

# Healthy Investments, Healthy Returns

Demonstrating the impact of Salford's Third Sector Fund 2017/18



Summary - June 2018

**This summary** provides an update on the recommendations from the evaluation of the 2014-16 grants programme, an introduction to the 2017-20 programme, a demonstration of the value for money assessments derived from nine case studies, and the latest findings and recommendations.

**The Salford Third Sector Grant Fund (TSGF)** has been operating since 2014, providing grant funding to a range of voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector organisations and schools in Salford to support health and wellbeing activities. The programme is run by Salford CVS and funded and supported by NHS Salford CCG. The current three-year programme began in April 2017 and has a total fund of £3million.

CLES and VSNW have been commissioned to support the development of the programme's impact evaluation and to track implementation of the previous programme recommendations ([CLES & VSNW: Sept 2016](#)).

*'Coming to this group helps me feel not alone in this country. All of my family are in my home country, but through this group I have a new family.'*

**Community Dosti beneficiary**



*'You know how we're speaking now, you wouldn't have got me doing this 12 months ago. The exercise and the socialising - it's all helped.'*

**Mature Movers beneficiary**



**£1 : £30**

for every £1 spent £29.98  
of value was generated

## Update on recommendations from the 2014/16 evaluation

The previous evaluation highlighted that Salford CVS and partners had established a sound process for the effective management of the Third Sector Fund.

It also highlighted the wide array of impacts that the grants had delivered including: increased capacity for grant recipients, new community facilities, increased volunteering, reduced social isolation, improved confidence, and the development of healthy eating in children.

Using the learning from the 2014-16 programme a series of strategic recommendations were developed for the future of the Third Sector Grant Fund. These are summarised below with a 'traffic light' update on progress to June 2018.

Recommendations from 2014/16 evaluation	Progress
Roll out the programme for 3 years	In place
Acknowledge the key role of Salford CVS	Acknowledged across Salford
Recognise the importance of grant making	Recognised by strategic partners
Develop more effective monitoring & evaluation	New post & evaluation framework
Embed wider understanding of the value of grants	Understanding enhanced
Join up the programme to other agendas	Social value & wider links made
Ramp up the voluntary and community sector	Austerity still presents challenges
Promote values of programme across GM	TSGF has GM profile; more to do

## Principles of Good Grant Making

During 2017/18 Salford CVS have strived to further improve the quality of their grant programme delivery and are adopting the Grants for Good 'Principles of Good Grant Making'. While seeking to embed a monitoring and evaluation system, the programme has also looked to ensure 'proportionality' in reporting requirements consistent with the size of grant awarded.



*'I used to get so angry inside, I tried to hurt people – like kicking them. I've learnt to walk away now and tell a teacher'*

**Pupil from Irlam Primary School**

## The Current Programme

There are seven funding streams operating under the Third Sector Fund in Year 1:

Name of fund	Max Award per year	Recipients
Impact Fund Partnership Challenge	£50,000	VCSE partnerships
Impact Fund	£15,000	VCSE orgs <£1.5m turnover
Healthy Schools Fund	£5,000	Primary Schools
Healthy Schools Partnership Challenge	£15,000	VCSE / Primary Schools
Wellbeing Fund	£1,000	VCSE orgs <£100k turnover
Volunteers' Expenses Fund	£750	VCSE orgs <£100k turnover
Responsive Fund	£25,000	VCSE organisations

### Impact of Year 1 of the current programme

During 2017/18, a total of 81 grants were awarded across the seven pots of funding representing a total cash investment of £615,730 for Year 1. At the time of the evaluation, three of the seven pots (representing 27% of total funding) had been up and running long enough for meaningful evaluation to take place:

- Healthy Schools fund (29 grant recipients, £145,044 invested)
- Wellbeing Fund (15 grant recipients, £13,955 invested)
- Volunteer's Expenses Fund (13 grant recipients, £9,073 invested).

**Nine projects were selected for impact evaluation** The grant awarded to each of these projects appears alongside the estimated added value in the tables below:

Healthy Schools	
Irlam Primary School	
£5,000	<b>£106,758</b>
North Walkden Primary School	
£4,935	<b>£111,794</b>
Beis Malka School	
£1,660	<b>£18,172</b>

Wellbeing Fund	
Mature Movers	
£1,000	<b>£37,989</b>
Salford Street Support	
£900	<b>£37,128</b>
Society Inc	
£1,000	<b>£16,311</b>

Volunteers' Expenses	
Incredible Education	
£741	<b>£47,087</b>
Wharton & Cleggs Lane Community Café	
£736	<b>£45,068</b>
Community Dosti	
£750	<b>£81,100</b>

**For every £1 spent £29.98 of value was generated**

## Findings from 2017/18 evaluation

- **For every £1 spent £29.98 of value was generated**

The 3 pots studied represent 27% of the funds awarded in Year 1. There were 57 grant recipients across the three pots. The figure above was calculated using case studies of 9 of the 57 grant recipients from these three pots. As such this figure should be treated only as an indicator of the value that is being generated through all of the investment in the Third Sector Grants Fund.

- **Every case study group is improving the lives of people in Salford**

Across the 9 diverse projects selected for case studies outcomes have varied from understanding and valuing friendship, getting active and getting off the streets through to improved confidence, reduced social isolation & an improvement in mental health.

- **Implementing the new programme**

The first year of the programme has featured two important process changes: recruiting much needed grant programme staff and developing a coherent evaluation framework applicable across all grant streams. These two changes have necessarily delayed the start of full scale programme delivery.

## Recommendations for future work

- **Ensure Salford CVS team has capacity for monitoring and evaluation**

Salford CVS have taken steps to enhance their capacity for Year 2 – this is essential for gathering deeper levels of information from more grant recipients.

- **Engage with more grant recipients**

The appointment of a Salford CVS Impact Evaluation Worker & a simple monitoring & evaluation process will enable contact with many more grant recipients in Year 2.

- **Use pre and post-research methods to evidence 'distance travelled'**

The case studies from Year 1 provide a good amount of evidence in relation to the impacts being felt by beneficiaries. However, we need to implement simple steps to accurately record the 'distance travelled' by beneficiaries from the beginning to the end of their experience, thereby giving us a much richer understanding of the depth of the impact each organisation is having.

- **Carry out a full process evaluation in Year 2**

Work with an embedded evaluation system and simplify the application process. A system is currently in development to neatly stitch together the expected outcomes of projects to the application forms and their subsequent monitoring. This will simplify and streamline the grant application and monitoring procedures for all parties whilst also delivering a much richer set of data for analysis and evaluation.

The full report (due July 2018) features details of the evaluation methodology and case studies.



**Making a difference in Salford since 1973**

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