



## Report of the Director of People

External Funding Panel - 7 March 2018

### Swansea Compact Fund 2018/19

<b>Purpose:</b>	To decide upon the deferred application to a one-off round of funding of the Swansea Compact Fund 2018/19
<b>Policy Framework:</b>	Medium Term Financial Plan; Sustainable Swansea – fit for the future
<b>Consultation:</b>	Finance, Legal, Access to Services.
<b>Recommendation(s):</b>	It is recommended that:  1) External Funding Panel decide on of the listed deferred application ‘Swansea City of Sanctuary’ for 2018/19
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<b>Finance Officer:</b>	Chris Davies
<b>Legal Officer:</b>	Sandie Richards
<b>Access to Services Officer:</b>	Sherill Hopkins

#### 1. Introduction

##### 1.1 Background, Swansea Compact Fund

The Swansea Compact Fund is a single year open funding round to enable the transition from the Swansea Change Fund to a commissioned funding programme, with a small open round open to all Third Sector groups. The funding is not related to the previous Change Fund – although some of the applicants have previously been supported by the fund all groups have been made aware for three years the Change fund will end and have had sufficient time to plan exit strategies.

During 2018, we will work with the sector and citizens to co-produce contract specifications based on need. These will be advertised on Sell 2 Wales and go through the procurement process. Contracts will be awarded to the

successful Third Sector applicants measured against specific service delivery arrangements and outcomes.

At the panels previous meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2018 members deferred decision on the application from City of Sanctuary for Further information.

## **2. Open Funding Round**

Decision were made on 22 of the 23 application to the Compact fund on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2018 – this report presents the deferred application updates for decision

## **3. Application**

3.1 The Application from City of Sanctuary was deferred for clarification on the aims of the project and the proposed outcomes, the £7,500 full amount requested has been earmarked in the budget in anticipation of the Panels decision.

3.2 The original application is summarised in **Appendix A**.

3.3 The Update which includes further information on the project for 2018 and offers new targets is attached as **Appendix B**.

## **4. Recommendations**

4.1 The External Funding Panel decide on Swansea City of Sanctuary bid to Compact Fund 2018/19.

## **5. Equality & Engagement Implications**

5.1 Panel discussions will be required to include consideration of the equality impacts of funding applications in relation to the protected characteristics contained within the Equality Act 2010.

## **6. Financial Implications**

6.1 Swansea Compact funding is allocated in line with budget available. A full allocation of the £7,500 requested by the City of Sanctuary is within the Compact Budget for 2018/19

## **7. Legal Implications**

7.1 The External Funding Panel is a decision making panel as ratified by Cabinet at its meeting of 18<sup>th</sup> November 2014.

**Background Papers:** None.

### **Appendices:**

Appendix A - Summary Original application 'City of Sanctuary' – Swansea Compact Fund 2018/19

Appendix B - Updated information as supplied by Swansea City of Sanctuary

## Appendix A

**05: City of Sanctuary** - Project, Securing the future of Swansea as a City of Sanctuary

**Grant Total: £7,500**

**The group:** Are a volunteer led organisation operating since 2000. They co-ordinate and promote the vision for Swansea as a place of safety.

**The project:** The group are seeking core costs to continue to be the management committee of the CoS status once the groups lottery funding ends in 2018

**Stated Corporate Plan Priorities:** Safeguarding People, Improving Education and Skills, Tackling poverty.

<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>£</b>
Staff costs including on costs or consultancy	7500
Expenses – travel etc	400
Events	600
Stationary, printing etc	600
<b>Total Expenditure (a)</b>	<b>£9,100</b>
<b>Income</b> (include status - Secured, Awaiting Decision or still to be raised)	
Donations. Over last two years we have secured donations which have allowed us to pay for asylum seeker expenses in relation to the work of the management committee, an £800 contribution to the comic relief project, a peer research project relating to the Welcome to Swansea Project and other incidental expenses as well as build up a small surplus. We would seek to continue to encourage individuals and organisations to donate to us cover some the expenses related to this project.	£1,600
<b>Total Income (b)</b>	<b>£1,600</b>
<b>Total Amount to be met by Change grant (a-b)</b>	<b>*£7,500</b>

