

Report to: **Overview and Scrutiny Panel**

Date: **17 September 2015**

Title: **South Hams CVS Monitoring**

Portfolio Area: **Customer Services**

Wards Affected: **All**

Relevant Scrutiny Committee: **Overview and Scrutiny**

Urgent Decision: **N** Approval and clearance obtained: **Y**

Date next steps can be taken: **Council**  
(e.g. referral on of recommendation or implementation of substantive decision)

Authors: **Ross Kennerley** Roles: **Lead Specialist – Place and Strategy**

Contact: **01803 861379** | [Ross.Kennerley@swdevon.gov.uk](mailto:Ross.Kennerley@swdevon.gov.uk)

---

**Recommendations:**

- (1) To note the content of this report and the performance of SHCVS in relation to the agreed SLA;**
- (2) That the Executive RECOMMEND to Council that the existing SLA be renewed for a further 12 months on existing terms in accordance with clause 15.2 of the SLA**
- (3) To identify panel Members to assist with a structured long term review of the CVS partnership to report back to Scrutiny**

## **1. Executive summary**

In recognition of the importance of volunteering in supporting local communities the Council has for many years supported the work of the South Hams Community and Voluntary Services. This arrangement is covered in a funded Service Level Agreement between SHDC and SHCVS that has been subject to annual review. The current SLA comes to an end in March 2016.

This item allows Members opportunity to consider and advise on future options including retention of the SLA (potentially with amendments), seeking an alternative provider or bringing the work in house. The report notes that the SLA establishes a time limited need to consider the current position and in light of this it is recommended that the SLA be renewed for a year to allow for a detailed review to take place.

## **2. Background**

From 2002 until 2012, there was a three year rolling partnership SLA in place between SHCVS and its core funders, SHDC, Devon County Council (DCC) and NHS Devon (formerly Devon Primary Care Trust). As a result of changes in the Health Service funding arrangements have changed and, in the interests of efficiency, DCC also now has a separate SLA with the CVS across Devon via an umbrella organisation, who distributes the funding to the other local offices.

Therefore since April 2013 SHDC has had its own separate outcomes based SLA with SHCVS in respect of the funding provided - attached at Appendix A. Details of recent work in relation to the SLA, and the operational and financial context for this work are included in

- Appendix B. South Hams CVS update report
- Appendix C. South Hams CVS 2014/15 Accounts

Member's attention is drawn to clause 15.2 of the main SLA which establishes the following.

*15.2 At least 6 months before the expiry of the three year term the Council may propose by notice in writing that the agreement be extended for a period of up to 2 years on the same terms (subject to any alterations that either party may agree). If SHCVS accept such proposals this agreement shall be extended for the agreed period.*

Given the need to have made a decision on this matter by the end of September 2015 this issue is addressed in this item (noting that any approval will lie with Council on 8<sup>th</sup> October and thus a slight delay will need to be agreed with SHCVS)

### **3. What outcomes does the partnership deliver for South Hams Residents and SHDC?**

SHCVS supports and represents the hundreds of voluntary and community sector organisations in the South Hams. These organisations provide services covering a wide spectrum of issues across the District.

A report from SHCVS on outcomes in 2014/15 is provided at Appendix B and the Chief Officer, Jill Davies, is presenting on the work of SHCVS at this Scrutiny meeting and to answer any questions Members may have on the service provided under the SLA.

During 2014/15, highlights of the work of SHCVS have included:

- Over 500 local groups received information and updates through regular bulletins and newsletters
- 66 organisations received tailored and one to one support
- Over 100 new individuals started volunteering in the community
- Over 400 individuals attended the 38 events which were held for South Hams groups

As reported last year a number of the Devon CVS have come together and developed a Devon-wide partnership, DeVA, to support local voluntary organisations. The Devon wide work continues to demonstrate the value of the voluntary sector in Devon. The initial DeVA report identified that the annual financial value of volunteering in Devon is around £39million with the assessment identifying that South Hams has the second highest number of voluntary organisations per 1,000 of the population in Devon at 6 per 1,000, with 551 groups based in the District and 563 groups delivering services in the South Hams.

What is difficult to separate out is the precise benefit to SHDC in terms of service delivery from the general assistance CVS give to the voluntary sector, community organisations, charities and individuals wishing to engage in volunteering activities. Members might wish to consider the following in considering how effective CVS is in delivering directly for SHDC

- Supporting SHDC service provision. SHDC has established the overall vision of supporting vibrant towns and villages within Our Plan. At the heart of this delivery is the need for a strong voluntary sector with active and resilient community networks. The attached report highlights some of the key areas where CVS provide direct intervention in pursuit of the Council aims. In particular CVS provides support to the following sectors where the Council has a particular interest
  - a. Health and wellbeing
  - b. Asset transfer and management
  - c. Social enterprise
  - d. Sport and leisure facilities and activities.
- General Intervention. Over and above direct delivery on behalf of the Council SHCVS provides wider intervention across the whole

voluntary sector. This supports individual groups and networks – which in turn provide services and support both to their own members and individuals. There is a clear dovetailing between the work already being undertaken by CAB (that generally targets the individual directly) and the work of CVS where the focus is on bolstering the capacity of the groups that provide the networks and support to individuals.

