



## Northumberland County Council

CABINET

DATE: 14 JANUARY 2020

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### **PROPOSAL TO LAUNCH A FUND TO SUPPORT UNIFORMED SERVICES AND GROUPS WITHIN NORTHUMBERLAND**

**Report of** Kelly Angus, Executive Director of HR/OD & Deputy Chief Executive

**Cabinet Member:** Councillor Wayne Daley, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children's Services

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#### **Purpose of report**

To launch a fund to support and promote the role of uniformed services and associated groups within Northumberland which promote volunteering, celebrate good work and learning opportunities.

To present the proposed application process for a Northumberland Uniformed Services and Associated Groups Fund, which will be open for all Uniformed Services and Associated Group Organisations within Northumberland to apply for support as part of the Council's support and promotion of the role that uniformed services and associated groups play within the County.

The Uniformed Services and Associated Group Organisations Fund (USAGOF) will be aimed at Northumberland groups who can provide evidence that they sustain opportunities for engagement and volunteering as part of an established programme to benefit local communities. It is proposed that the Uniformed Services and Associated Group Organisations Fund is initially established at a one-off amount of £25,000 and this will be made available for submissions to be made at quarterly intervals for the next eighteen months, 1st October 2019 - 31st March 2021. It is anticipated that the USAGOF will be utilised by Uniformed Services and Associated Group Organisations to bid for an amount of funding to support activities such as volunteering, celebrating good work, promoting and

celebration campaigns and learning opportunities (including trip costs including accommodation).

To give people the opportunity to gain experience and benefit from a wide range of opportunities that otherwise would not be open to them. Groups across Northumberland tell us it is about bringing people together, having fun and adventure whilst learning valuable life skills like team work, resilience, initiative and problem solving. We know from experience people who have been involved in organisations are more likely to show leadership skills and work within teams are more likely to support and give back to their communities too. We recognise the huge number of volunteers, both adult and young people already active within groups across the county and would like to open up the opportunities for more people to get involved.

The USAGOF is intended for small projects, aimed at supporting a programme of county wide activities and is not intended to provide funding on a large scale other than by exception and with the agreement of the panel.

### **Recommendations**

**Cabinet is recommended to:**

- 1. endorse the application process for the USAGOF;**
- 2. welcome the opportunity to promote the USAGOF as part of our wider community initiatives supporting groups across Northumberland; and**
- 3. approve up to £25,000 of funding from the Council's contingency to support the positive impact of community volunteering, celebrating good work, promoting campaigns and learning opportunities (including trip costs including accommodation\* see note).**

### **Link to Corporate Plan**

This report is linked to all priorities within the NCC Corporate Plan 2018-2021.

**Living:** Volunteering fosters connectedness and is an outcome of being connected. It is a central component of healthy living and mental health wellbeing.

**Enjoying:** Volunteering and community participation support good mental health as well as benefiting recipient organisations and communities.

**Connecting:** Good education and social connectedness, all of which are contributors to good mental health are activities which can be gained through volunteering.

**Learning:** Volunteering offers individuals the opportunity to learn new skills which can be part of a life-skills programme as well as supporting employment learning and skills programmes or readiness for work.

## **Key issues**

Uniformed Services and Groups provide much needed interaction and wellbeing support for people of all ages across a wide range of activities. It is acknowledged that small scale support can further enhance the life skills, educational and wellbeing activities that such groups deliver across the County and the USAGOF is designed to facilitate and expand the support offered to this cohort.

## **Background**

In 2018, DCMS invested up to £5m to increase opportunities for disadvantaged children to participate in youth organisations. At this time it was recognised that groups such as the Girlguiding and Sea Cadets play a key role in so many childhoods. They create lasting friendships and teach important life skills such as teamwork and resilience.

Northumberland County Council now aims to extend this programme with this additional investment and to launch a local £25,000 development fund to support and promote the role of uniformed services and groups within Northumberland including volunteering, celebrating good work, promoting campaigns and learning opportunities.

The Uniformed Services and Associated Group Organisations Fund (USAGOF) will be aimed at Northumberland groups who can provide evidence that they sustain opportunities for engagement and volunteering as part of an established programme to benefit local communities. It is proposed that the Uniformed Services and Associated Group Organisations Fund is initially established at £25,000 and this will be made available at quarterly intervals for submissions to be made over the next eighteen months 1st October 2019 - 31st March 2021. It is anticipated that the USAGOF will be used by Uniformed Services and Associated Group Organisations to bid for an indicative amount of funding to support activities such as volunteering, celebrating good work, promoting campaigns and learning opportunities (including trip costs including accommodation).