<b>Project Outputs</b>	
Target No 1	<p>Work to ensure sustainability of S CoS .</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• S CoS Management Committee strengthened. The target would be to recruit at least 3 people who are able and willing to provide leadership and take responsibility.</li> <li>• Put a succession plan in place for the Committee which will be tried and tested and can be used in future years.</li> <li>• Investigate further mechanisms and procedures for obtaining funding in partnership with other organisations which will take the lead in provision of services. This may involve S CoS piloting innovative projects to prove that they are needed, useful and work.</li> <li>• We regularly organise networking meetings to which our pledged members and volunteers are invited. The target for this project is to run 2</li> </ul>

	networking meetings jointly with partners to encourage others to take over some of the work we currently undertake. For example: pledged organisations could organise the networking meetings and ways could be developed so that some of our processes around pledging could be digitalised.
Target No 2	Management Committee will have support to enable it to co-ordinate and evaluate other projects to ensure that the Asylum Seeker and local community needs are being met and that with the City we move towards achieving the vision and aims of Swansea as a City of Sanctuary. Our target would be an end of year evaluation on what has been learnt and service gaps that need to be addressed for discussion with the City and County of Swansea and other partners and developing an action plan.

**Exit Strategy provided by the applicants:**

“The main reason for applying for this grant is to try to achieve sustainability not only financially but also in terms of governance and delivering the aims of the organisation.

Financial Sustainability would be achieved through reducing the need for us to find direct funding for services and further development of partnerships as previously described. One of the ways we work is to trial projects and if they are successful and needed we then look for other organisations to take them on. We have shown that we can do this as we were able to ensure that both the Advocacy Project and Sanctuary Speakers were included in a number of organisations’ bids for the Welsh Government funded Asylum Rights Project. As a result our intervention has secured these projects for 3 years in Swansea through the successful bid from Welsh Refugee Council. .

However, we would be unable to do this work without making the Management Committee more sustainable which is why the main priority for this project would be to meet the targets relating to the Management Committee.”

**Departmental/Officer Comments:**

The project will allow the group to seek funding for its Management committee, whilst enabling them to fulfil and monitor their funded projects. Good to see a focus on Succession planning and focus on sustainability

**Swansea Compact Fund**

**Application 2018 – 2019**

**Further Information from Swansea City of Sanctuary**

Further to the application submitted in November 2017 we are pleased to provide further information regarding our proposal.

The main purpose of our bid is to ensure sustainability for Swansea City of Sanctuary's activities when the current lottery funded project finishes in June 2018. Our activities achieve various outputs to the benefit of Swansea communities, contributing to three of the five Council priorities identified in the well-being objectives as described in our original application (Safeguarding, Improving Education and Skills and Tackling Poverty).

SCoS is part of a UK-wide network of independent grass-roots voluntary organisations dedicated to promoting a culture of welcome for asylum seekers and refugees. We carry this out through the following main activities:

- gathering pledges of welcome from local organisations and working with them to turn the pledge into practical support;
- encouraging individuals, both locals and asylum seeker and refugees, to join the welcome movement, and finding voluntary support roles for them;
- organising events which bring asylum seekers together with other local people;
- acting as umbrella and facilitating networking between refugee support organisations;
- specific projects to meet gaps in need, in partnership with other organizations.

Over the years, Swansea City of Sanctuary has undertaken a number of significant developments in Swansea, sometimes working in partnership with other organisations. For instance, we have been instrumental in securing and overseeing two, 3 year lottery funded projects bringing resources and employment to Swansea (total value of around £750,000). We continue to undertake new developments, some of which are ground breaking (see first example 1 below). If it were not for the work of the voluntary committee members, these developments would not exist. For example:

- Negotiating with Gwalia Housing to develop a property to house destitute asylum seekers and refugees who have recently been given leave to remain in the UK who often become homeless while waiting for their papers such as NI number. The project will reduce homelessness in Swansea and provide a model that could be taken forward as a way to support other groups of vulnerable people.
- Working with Gower College to improve accessibility to education for asylum seekers by finding funding for course fees and transport. Access to education improves wellbeing and future prospects, thus potentially reducing unemployment when asylum seekers are given leave to remain.
- Working closely with WLGA Strategic Migration Partnership to improve the standard of housing and repairs to the homes where asylum seekers live in Swansea. As a result of this work there have been and continue to be

improvements in the standard of homes (eg various repairs/ improvements and adopting appropriate fire standards) which as well as improving the wellbeing and health for the occupants, positively impacts on the local communities in which the homes are situated.

