to create a new Development Officer Post, 18 hours part time for which CVSU will be seeking external funding and is separate to the funding requested by UDC. The anticipated overall cost for this role would be £18500.

We are now at the stage of commencing the implementation stage of this new project of Community Builder in Uttlesford. We have been working hard to convince the local Primary Care Teams and WE CCG that this different and new approach would be worth investing in to support their objectives under the Transformation agenda. As it will dovetail so well with the existing Care Navigator scheme that exists in West Essex. The purpose of a Community Builder will be to operate distinctly within a community setting with the intention of developing a whole system approach and really understanding what that community is seeking. One of its primary aims will be to reduce the direct pressures upon the Primary Care teams by working with the ever increasing Frail Elderly in these communities who so often are struggling with the effects of loneliness and Isolation and the social/emotional issues linked to them, helping them to see that there is an alternative to seeing their GP, within their communities. In addition we will educate and raise awareness of what community Building and self-management is, through the local Community Builder Volunteers we will be training and through other activities such as setting up new groups/initiatives we will undertake in these communities to increase connectedness and companionate neighbour style culture. Operationally this new project will commence in early February 2018. We are also very pleased to have secured Prof Steve Broome to conduct the evaluation of the project and will share his findings. Our additional intention is that this project will link strongly with the UDC Community Action Zone project and help develop its legacy.

Please demonstrate how you are achieving:-

Approach key businesses and gain their commitment to connect with the voluntary and community sector, in order to enable a Business forum two way skill and resource exchange

to become established in the district.

We have in partnership with Volunteer Uttlesford developed the Uttlesford Business Exchange Forum. We held a very successful launch event on the 10th March 2017 at UDC, to which 85+ people attended. We invited key note speakers and the audience was made up of a cross section of the local Voluntary sector and Businesses. We received very positive feedback about the aims and purpose of the Forum. We then developed a suitable website that could host the skills and resource traffic, which is now launched and is active. We also intended to hold 4 network Forum events per year, in order that local businesses and VCS Groups attend. We have held the first one of these on the 6th of July 2017 at the Stansted Aerozone. We again were very pleased with the level of engagement. We now have some significant local business organisations as members along with a number of local Voluntary Sector groups. Already there are offers of free resources and skills registered on the new website, some of which have been taken up by the local Voluntary Sector. We have a further 2 network Forum events arranged in the early part of 2018 and are conducting outreach to local businesses and Voluntary Sector organisations in order to develop the Forum further and support its sustained growth.

We have now recruited a P/T member of staff who will support the Social Media aspects of this project. We have also been proactive in visiting a number of Dunmow businesses to explain the benefits of joining the Uttlesford Business Exchange Forum. We will be conducting similar approaches in other areas of the district in order to increase membership. We are also connecting with the Chamber of Commerce, the Women in Business Group Stansted and Rotary Clubs across the district. Overall we are pleased with this project activity and growth to date.

Please demonstrate how you are achieving:-

Develop a scheme that can be piloted for one year, creating a post of Gardening Coordinator, linked to a team of Gardening volunteers sourced via Volunteer Uttlesford. CVSU will seek separate external funding for this 3 day a week role, with an anticipated overall initial cost of £25,000.

We have been working hard to develop this project that will support the elderly, disabled and vulnerable residents in Uttlesford reclaim unmanaged gardens and establish the associated role of Community Gardening Coordinator.

I am pleased to say that we have now secured sufficient funds to be able to start this much needed project in the Uttlesford district, and are in the process of recruiting to the role of Gardening Coordinator. This role will be a 4 or 5 day a week resource enabling us to provide even more of a service than previously anticipated. In addition we will recruit local volunteers, Time Bank volunteers and make use of the Restorative Justice scheme to support the delivery of the project. This will be achieved through the partnership we have established with Volunteer Uttlesford, with whom we have also combined some funding to achieve these aims and with the OPFCC who are supporting us liaise with their Restorative Justice lead. We have been extremely well supported by the CSP and H&W Groups at UDC as well as the CIF and Local Services funds.

This project will be called the 'Green Matters' Community Gardening project and will operate free of charge district wide focusing on the residents who are in the category of elderly, vulnerable and disabled. Our research has shown that there is a high demand for such a service, especially for people who once managed and enjoyed their garden, but due to ill health, bereavement or other reasons has lost control of their gardens. This has then impacted upon their wellbeing or has caused other social or health conditions to develop. In addition it can increase a sense of the fear of crime, be a target for crime, attract anti-social behaviour and cause a community to feel down at heel thus reducing the strength of

communities. The inability to access a garden will also have an effect upon loneliness and isolation and so by opening up the possibilities of using a garden again this feeling and associated conditions can be reduced.

We will be operational by the end of February 2018 and are currently recruiting and developing the implementation plan. This project will be evaluated and we will share its findings.

In addition, can you please supply us, by the end of May, with quarterly and yearly targets so your achievements can be monitored and reported to Councillors throughout the year. As your achievements will be monitored in a formal manner, can you please ensure you meet the reporting deadlines stated above. Failure to do this may jeopardise further funding opportunities for your organisation.

Completed by:

Name: Clive Emmett _____

Date: 9th January 2018 _____

Position in organisation: Chief Officer _____

Signed : Clive Emmett _____