

Members Recovery Workshop 26th February 2021

Comments following presentation at Community workshop:

Cllr Linda Petherick asked for clarification around the Development of a Food Network.

Amanda explained that this is a DCC initiative stemming from the first lockdown where people were struggling to access food. The objective of the initiative is to link together community larders and food banks to provide more support at ground level and improve co-ordination across the sector, i.e. donations and distribution. Amanda is attending a meeting next week and will feed back with further detail following this meeting.

Cllr Linda Petherick enquired whether the funding to CVS will continue at the same level as previously, given that workload at CAB has tripled.

Amanda confirmed that a one year continuation of funding at the existing level for organisations that we already have an agreement with has been approved in the Council budget. There is no additional funding available due to the financial challenge of maintaining core services and the gap in the budget.

Additional funding has been secured from the Hardship Fund monies; £50k has been allocated for short term projects where CVS organisations can bid for a maximum of £10,000 to meet at least one the identified gaps of Digital Access, Reducing Loneliness or Improving Mental Health. Eleven applications have been received and scoring is taking place on Tuesday.

Tony noted that whilst CAB have reported an increase in demand they have attracted funding from alternative sources to provide bespoke services such as a legal advocate, and are grateful to continue to receive the current level of funding from TDC.

Cllr Linda Petherick noted that when the pandemic is over people's needs will be different to now. The furlough scheme will cease and many people may not have jobs to go back to, will there be a transition period of support.

Amanda responded that financial support has been centrally funded during the pandemic and that the furlough scheme has been modified throughout the process. There has been no indication as yet about how the transition period will be managed and it may be different dependant on sector. We are waiting on further guidance at this stage.

Cllr Parker-Khan noted that the four proposed recovery project areas hit the mark, but raised a question about rural representation, where there may be pockets of

hidden deprivation, at the Community Recovery Forum. Cllr Parker-Khan will send the details of Moorland Community Care to Cllr Wrigley.

Cllr John Petherick noted that Cofton Country Park have been inundated by enquiries this week following the Prime Minister's announcement and that he believes tourism will be a springboard to recovery on the horizon.