

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Adult Services and Public Health
Date:	20 October 2022
Title:	Demand Management and Prevention Grant Award
Report From:	Director of Adults' Health and Care

Contact name: Sarah Snowdon
Peter Stokes

Tel: 0370 779 1037

Email: Peter.Stokes@hants.gov.uk

Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval for making a grant award to the voluntary and community organisations outlined in this report as part of the Demand Management and Prevention Programme.

Recommendation(s)

2. That approval be given by the Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Health for the following actions:
 - i) To award grants totalling £119,207 to cover a range of time periods between December 2022 and March 2024 as part of the Local Solutions Fund (as detailed in appendix A).

Executive Summary

3. This report seeks to...
 - Set out the background to the grants
 - Set out the reason for the recommendations
 - Consider the finance for the project

Contextual information

Background

4. The Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) contributes to improving people's quality of life. The grants programme is one of the ways in which the County Council supports the sector to support people to live fuller more independent lives.

5. A voluntary organisation may be considered for grant aid from the County Council only if its services, projects or activities are in compliance with the aims and objectives, priorities and policies of the County Council.
6. Grants are awarded to support services that are better provided by the voluntary sector e.g. the mobilisation of community resources to help vulnerable people maintain their independence.
7. A grant is defined as a sum of money to support a particular activity. It does not usually cover the entire cost of the activity and it is legally considered to be a one-sided gift, rather than a payment in exchange for services.
8. Voluntary and community organisations provide valuable locally based services that are often rooted in the communities which they serve. Significant benefit is produced through this activity, often through voluntary action and focused towards activity that clearly assists in providing early intervention and prevention initiatives. Grant funding by the County Council contributes to, and helps sustain, this activity.
9. As grants are a contribution to service or activity costs the economic benefit to the department can be significant, levering in additional funding, the benefit of volunteer time and therefore providing good value for money to the authority.
10. Organisations will not normally be eligible for grants where they hold balances in excess of one year's running costs. Those organisations receiving recurring funding which hold in excess of three months' running costs, and where they cannot demonstrate through their reserves policy that these reserves are justified, may receive a reduced grant. To establish the level of reserves, organisations are required to provide a set of their latest accounts and annual report with their application and before grant payment is made – in the case of organisations with an income of £10,000 or above, these must be independently examined or audited. If organisations have reserves in excess of three months, we will apply the reserves policy which is in line with the Charity Commission's policy on these matters.

Demand and Prevention Programme

11. Prevention, incorporating Demand Management is one of the three key areas identified to achieve the Vision of Adults' Health and Care, as detailed in the Adult's Health and Care Strategy.
12. The Demand Management and Prevention work will build on people's strengths, enabling them to improve their health and take more personal responsibility for looking after themselves with support from their family, friends and community network. The Council will encourage this by making the healthy choice the easy choice and developing accessible, inclusive and readily available information and advice services. The Council will also carry out targeted prevention work for certain groups of people who are most at risk of poor health to keep them well and to avoid or delay the need for social care services. The Council will work with partners, in particular the NHS, GPs and the Voluntary sector to achieve the above aims.

