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Community Recovery Plans – Supporting the Community and Voluntary Sector

The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has far reaching consequences for health and our economy. Locally, the voluntary and community sector plays a vital role in supporting communities and individuals during and after emergencies. The sector will continue to have a vital role as part of a multi-agency approach as we respond to the pandemic.

This funding has been provided to Councils from the Voluntary & Community Division (VCD) of the Department for Communities (DFC) via the Community Support Programme. It is provided to assist councils support voluntary and community organisations which are undertaking actions in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

The funding must align to the Community Support Programme objectives and support actions in line with the following interventions:

- **Financial** - to those on low income and at risk due to financial stress.
- **Food** - access to food (whether due to cost or availability) for those most in need.
- **Connectivity** - to those living alone or in rural and border areas that are likely to experience greater challenges in accessing services.

The funding should also be targeted where possible in line with the Communities Minister's key priorities to target objective need, tackle poverty and embed a rights based approach. Should further COVID-19 Community Support Fund funding be required this will be subject to evidence of need, funding available to the Department, and in the context of wider priorities. A further assessment of the COVID-19 Community Support Fund's impact and future needs will be carried out by DFC at the end of November 2020.



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A co-design approach is key to the development of a recovery plan to assist in addressing the needs identified within each of the 7 DEAs and Strabane Town. The Community & Voluntary Sector is a critical partner and is best placed to provide local knowledge on issues faced within each of the local community planning areas. The Local Community Growth Partnership structures in each of the DEAs has provided valuable in the early response and continues to be valuable in the planned recovery of the sector and in addressing the needs that have emerged from the pandemic with our communities.

Community Sector Recovery Action Plan – Community Response in dealing with COVID-19 Challenges

DEA / Local Community Planning Area	Strabane Town
Need - Identified Pillar within the Local Community Plan (i.e. Social, Economic, Environmental pillar).	Social Pillar – Community recovery plan in dealing with COVID-19 challenges – finding ways to deal with existing needs and new needs as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic.
Need - Identified Theme within the Local Community Plan (I.E Community Development, Health & Well-Being, C&YP, Education & Skills etc.	Health and Wellbeing
Project Management - Lead Partner	Strabane District Caring Services
Project Management - Partner Organisations (if applicable)	Strabane Against Covid-19 (STAC-19) partner groups https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Community-Organization/Strabane-Together-Against-Covid-19-105279957789751/
Project Management – Delivery mechanisms	Deliver actions that will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support people's emotional well-being/resilience through provision of 1:1 counselling/psychotherapy and other therapeutic interventions to deal with increased low mood/anxiety/depression and bereavement (to be delivered by Koram Centre, Strabane Health Improvement Project and partner organisations). • Provide access to hardware, software for pupils attending Holy Cross College/Strabane Academy



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	<p>who require access to digital technology for remote learning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist community organisations to grow their digital capabilities to ensure continuation of their operations and service delivery.
Budget	£20,000
Title of Programme	Strabane Town Community Sector COVID-19 Recovery Plan
Administration Lead (10% If Required)	To be determined. Please note any administrative costs incurred may lead to adjustments to the estimated cost of activities outlined in the below action plan

Please give an outline of the key objectives of the proposed project / initiative

- Assist the C&V Sector to recover - this may include making operational changes (real life and virtual) necessitated by the Coronavirus pandemic
- Ensure a full range of supports are made available to those who remain most vulnerable to the impacts of COVID-19 within our communities
In line with the Community Support Programme Objectives;
 - Financial** - to those on low income and at risk due to financial stress
 - Food** - access to food (whether due to cost or availability) for those most in need.
 - Connectivity** - to those living alone or in rural and border areas that are likely to experience greater challenges in accessing services

This will be implemented by the Action Plan below:



