

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Younger Adults and Health and Wellbeing
Date:	28 March 2023
Title:	Annual core infrastructure grants to Voluntary and Community Sector Organisations
Report From:	Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Adults' Health and Care

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Peter Stokes

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1. The decision:

- 1.1 That approval be given by the Executive Member for Younger Adults and Health and Wellbeing for the following actions:
- i) To award a grant totalling £495,990 to Community First Wessex for the financial year 2023/24 as part of the Infrastructure Grants programme in support of the Hampshire Councils for the Voluntary Sector Network (CVS Network)
 - ii) To award a grant totalling £63,000 to Citizens Advice Hampshire for the financial year 2023/24 as part of the Infrastructure Grants programme in support of the Citizens Advice Network.

2 Reasons for the decision:

- 2.1 The County Council supports the infrastructure of Hampshire's VCS through funding to the Hampshire Councils for the Voluntary Sector (CVS) Network. This comprises eight organisations which cover the whole of the county. In the current year Community First has been funded by the County Council as the lead organisation. Community First has then worked in partnership with the other seven CVSs, passing on funding and working with them to achieve specific outcomes set out in the grant agreement.
- 2.2 The County Council also has a longstanding partnership with Citizens Advice Hampshire (CitAH). CitAH delivers training and development to around 250 paid employees and 500 volunteers across 14 local Citizens Advice offices. It also provides specialist advice lines on employment and welfare and maintains a single point of contact between local Citizens Advice and wider strategic partners.

3 Other options considered and rejected:

3.1 Not to offer and award the grants contained within the report. This option was rejected because the voluntary sector continues to be a crucial partner to the County Council on a range of initiatives including supporting residents of Hampshire with cost of living concerns, and support to Ukrainian refugees, which has been enabled by the ongoing provision of an infrastructure grant. Based on evidence of impact to-date, it is proposed that core infrastructure grant funding continues throughout the 2023/24 financial year.

4 Conflicts of interest:

4.1 Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker: None

4.2 Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted: None

5 Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel: None

6 Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: Not applicable

7 Statement from the decision maker:

Approved by:

Date:

Councillor Jan Warwick
Executive Member for Younger Adults and Health and Wellbeing

28 March 2023