

Business Case to continue to support VASL (Voluntary Action South Leicestershire) by providing a one-off annual unrestricted grant. 2020/21

VASL – What we do?

Support for Carers

Young Carers Project

Community Champions

My Mind Matters

VASL Transport

VASL provides a range of services and projects in the Harborough District supporting, family carers, older isolated people, people with a Mental Health issue and people who have no access to public transport or are unable to use public transport through illness or disability.

Each year up to **3,500** individuals access our services and support, enabling them to get vital information, attend groups to relieve loneliness, get to GP and Hospital Appointments and generally improve their lives, enabling them to remain independent for longer.

As well as the **3,500** clients, VASL also recruits and support **166** volunteers across our services and projects. Most of the support we offer wouldn't happen without our dedicated team of volunteers.

**In 2019 - 166 volunteers provided
27,796 volunteering hours**

VASL 3 Year Comparison of the number of individuals that benefit from VASL Projects and Services in the Harborough District

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Family carers	4512	5010	9000
Young Carers	18	20	18
Isolated Older People	45 (Befriended) 2025 (reg to use car scheme)	70 (Befriended) 2300 (reg to use car scheme)	143 1757 (reg to use car scheme) number reduced due to GDPR cleaning of database)
Volunteers	109	128	166

How we are funded?

Every project and service we provide has its own funding attached to it. The funding for projects comes from various sources, including Big Lottery, Leicestershire County Council, Children in Need, Donations, Trusts and Grant makers. This funding is restricted and can only be spent on the projects.

Funding for the back-office support, rent, heat, lights, IT, insurance, photocopier and the multitude of miscellaneous expenses, including staff salaries for the three staff who are not assigned to a particular project, (Including the Charity Manager), comes from a management overhead charge to each project. As you are aware, this must be carefully calculated when bidding for services as funders are very reluctant to fund management/back office charges

Each year VASL is dependent on unrestricted funding to make up the short fall between project overhead charges and the full cost to run the charity. Without unrestricted funding we are unable to do any development work, attend forums and engage with Local Authority, CCGs, PCN's and other strategic stakeholders. A significant amount of the Charity Managers time is spent on sourcing and developing new opportunities and enhancing existing services and projects. During the last 12 months VASL has secured another 3-year contract with Leicestershire County Council to provide support for family carers across the county. This contract is worth £170k per annum. Previously it was funded at £190k per annum. VASL has secured other funding for specific pieces of work including the design and production of a very informative Harborough District Transport Directory.

It was recognised during the early part of 2019 that for VASL to function without impacting on front line services we needed to secure further unrestricted core funding. We successfully approached the Market Harborough and The Bowden's Charity who following an application from VASL agreed to fund some of our yearly overhead costs. Without a level of unrestricted funding coming into the charity, VASL would not have the capacity to lever in substantial project funding, which is brought into the Harborough District and benefits the residents of Harborough District.

Why should HDC continue to provide unrestricted funding?

1. To enable VASL to continue its successful development of vital services, sourcing funding to benefit the residents of Harborough District.
2. VASL charity aims and objectives align with HDC strategic priorities
3. HDC recognises VASL as a Key Charity in the Harborough District delivering quality and tangible services to the local community.

Maureen O'Malley

Charity Manager

14/2/20