

SALISBURY CITY COUNCIL

Report

Subject : Community Development Grant Monitoring Report
Committee : Events, Markets and Grants Subcommittee
Date : 29 January 2024
Author : Sarah Gregson, Communities Manager

1. Report Summary

- 1.1. This report pertains to the monitoring of
 - 1.1.1. Year 1 of a 3 Year Medium Grant to Silver Salisbury
 - 1.1.2. The end of project for the Small Grant to Read Easy
- 1.2. This report asks the Subcommittee to consider the monitoring reports and vote on the approval of year 2 of this three year grant.

2. Background

- 2.1. Silver Salisbury were awarded a grant of £3000 per year for 3 years in September 2022.
- 2.2. Read Easy were awarded £637 on September 2022.
- 2.3. Both grants were received by the organisation in late October 2022 and thereby the project reporting periods run from November 2022 to November 2023.

3. Silver Salisbury Project Overview

- 3.1. Silver Salisbury's Project was to engage outreach workers from within specific communities to deliver Salisbury minority group outreach.
- 3.2. Its main aims were to
 - 3.2.1. To actively engage with BAME and other minority communities in Salisbury and consult with them how they might participate with other older people's activities.
 - 3.2.2. To increase our understanding of marginalised communities with a focus on LGBTQ
 - 3.2.3. By the end of year 3, to have established firm relationships with at least 3 communities and established contact with three more evidenced in our brochures/newsletters.
- 3.3. Its objectives against SCC Community Priorities were
 - 3.3.1. Working to celebrate and better understand marginalised communities
 - 3.3.2. Improving People's Wellbeing.
 - 3.3.3. Bringing Communities Together
 - 3.3.4. Supporting People on Low Incomes

4. Read Easy Project Overview

- 4.1. Read Easy's Project was to deliver phase 1 of their action plan to set up Read Easy as a group coaching individual adults so they can improve their literacy skills, mental health & self-confidence. This requires a well organised team ensuring that everything is in place and preparation is on target.
- 4.2. This application was in support of
 - 4.2.1. Teaching manuals

- 4.2.2. Reading Coach Training for 2 coaches
- 4.2.3. Printing and publicity materials -
- 4.2.4. Hospitality at training events and meetings
- 4.2.5. Banking Fees
- 4.2.6. TOTAL: 637.00

4.3. Its main aims were...

- 4.3.1. Train two tutors to deliver one to one support to residents.
- 4.3.2. To recruit two additional management team members
- 4.3.3. To research further into need in rural areas
- 4.3.4. To deliver to 12 referrals in Salisbury

4.4. Its Though small grants are not asked to set aims against community priorities this application speaks to two.

- 4.4.1. Better understanding marginalised groups
- 4.4.2. Improving Peoples wellbeing

5. Reporting Outcomes Silver Salisbury

- 5.1. Much of the work in the first half of year 1 for this project was taken in recruiting the right coordinator from within the communities targeted for outreach.
- 5.2. **Eastern European Community Outreach** – Silver Salisbury accept that their work with Eastern European Communities has not met their own expectation due to struggling to appoint an outreach worker. One outreach worker was engaged for a short period. The learning in this year has been in understanding the challenges experiences by European newcomers to this city and this will inform the recruitment of a coordinator in year 2.
- 5.3. Ukrainian and Polish social afternoons & coffee events have been held bringing those communities together, this will be developed upon in year 2 form 10 key contacts.
- 5.4. 40 older members of the local Eastern European Community Engaged with Silver Salisbury for the first time this year.
- 5.5. **LGBTQ Community Outreach**– Silver Salisbury have engaged a coordinator for this area who has undertaken a consultation with several key groups across the city. They are now developing, and action plan based on this evidence for year 2.
- 5.6. Silver Salisbury has recruited a member of the LGBTQ community to their board of Trustees as a result of this year's work which will contribute to diverse strategic thinking in year 2 and 3 of this project.
- 5.7. An LGBTQ promotion flyer was produces resulting a range of opportunities to signpost people to safe and welcoming spaces and activities plus three phone calls for advice and signposting.
- 5.8. The LGBTQ work in year two will be delivered using an approach tested in this year, forming part of the general programme of activities but with the coordinator's role being promoted as a point of contact to proactively welcome the LGBTQ community into events and activities across the board.
- 5.9. Numbers of beneficiaries is difficult to monitor in the LGBTQ outreach project as it has evolved as many do not identify themselves to workers. 5 specific groups have been engaged.
- 5.10. Two coffee morning Drop ins have been hosted at the library with dates for three more in the first three months of 2024.
- 5.11. Silver Salisbury has been awarded match funding to expand the programme in year 2.
- 5.12. The diversity of Silver Salisbury's main festival programme has increased in diversity as a result of this work.

- 5.13. All Silver Salisbury Activities are free or low-cost enabling people from specific communities to access the work regardless of financial situation.
- 5.14. By the official reporting date of November 2023 £2189 of the £3000 grant was spent with a delay due to time taken to recruit. The remaining £898.10 is allocated to expenditure on the planned coordinator hours by March 2024
- 5.15. The SCC Communities Manager notes that Silver Salisbury have worked flexibly to overcome the challenges in recruiting. Consequently, the project delivery period has effectively been delayed by 3 months.

6. Reporting Outcomes Read Easy

- 6.1. Volunteer training and meetings took place at the Bemerton Heath Centre as planned.
- 6.2. Management team members were recruited.
- 6.3. Research into need in rural areas has been undertaken.
- 6.4. To date 11 of the planned 12 referrals have been accepted but a 12th is currently in process.
- 6.5. A major learning point for the group this year has been that the length of time it takes to get a referred person to the point of 1 to 1 learning sessions is considerable.
- 6.6. SCC Communities Manager notes that testimonials on the wellbeing impacts from learners show a significant impact in the following areas.
 - 6.6.1. Confidence
 - 6.6.2. Plans to seek work.
 - 6.6.3. Feeling valued and listened to
 - 6.6.4. Skill levels
 - 6.6.5. Parenting Confidence
 - 6.6.6. Positive relationship building
- 6.7. The Grant was spent as planned.
- 6.8. Read Easy Southern Wiltshire have been enabled, by this first grant, to establish themselves in Salisbury, create and prove processes and approaches and have served their learners incredibly well. They are now in a strong position to see other funding to continue their work in Salisbury and expand into Rural surrounding areas. They have already engaged 2 new volunteer coordinators to support them in this work.

7. Recommendations

- 7.1. To note the monitoring outcomes of the Read Easy project.
- 7.2. To approve Year 2 of the three-year Medium Grant to Silver Salisbury for distribution in March 2024 to reflect the delay to project delivery due to recruiting delays and personnel changes.

8. Wards Affected: All Wards

9. Background papers:

- 9.1. Appendix 1 – Grants Budget Overview - Jan 2024

10. Implications:

- 10.1. **Financial:** Within agreed budget
- 10.2. **Legal:** None in relation to this report.

- 10.3. **Personnel:** None in relation to this report
- 10.4. **Environmental Impact:** None in relation to this report
- 10.5. **Equalities Impact Statement:** Equalities policy or statements required by all grant holders