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Activity Description	Required materials/resources	OUTCOMES	MONITORING & EVALUATION	Costs £
<p>Assist community organisations to make operational changes necessitated by the Coronavirus pandemic.</p> <p>COVID-19 has challenged community organisations to chart a new path forward which will change the spatial/physical sphere of work and how services are delivered. The COVID-19 pandemic has clearly accelerated the use of technology and consequently community groups need to improve their technology infrastructure to ensure continuation of their operations and service delivery.</p> <p>Community organisations will be assisted to grow their digital capabilities. This will involve acquiring tools/equipment such as laptops, tablets, video calling technology/software etc.</p>	<p>Laptops, tablets; webcams; projectors/screens; video hosting platforms.</p>	<p>Continuation/improvement of community services.</p>	<p>No. of community groups in receipt of assistance</p> <p>No. of people receiving a service from community groups</p> <p>Knowledge/quality of life questionnaires (baseline and follow up)</p> <p>Good practice – what has worked well</p> <p>Problems encountered and solutions found</p> <p>An equipment inventory will be kept on all equipment purchased and remain in the ownership of the Community Group / Centre(s).</p>	<p>6000.00</p>



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<p>Ensure a full range of supports are made available to those who remain most vulnerable to the impacts of COVID-19.</p> <p><u>Supporting people's emotional well-being and resilience</u></p> <p>Additional support will be required to deliver services for children & young people and adults as demand will increase from both groups. This will involve the provision of a range of therapeutic interventions including meditation/mindfulness/yoga and other programmes, befriending and listening ear services, 1:1 counselling/psychotherapy to deal with bereavement, increased low mood/depression as a result of financial as well as stress/anxiety as people attempt to adapt to the 'new normal'(to be delivered by Koram Centre, Strabane Health Improvement Project and partner organisations).</p>	<p>Counselling/Psychotherapy support for adults.</p> <p>Counselling/Psychotherapy/Art Therapy support for children and young people</p> <p>Bereavement Group Support</p> <p>Programme facilitators</p> <p>Volunteer expenses</p>	<p>Continuation/improvement of community services and support services for children, young people and their families</p>	<p>No. of people receiving a service from community groups</p> <p>Knowledge/CORS Questionnaires (baseline and follow up)</p> <p>Good practice – what has worked well</p> <p>Problems encountered and solutions found</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">9000.00</p>
<p><u>Promoting Digital Inclusion - ensure better access to hardware, software, digital content</u></p> <p>The reliance on technology to provide home schooling has highlighted the digital divide. As school learning is likely to be a mixture of class based and remote learning, the digital divide will further increase educational</p>	<p>25 x Notebooks/Laptops</p>	<p>More effective digital learning for pupils who have limited access to digital technologies</p>	<p>No. of pupils in receipt of support</p> <p>Time pupils spend on the Internet (baseline and follow up questionnaires)</p> <p>Number of assignments</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">5000.00</p>



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<p>inequalities, limiting the potential of children to fully realise their skills and talents.</p> <p>Returning back to school will require a whole community response that supports schools and parents in their endeavours to provide the best possible educational environment and experience for children. In this regard, the NR/Community Growth Partnership has consulted with the Learning Mentor for Holy Cross College and Strabane Academy who has identified pupils who require access to digital technology to enable remote learning through platforms such as Google Classroom.</p> <p>In partnership with schools and the local community and voluntary sector, the NR/Community Growth Partnership proposes to provide hardware, software, digital content for post primary pupils who require access to digital technology.</p>			<p>completed (baseline and follow up questionnaires)</p> <p>Good practice – what has worked well</p> <p>Problems encountered and solutions found</p> <p>An equipment inventory will be kept on all equipment purchased and remain in the ownership of the Community Group / Centre(s).</p>	
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Additional Specific support required for each individual DEA that is not already covered in the above element of the Action Plan.

Please Note: In light of the very fluid and fast changing circumstances which we are presently experiencing, the above action plan may have to be revised



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to reflect and respond to new or more pressing needs as they occur in real time.