

Template for Impact Assessment Level 1: Initial screening assessment

Subject of assessment:	COVID Support – grants for Comms and VCS support			
Coverage:	Service Specific			
This is a decision relating to:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strategy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy	<input type="checkbox"/> Service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Function
	<input type="checkbox"/> Process/procedure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Programme	<input type="checkbox"/> Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Review
	<input type="checkbox"/> Organisational change	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please state)		
It is a:	New approach:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Revision of an existing approach:	<input type="checkbox"/>
It is driven by:	Legislation:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Local or corporate requirements:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Key aims, objectives and activities:

Protecting residents by stopping the spread of Covid-19 is important to the Council and underpins our Local Outbreak Plan. This plan aims to reduce the number of Covid-19 outbreaks in Middlesbrough, keep the numbers of new and secondary COVID-19 cases low, and make sure people are supported if they are affected by an outbreak. Two of the elements of this approach include Building community capacity in particular with regard to communication of key COVID-19 messages and building and sustaining capacity of key VCS partners. We therefore intend to allocate grant funding from the COVID Local Outbreak Plan funding to address this by offering 2 grant programmes as described below :

1) **Communications grants** : Communication and engagement is key to this and getting the right information and support to the residents of our community that need it most is crucial. We must remind communities how to stay safe, and encourage them to take part in test and trace services if they are concerned about symptoms as this will help reduce the spread of the disease. We also need to let people know how to respond to a local lockdown if it is necessary. To do this we need to use both old and new ways of passing on these messages, particularly those that will have the most impact on specific communities. We are looking for projects of varying sizes, with grants up to £1,000 for non-constituted groups and up to £5,000 for constituted groups. **TARGET GROUPS for Communications**

The outbreak plan identifies several communities that could find themselves at higher risk of direct and indirect Covid-19 harm. It is therefore essential that the Grants support one or more of the following groups:

- 1 **Older population**
- 2 **BAME communities**
- 3 **Shielded people**
- 4 **Clinical risk groups (including multiple morbidity/obesity)**
- 5 **Those with addictions**
- 6 **Wards with high levels of deprivation**

Description:

2) **VCS Support grants:** For VCS groups detrimentally affected by COVID crisis. The financial health of the sector has been hit by COVID-19. Changes to service delivery and increased demand have all led to greater strain on the sector. In order to maintain and increase capacity to support vulnerable groups whilst also reducing impact on statutory services it is proposed that a further £130K in addition to the previous £250k of the Test and Trace grant is allocated to support VCS capacity to respond to outbreak management, prevention and recovery. It is proposed that a Discretionary fund for COVID outbreak prevention for grants of up to £20k is established. All grants above £5k will require the co-production of a formal SLA to ensure accountability for spend and reporting of impact.

3) **Mental Health and Isolation grants;** For VCS groups working with Middlesbrough residents whose mental health has been adversely affected or are experiencing isolation as a result of the COVID crisis. In order to maintain and increase capacity to support vulnerable groups experiencing problems with Mental Health and isolation it is proposed that £210k of the Test and Trace grant is allocated to support VCS capacity to respond to these issues. All grants above £5k will require the co-production of a formal SLA to ensure accountability for spend and reporting of impact.

Statutory drivers: discretionary service as part of the wider public health offer (addressing health inequalities, Health & Social Care Act 2012).

Differences from any previous approach: This is a new initiative to support our Local Outbreak Plan to address COVID locally.

Key stakeholders and intended beneficiaries:

- All Middlesbrough residents will benefit from information given through joint Communications approach, but particularly those target groups and communities most at risk of COVID. Key stakeholders are VCS groups who access the grants.

Intended outcomes: Reducing the spread of COVID within Middlesbrough, encouraging test and trace use and increased prevention measures, and supporting VCS groups who have been negatively affected by COVID to allow them to strengthen their support to individuals and communities affected by COVID.

Live date:	December 2020 onwards
Lifespan:	12 months
Date of next review:	Not applicable

Screening questions	Response			Evidence
	No	Yes	Uncertain	
Human Rights Could the decision impact negatively on individual Human Rights as enshrined in UK legislation?*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	There are no concerns that human rights would be affected. Evidence used to inform this assessment includes analysis of usage and analysis of the impact of interventions.
Equality Could the decision result in adverse differential impacts on groups or individuals with characteristics protected in UK equality law? Could the decision impact differently on other commonly disadvantaged groups?*	X <input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	The Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) requires that when exercising its functions the Councils must have due regard to the need to:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act; advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it. In having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity, the Council must consider, as part of a single equality duty: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic; taking steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of people who do not share it; and encouraging people who share a protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation is low The proposal is particularly relevant to the age, disability and race and sex protected characteristics either because of the nature of an element of support offered or because of the make-up of those accessing services. The proposal could provide additional support aimed at reducing inequality for these groups and other groups disadvantaged by COVID-19 related harm.
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Community cohesion Could the decision impact negatively on relationships between different groups, communities of interest or neighbourhoods within the town?*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	There are no concerns that the proposals could impact negatively on relations between different groups or communities of interest. If anything, we hope that by creating a robust communications campaign that will resonate with our different communities directly, this will benefit their understanding of how to prevent COVID spread between communities and encourage increased awareness.
Next steps: ➡ If the answer to all of the above screening questions is No then the process is completed. ➡ If the answer of any of the questions is Yes or Uncertain, then a Level 2 Full Impact Assessment must be completed.				

Assessment completed by:	Katrina Jackson	Head of Service:	Catherine Parker
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* Consult the Impact Assessment further guidance appendix for details on the issues covered by each of these broad questions prior to completion.

Date:

15/9/2020

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