Local Solutions Grant

13. It is recognised that across Hampshire there are local initiatives, support networks and services achieving positive outcomes for adults every day. A strength-based approach values these local provisions and seeks to enable them to further develop, be sustained and grow. This approach recognises that the County Council is often not the only, or the best, source of help for local people.
14. Local Solutions Grants seek to fund projects, which over time will reduce the demand seen on Hampshire County Council statutory services and support participants to live healthy and independent lives for as long as possible. Grants are awarded to projects operating in a specific location with one off funding given. All Local Solutions applicants are expected to demonstrate how the project will be sustained in the long term, beyond the life of the grant.
15. Services developed through the Local Solutions locality focused approach, are likely to enable early prevention support, as well as shaping options which may be attractive alternatives to some traditional services currently available for individuals, carers and families. The prioritisation of localities to focus upon within this approach has been informed by data on demographics, existing and projected social care demand, and feedback from stakeholders. This will help to ensure that local people have effective support available now and into the future.
16. The focus and criteria for each Local Solution Grant has been shaped by engagement with local stakeholders. This engagement has informed identification of the local priorities, the outcomes which are important to be achieved and the potential type of solution which could be developed. They are also aligned to the NHS programme to support self-management, which assists individuals to remain independent and minimising their need for social care. Some grants are more specific in what is being asked to be delivered and others outline more generally the focus of the change required. Across all, it will be looked for the successful bidder(s) to ensure local insight and expertise continue to shape the support and services as they further develop, in order to deliver positive outcomes. Local stakeholders and local Adults' Health and Care Community Teams were involved in the decision making to ensure that the grants recommended meet the community need.
17. A rolling program of engagement events have taken place across 2022 and will continue into early 2023. With the aim of ensuring all voluntary sector organisations are aware of the Local Solutions fund, these events are also an opportunity to support organisations with the Local Solutions fund process, ensuring there are no barriers in making an application.
18. In this paper Local Solutions grants are being proposed supporting older and vulnerable adults with a range of bespoke solutions and services across numerous localities in Hampshire. The grants within this paper reflect the innovation, flexibility and project sustainability which are characteristic of

Local Solutions application and full details of the grants being proposed are contained below.

Grants For Consideration (additional Information in Appendix A)

19. New Forest Disability (£29,000 for a duration of 12 months). A project offering practical and emotional support to New Forest residents on discharge from Lymington Hospital. This project aims to ensure that upon discharge all users of the service have a robust plan in place for transition back to independent living within their own homes, and collaboration with all necessary community organisations to provide the best quality long term support.
20. The Vine Centre (£28,207 for a duration of 12 months). A project delivering for isolated older adults at increased risk of formal social care intervention across the districts of Hart and Rushmoor. Centred around digital upskilling and support, the project will deliver both online and face to face support to build people's confidence, support networks and ensure they are empowered to reconnect to their communities and the support available to them there. Repurposed technology will be provided for first time users to ensure nobody is excluded from the service.
21. Citizens Advice Hart (£27,000 for a duration of 12-16 months). A project which will enhance the current Citizens Advice offer and increase accessibility to those with limited or restricted mobility. Funding will enable the creation of local support hubs and an outreach program to residents who are housebound or with limited mobility to ensure that all residents are able to receive the support they require.
22. Unity Ltd (£24,000 for a duration of 16 months). A project centred around pre-existing allotments which will fund a range of social activities aimed at adults aged 75+ with increased risks of requiring formal social care intervention. Activities will be driven by the interests and needs of those participating and seek to build resilience through increased friendship and support networks and improving participants emotional and physical health.
23. Community First (£11,000 for a duration of 12 months). A project to be run by a coordinator and a team of volunteers to work with participants in group and one to one sessions across a range of locations. Sessions are structured to provide practical solutions to barriers which participants have to living independently and safely in their own homes and link with HCC Teams and Health Partners to reach those most in need of the service.

Finance

24. The grant proposal in this report will commit additional expenditure totalling £119,207 over the financial years 2022/23 and 2023/24. Subject to approval of this report the total grants committed for payment will remain within the agreed, (2022/23 & 2023/24) annual budget envelopes for the Demand Management and Prevention Programme.
25. Payments will be made in 2 instalments for all grants approved in this report. All Grant Agreements have conditions that enable the County Council to

require repayment of the award or any part of it if it remains unspent at the end of the grant period, or if there is a material breach of the grant agreement.