If we are successful in this bid, the money would be used flexibly to employ a person to support the volunteer management committee for around 50 days through the difficult period of change after the end of the current funded project. In particular, there would be three aspects to the work. These all focus on sustainability and ensuring that people seeking sanctuary can access appropriate services in Swansea, whilst supporting effective integration which benefits to the whole community.

1. **Leadership Development** The work of Swansea City of Sanctuary would not exist without the dedication of a small group of volunteer management committee members. In order to maintain the status of Swansea as a City of Sanctuary and to continue the type of innovative voluntary work mentioned above we need to ensure the sustainability of this committee. The worker funded through the Change Fund would put processes in place to find new recruits who can take over responsibility for this work when the current lead members, some of whom have led SCoS since its inception, retire from the committee sometime during the next 24 months. They will also ensure committee members have appropriate training and skills to provide leadership and build on Swansea City of Sanctuary's existing strengths. This will enable us to better take up future opportunities to improve the experience of people seeking sanctuary in Swansea and the receiving community.

2. **Future Proofing and Achieving Our Vision**

The worker would investigate mechanisms for future funding and partnerships which would enable Swansea CoS to continue to deliver and support welcome activities. This would include:

- Securing mid-term financial security for the Welcome to Swansea project, which matches around 120 newly arrived asylum seekers with volunteer mentors every year. Mentors support participants to access services and activities relevant to them, supporting quicker and more effective integration.
- Working with our 100+ pledged member organisations so that they take proactive steps towards achieving the vision. This may include organising our networking meetings, which promote joined up services for asylum seekers and refugees, or holding thematic workshops on matters such as health and education.
- Developing ways in which some of our processes and information could be digitalised allowing organisations to share information and to update their information on our records. This would make it easier for local community groups and individuals to support asylum seekers and refugees as the wealth of information we currently hold would be available online.

3. **Meeting future needs for the Council and asylum seekers in Swansea.**

During the course of the current lottery funded project, input from the committee has ensured that the most important aspects of the project's work are continued when the project ends. However, this has involved splitting our work into various smaller projects. For instance, from April 2018, our

awareness-raising sessions in partnership with volunteer Sanctuary Speakers will be supported through a part-time Wales-wide post at DPIA for 2 years, funded by the Welsh Government through the Welsh Refugee Council's Asylum Rights Programme. This means that the work to dispel myths and create better community relations will continue. We have also developed a partnership with SCVS which provided funding is obtained will ensure that the Welcome to Swansea project continues. Both of these projects, as well as the newly formed Advocacy Forum, are central to the Council's and our vision of Swansea as a City of Sanctuary so it is crucial that we have some oversight of their progress. The worker will coordinate this monitoring so that the committee can identify emerging needs and make plans for future developments to meet the needs of people in Swansea.

### **Targets to Monitor**

1. 5 new active volunteers for Swansea City of Sanctuary's Management Committee, taking account of different communities (of interest/ geography) in Swansea, over the course of 2 years
2. Committee members trained as appropriate in chairing, volunteer management, project management, bid writing, community development and/or digital communications to support the ongoing sustainability of SCoS activities.
3. Mid-term (2-5 years) financial security for the Welcome to Swansea project, which will be delivered in partnership with SCVS. At least 200 asylum seekers are able to access the mentoring service each year
4. Pledged organisations organise networking meetings and thematic workshops to support the sharing of best practice and address common issues.
5. Swansea City of Sanctuary pledge process is available digitally and pledged organisations are able to share information about their services and activities with each other and the community in a digital format.
6. Committee are kept fully informed about developments in ongoing projects in which Swansea City of Sanctuary is a partner and use this information to identify unmet needs and develop responses.