

Coordinated Community Support Programme Norfolk Brief September 2020

Norfolk is one of four CCS programme pilot areas in Wales and England. Principal aims of the programme are to:

- Address the gaps that exist in emergency support provision through better networking of local agencies providing emergency assistance for individuals and families facing financial crisis
- Reduce repeat instances of financial crisis by addressing underlying causes of crises, as well as the immediate emergency

Background

Centrally funded UK Government Crisis Loans and Community Care Grants were devolved in 2013. Since that time, the Norfolk Assistance Scheme (NAS) has essential items and financial support those in emergency financial crisis or hardship. Research by The Children's Society in 2018 found that availability and knowledge of provision varied dramatically across England and Wales, and that navigating systems of support in a locality can be difficult for those in need as well as for agencies seeking to support them. There has been a notable increase in the role of the voluntary sector in the provision of emergency financial support in recent years and the CCS programme was devised to strengthen partnerships between Local Authorities and VCS organisations in the four pilot sites.

The CCS programme aims to improve access to the NAS in Norfolk, and to the various local welfare assistance schemes in the other pilot sites. The Programme is nationally managed by the CCS team based at the Children's Society, but works in partnership with local agencies in each pilot site.

CCS Programme Norfolk pilot site has £45,000 of funding per year available until the end of the programme, in August 2022. Whilst the Local Authority is a key partner in each pilot area, only the VCS can be in receipt of funds. However, funding must complement and be coordinated with other support.

Norfolk Year 1 pilot site overview

At the outset of Covid-19, the CCS Programme made a decision to support organisations in each pilot site that were supporting people affected by the crisis. The CCS Programme used some of its own funding for this, and sourced some external Covid-19 funding which was distributed to each pilot site. The below table outlines what funding has been distributed so far, and whether it relates to Covid-19 specific work, or to work agreed as part of the CCS Programme.

CV-19 related funding

- CV-19 Hardship fund and infrastructure funding for NIP
- CV-19 Hardship fund for NCAB
- Client transport cost funding for Leeway

CCS core funding

- Promotion and development of NCAN
- Local grant awareness training delivered by NCAB

CCS additional funding

- Part of Smallwood funding distributed to Leeway

Next step – The local partnership

In the first year of operating, the CCS programme has worked in each pilot site to identify local crisis provisions, establish connections and support local coordination. For this next phase, the CCS programme invites partners in each pilot site to sign the **CCS programme local partnership charter**. The charter sets out the partnership's joint commitment to ensure that people in Norfolk are able to access support in times of financial hardship and crisis.

This partnership meeting on 4th September 2020 will be an opportunity to consider priorities for the second phase of the programme. Questions to consider include:

- What are the barriers to providing aftercare in your organisation?
- What are the barriers to addressing underlying needs?
- What are the barriers your organisation face to improve access to crisis support?
- What needs to happen to make application process for the NAS and other support simpler and more supported?
- What are the barriers to coordinating emergency financial support provision in Norfolk?