Performance

26. The provision of grants to voluntary and community sector organisations by statutory bodies always presents a degree of risk. Specific risks that statutory bodies are required to manage include voluntary and community organisations accepting funding without providing any activity; organisations not delivering the service as expected; and there being an under spend on the expected activity. This applies to all grants however larger grants represent a potentially higher risk to the County Council.
27. A number of mechanisms have been employed successfully over a number of years to mitigate and alleviate these risks. These include nominating a liaison officer from the County Council whose responsibility is to monitor how the grant is spent, specifying within the grant agreement that the grant is 'restricted' funding for the provision of the specified activity only and phasing the payment of grants over the course of the award duration.
28. A comprehensive evaluation assessment tool has been developed and is in use for the beneficiaries of previous grant rounds, ensuring consistency of data capture.
29. All organisations awarded a grant sign a declaration stating they accept that grant funding can only be awarded for the given period and no commitment exists from the County Council to continue funding after this time, or in subsequent years.

Consultation and Equalities

30. It is for the Executive Member as decision maker to have due regard to the need to: eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Equality Act and advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
31. All grants included for consideration in this report represent additional facilities and services for those they serve, and a full Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed to capture the benefits for each group.
32. Through provision of these grants and the completion of the EIA positive impacts have been identified for residents with disabilities and those in financial hardship and poverty. The grants proposed for funding seek to increase the provision for those who identify with these protected characteristics and increase the services which are available to them. Other protected characteristics have been assessed and the grants offer a neutral impact, with no negative impacts expected for any characteristic.

Climate Impact Assessment

33. Hampshire County Council utilises two decision-making tools to assess the carbon emissions and resilience of its projects and decisions. These tools provide a clear, robust, and transparent way of assessing how projects, policies and initiatives contribute towards the County Council's climate change targets of being carbon neutral and resilient to the impacts of a 2°C temperature rise by 2050. This process ensures that climate change considerations are built into everything the Authority does.
34. A full assessment of climate change vulnerability was not completed as the initial vulnerability assessment showed that the project is at minimal risk from the climate vulnerabilities because the projects delivered will be operated from premises not owned by the County Council or the organisation in receipt of the grant.

Conclusions

35. The Local Solutions Grant continues to offer local organisations in the voluntary and community sector, the opportunity to fund their projects to the benefit of local residents in a local way to address the specific needs of communities in each district. The grants proposed in this paper have a range of benefits and outcomes, but all seek, as a minimum to reduce social isolation and loneliness and connect participants to their local communities and support networks.

REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Strategic Plan

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	no
People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:	yes
People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:	no
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	yes

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
Demand Management and Prevention Grant Award	January 2022
Demand Management and Prevention Grant Award	July 2022

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents	
<p>The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)</p>	
<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:

1. Equality Duty

1.1 The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation);
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

1.2 Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

The award of grants to the voluntary and community sector to support people to live long, healthy and happy lives with the maximum possible independence, as part of the demand management and prevention programme and in-line with Adult's Health and Care Strategy 2018.

Grants in this paper:

Local Solutions Grants, covering the districts of New Forest, Rushmoor, Hart, Test Valley and Winchester for a period December 2022 – December 2023. Total Pot: £119,207

Geographical impact: Grants in this paper are recommended for award, which if approved will provide additional services, beyond what is already available in the districts of: New Forest, Rushmoor, Hart, Test Valley and Winchester

Proposed Change: The grants proposed in this paper all represent new services which were not previously funded and therefore are of additional benefit to those they seek to serve.

The Local Solutions fund continues to offer funding to projects which support a diverse range of Hampshire residents, and does so in collaboration with Social Care Teams, health partners and the community and voluntary sector.

As a result of the proposals contained within this Executive Member Decision Report we do not anticipate any changes to service provision, rather these are extensions to existing services or new services which were not previously available.

Will the proposed project/service change affect people in the protected characteristics groups or any of the other groups for consideration? Yes

Who does this impact assessment cover?: All

Has engagement or consultation been carried out?: Yes

Describe the consultation or engagement you have performed or are intending to perform:

The Local Solutions Grant application process is designed to enhance collaboration between HCC and the applicant every step of the way. Throughout the application process, the grants within this paper were shaped in order to ensure the outcomes proposed align with the Adults Health strategy and deliver the maximum benefit for participants.