Whilst SHDC could attempt to extract issues specific to the Council and deliver these directly to date it has been recognised that CVS is better placed to provide an intervention service which supports the voluntary sector. Members do need to consider that support to the voluntary sector is discretionary and thus not an obligation on the Council. However a reduction, or cessation, of the work would have noticeable impacts on the council, local groups and individuals that would need to be assessed and managed.

#### 4. What does it cost?

Financial support to South Hams CVS from SHDC in 2014/15 totalled £42,616 (a repeat of the annual contribution since 2013). The context of how this is used and other funding available to CVS is set out in the attached report with the most recent annual accounts presented at Appendix C.

#### 5. What are the options?

Over a number of years the Council has identified the need, and benefit, of being able to support the voluntary sector and the multiplier benefits that this brings by supporting the core CVS service. If Scrutiny Panel recognises a continued need and justification for continuing work of this nature then it next needs to consider what options for delivery are available. The table below gives a basic summary of key options for consideration.

<b>Option</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Financial Implication</b>
Continue SLA as existing	Retain current under measures within SLA. Would allow continuity at time of likely increasing pressure and allow for structured review of SLA	£42,616 pa
Reduce SLA	Would provide direct financial saving. May have disproportionate impact on CVS core funding and structure with risk of increased workload falling back to SHDC. Impacts would be difficult to identify and quantify.	Reduced external expenditure in grant but likely increased internal costs to bolster in house service and general requests from voluntary sector which are currently all channelled to CVS
Extend SLA	Would create capacity for increased resilience and breadth for CVS with greater ability to pick up community	Increased external expenditure in grant

	development work on behalf of SHDC	
Alternative Provision	Potential alternative providers include  Community Council for Devon Neighbouring CVS DeVA Local groups and organisations direct	Unknown  Would need soft market test or formal tender exercise to establish base costs.  Likely inefficiency if work is dispersed in terms of delivery and monitoring.
Deliver In House	CVS deliver the SLA through work undertaken by volunteers and paid staff with the following most obviously applicable to the T18 model  Volunteer Support – Likely T18 level 7 -8 Management advice – Likely T18 level 5-6.	Level 7 -8 salary range £17,372 -£22,937  Level 5-6 salary range £23,698 - £32,778  Both would have usual on costs to be added.

## 6. Summary and conclusions

South Hams CVS delivers a wide ranging service for both SHDC and South Hams organisations. The provision of funding to the core service underpins wide ranging delivery with significant leverage of additional activity. This is through direct volunteer effort within CVS and benefits cascading widely through the groups and organisations that are supported. Although based on core funded staff SHCVS relies on extensive volunteer input and thus provides significant added value to the SHDC input.

The current SLA arrangements are due for review – with a decision to be made imminently if SHDC wishes to renew the service on current terms. Following the analysis in this report the officer view is that the arrangement provides clear and tangible benefits for SHDC on a good value basis. Nevertheless there is scope to review this and the recommendation is therefore to renew current arrangements for a further 12 months to retain continuity of service and allow members an opportunity to input to a detailed review. In particular the review could identify key areas where CVS could focus support activity on behalf of SHDC. Health and wellbeing is likely to be such an area.

## 7. Implications

Implications	Relevant to proposals Y/N	Details and proposed measures to address

Legal/Governance	Y	Localism Act 2011 (Section 1 – Powers of General Competence)
Financial	Y	Support to renewing the current SLA for a further 12 months would need to be built into the forthcoming budget setting.
Risk	Y	<p>A failure to implement the SLA in an effective manner would carry the following key risks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ineffective use of SHDC funds</li> <li>• Poor quality service to supported groups, organisations and individuals</li> <li>• Inequality of delivery across the District</li> <li>• Knock on resource pressures direct to SHDC with groups and organisations coming direct to SHDC</li> </ul> <p>These risks are mitigated by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SLA setting out clear requirements</li> <li>• Regular officer liaison</li> <li>• Scrutiny and annual reporting to Members</li> </ul>
Comprehensive Impact Assessment Implications		
Equality and Diversity	Y	The services provided by SHCVS promote equal opportunities and help prevent discrimination in our communities.
Safeguarding	Y	CVS operate to adopted Child and Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding Policies
Community Safety, Crime and Disorder	Y	The work of CVS provides advice and volunteering opportunities which reduce the potential for anti-social behaviour.
Health, Safety and Wellbeing	Y	CVS has close links to, and understanding of, health sector and consideration of health implications is integral to CVS support
Other implications		None identified

### **Supporting Information - Appendices:**

Appendix A – CVS SLA 2013/2016

Appendix B – CVS Supporting Report

Appendix C – CVS Accounts 2014/15

### **Background Papers: None**

<b>Process checklist</b>	<b>Completed</b>
Portfolio Holder briefed	<b>Yes</b>
SLT Rep briefed	<b>Yes</b>
Relevant Exec Director sign off (draft)	<b>Yes</b>
Data protection issues considered	<b>Yes</b>
If exempt information, public (part 1) report also drafted. (Committee/Scrutiny)	<b>No</b>