The USAGOF is intended for small projects, aimed at supporting a programme of County wide activities and is not intended to provide funding on a large scale.

## **Note**

Groups may charge a membership fee/subscriptions per person. Often activities will attract an additional charge e.g. camps, outdoor activities etc, whilst most constitute organisations will have a policy in place for applying discretion on fees, it is recognised that the cost of activities can be prohibitive to individuals and groups. This fund will help to go some way towards alleviating the impact of the cost of activities on funds.

Some examples which the fund may be extended to include equipment e.g. compass, transport minibus costs/travel expenditure, activity costs where it can be demonstrated that the grant will benefit all, uniform contributions where these may provide wider demonstrable benefits e.g. mini police and safety education.

Some examples where the fund may not extend to include: census/membership fees to parent organisations e.g. Girlguiding UK, Scout Association etc, badges, membership organisation uniforms and venue hire.

### **Definition of Uniformed Services and Group Organisations:**

The following groups may be defined as Uniformed Services and Group Organisations:

- Girlguiding including
  - Rainbows
  - Brownies
  - Guides
  - Rangers
- The Scout Association including
  - Beavers
  - Cubs
  - Scouts
  - Adventure Scouts
- Mini Police/Volunteer Police Cadets
- Young Firefighters/Fire Cadets
- St John's Ambulance Cadets
- Cadets - Air Training Corps (ATC)
- Sea Cadet Corps (SCC)
- Army Cadet Force (ACR)
- Girls/Boys' Brigade
- Constituted groups/clubs

### **Northumberland Uniformed Services and Group Organisations Development Fund: Process**

- 1.1 The Fund will be promoted through the Council's website, and partner networks including schools and the Voluntary and Community Services Organisations Forum. Organisations will be able to apply by downloading the guidelines (Appendix 1) and the Application Form (Appendix 2). It is anticipated to hold four rounds of advertising to promote applications.
- 1.2 Organisations or constituted groups can apply up to a deadline of 5pm on \*\*\*\* 2019 for the first round of applications. It is proposed that funding up to a maximum of £1,000 can be applied for.
- 1.3. A decision making panel will be convened to consider the applications and successful applicants will be informed within two weeks of the deadline for applications.

## 1.4 Conclusions

In conclusion, the development of a Uniformed Services and Associated Group Organisations Fund will be used by Uniformed Services and Associated Group Organisations to bid for an indicative amount of funding to support activities such as volunteering, celebrating good work, promoting campaigns and learning opportunities (including trip costs including accommodation).

### Implications

<b>Policy</b>	In 2018 the Government launched a programme to expand the inclusion of disadvantaged children with Volunteering Opportunities and The Corporate Plan
<b>Finance and value for money</b>	All successful applicants must deliver an evaluation as part of their funding agreement which will include value for money. It is proposed that a development fund of £25,000 is established funded from the Council's contingency.
<b>Legal</b>	No immediate implications and all grants awarded will be appropriately contracted.
<b>Procurement</b>	No immediate implications
<b>Human Resources</b>	No immediate implications
<b>Property</b>	No implications
<b>Equalities</b>	(Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No x N/A
<b>Risk Assessment</b>	Risk assessment is the responsibility of the applicant as part of the funding agreement.
<b>Crime &amp; Disorder</b>	Engagement in uniformed services such as the Guides and Sea Cadets play a key role in so many childhoods. They create lasting friendships and teach important life skills such as teamwork and resilience and can directly provide positive diversionary activity and the growth of culturally vibrant communities can reduce crime and disorder.
<b>Customer Consideration</b>	Supporting community engagement has to be demonstrated as part of the application process.
<b>Carbon reduction</b>	No immediate implications
<b>Health and Wellbeing</b>	These activities support health and wellbeing activities and engagement across young people.
<b>Wards</b>	All

### Report sign off

	Name
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Monitoring Officer/Legal	Liam Henry
Service Director Finance and Interim S151 Officer	Alison Elsdon
Relevant Executive Director	Kelly Angus
Chief Executive	Daljit Lally
Portfolio Holder(s)	Wayne Daley

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