A key focus for DM&P at the current time is building and strengthening relationships with the local districts across Hampshire. The individual districts have been consulted with on each project which impacts their locality for their thoughts and suggestions to ensure the maximum benefit across multiple levels of Local Government.

Finally various HCC teams have been involved with the shaping of the projects outlined in this report, from the LD and PD Teams input into the proposed New Forest Disability application to the Social Care Team input into the Unity Project

Assessment Rationale: All projects included in this report serve, as one of their key demographics, older adults in the 70+ age range. The projects included will increase support beyond what is already available to support older adults with digital inclusion, upskilling and connectivity (The Vine application), reduce social isolation and loneliness (Unity and Hart CA applications) and support with everyday tasks and planning to increase independent living (New Forest Disability and Community First applications)

Disability social impact: Positive

Disability staff impact: Neutral

Assessment Rational: A number of the project proposed in this report will provide services for those living with a disability in excess of the provision currently available. The New Forest Disability Service will support those with a physical disability prior to discharge from hospital, ensuring they have all they need to safely transition back to life in their own homes. The CA Hart application proposes a more flexible support offering which will be of benefit to those with restricted or limited mobility as they will be able to receive advice and support closer to their homes than previously.

Sexual orientation public impact: Neutral

Sexual orientation staff impact: Neutral

Assessment rationale: Whilst none of the projects recommended for funding specifically support people within this defined characteristic, they are all open to those who need support irrespective of sexual orientation.

Race social impact: Neutral

Race staff impact: Neutral

Assessment Rationale: Whilst none of the projects recommended for funding specifically support people within this defined characteristic, they are all open to those who need support irrespective of race.

Religion or belief social impact: Neutral

Religion or belief staff impact: Neutral

Assessment Rationale: Whilst none of the projects recommended for funding specifically support people within this defined characteristic, they are all open to those who need support irrespective of religion

Gender reassignment public impact: Neutral

Gender reassignment staff impact: Neutral

Assessment Rationale: Whilst none of the projects recommended for funding specifically support people within this defined characteristic, they are all open to those who need support irrespective of gender reassignment.

Sex public impact: Neutral

Sex staff impact: Neutral

Assessment rationale: Whilst none of the projects recommended for funding specifically support people within this defined characteristic, they are all open to those who need support irrespective of sex.

Marriage or civil partnership: Neutral

Marriage or civil partnership: Neutral

Assessment Rationale: Whilst none of the projects recommended for funding specifically support people within this defined characteristic, they are all open to those who need support irrespective of marital status or civil partnership.

Pregnancy and maternity public impact: Neutral

Pregnancy and maternity staff impact: Neutral

Assessment rationale: Whilst none of the projects recommended for funding specifically support people within this defined characteristic, they are all open to those who need support irrespective of pregnancy or maternity.

Poverty public impact: Positive

Poverty staff impact: Neutral

Assessment Rationale: All projects recommended for approval in this report support people in poverty and financial hardship as part of their offering. The most significant additional service for those in poverty will be the CA Hart application which seeks to offer financial support and benefits entitlement assistance in a more localised way which will be of benefit for those with limited mobility or ability to travel. The Vine centre application will support older adults to manage their finances and budgets online which will be of benefit to those who live in communities with limited access to traditional banking. Finally the New Forest Disability Services project will connect those, about to be discharged from hospital into a range of financial support services to ensure that they do not return home to poverty which could otherwise be avoided.

Rurality public impact: Neutral

Rurality staff impact: Neutral

Assessment rationale: Whilst none of the projects recommended for funding specifically support people within this defined characteristic, they are all open to those who need support irrespective of rurality or location.

APPENDIX A

LOCAL SOLUTIONS GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS BY AREA

Grant 1

Organisation: New Forest Disability

Project Title: Staying Safe Advocacy Project

Area: New Forest (Lymington and surrounds)

Amount: £29,000 (Duration 12 months)

Project Description: Protect which supports residents around the time of their discharge from Lymington Hospital. The aims of the project are to meet with patients and their families in the hospital prior to discharge to support, advise and arrange in order to ensure the right support is in place for their return home. Upon discharge volunteers will meet with the discharged patient on a regular basis to ensure they are supported and advocate on their behalf where additional provision is needed to ensure independent living. The hospital trust has estimated that the number of patients requiring assistance on discharge has increased 45% in the past 2 years alone and this service will provide for this additional need and ensure people are safe, supported and confident in their own homes. This service will provide significant benefit to the individual but also to HCC through a reduction in reliance on statutory services with people able to safely return home in a safe and provided for way to minimise need for council intervention or an increase in social care need which could be avoided.

Grant 2

Organisation: The Vine Centre

Project Title: Stepping Out

Area: Hart and Rushmoor

Amount: £28,207 (Duration 12 months)

Project Description: The Stepping Out project seeks to support vulnerable and isolated residents in Hart and Rushmoor with digital skills, practical support and outreach in order to reconnect them to their communities and support networks. Through a coordinator and a network of volunteers the service will support users with practical help both in and outside the home and work to build confidence in those requiring it in order to access their wider communities. A key feature of the project will be digital upskilling and the provision of repurposed IT equipment in order so ensure that people have the tools required to connect in an increasingly digital age and not feel that they are isolated due to a lack of these skills. The

project will run for 12 months with future proofing plans in place to ensure it is sustained beyond the life of the grant.

Grant 3

Organisation: Hart Citizens Advice

Project Title: Reach Out and Help Out

Area: Hart

Amount: £27,000 (Duration 12 months with option to extend to 16 months depending on initial take up)

Project Description: The Reach Out and Help Out project is one which seeks to expand on the current Citizens Advice (CA) provision in Hart with an additional outreach service, target chiefly at the 75+ demographic and those who are housebound or with restricted mobility. Current CA Hart services are provided out of one location and this project will expand this to 15 taking in local community venues, libraries and cafes, bringing the service closer to those who need it. Home visitation will also be an option for those who are unable to access the larger number of site options and this will ensure no vulnerable person is without financial, benefits and cost of living support at a time when it is needed more than ever. CA Hart plan to team up with a number of cafes in different locations to run sessions out of with the goal of connecting people to these community assets and supporting in reducing social dislocation and isolation as an additional outcome.

Grant 4

Organisation: Unity Ltd

Project Title: Garden to Health

Area: Test Valley

Amount: £24,000 (Duration 16 months)

Project Description: Project which has been in development for the past 12 months in collaboration with the local Social Care Teams and is designed to support adults with a range of vulnerabilities in the over 70s demographic. The project will take place in existing allotments and a community centre and is designed to provide activities, social opportunities and mental health support to those who participate. If successful the funding will provide for a project coordinator to support volunteers and a part time mental health therapist who will work with those attending to improve mental health and resilience. A wide range of different project will be run which will seek to support different groups of people including those with dementia, carers, the recently bereaved and older adults experiencing social isolation and loneliness. Weather permitting, activities will be based around gardening and will cater to a wide range of abilities, however unlike

many other gardening projects, during the winter months the project will move indoors to offer year round provision. A highlight of the project will be its potential to offer respite for carers with fully trained individuals present at activities which means carers will be able to leave their loved ones safe in the knowledge that they will be safe and doing an activity they enjoy.

Grant 5

Organisation: Community First

Project Title: Support and Advice (75+)

Area: Winchester

Amount: £11,000 (Duration 12 months)

Project Description: Project will employ a part time advisor who will work alongside a network of volunteers to support older adults (75+) with a range of practical solutions to barriers they face in living independently and safely in their own homes. The project will link with health partners, HCC teams and other voluntary sector organisations to reach all who require support and will aim to reduce reliance on statutory service buy supporting people to remain independent and safe in their homes as long as possible.