

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Younger Adults and Health and Wellbeing
Date:	16 May 2024
Title:	Demand Management and Prevention Grant Awards
Report From:	Director of Adults' Health and Care

Contact name: Mark Allen
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 Younger Adults and Health and Wellbeing for the following actions:
 - i) To award grants totalling £87,612 to cover a range of time periods between June 2024 and November 2025 as part of the Local Solutions Fund, as set out in this report.

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
 - Look at key issues

Contextual information

Background

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

5. A VCSE 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 VCSE 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. VCSE 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. 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

10. 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 2023.
11. 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 County Council will encourage this by making the healthy choice the easy choice and developing accessible, inclusive and readily available information and advice services. The County 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 County Council will work with partners, in particular the NHS, GPs and the VCSE sector to achieve the above aims.

Local Solutions Grant

12. 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.

13. Local Solutions Grants seek to fund projects, which over time will reduce the demand seen on the County Council 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.
14. 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.
15. 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 Adult's Health and Care Community Teams were involved in the decision making to ensure that the grants recommended meet the community need.
16. In this paper Local Solutions grants are being proposed supporting older adults and younger adults at risk of requiring social care intervention 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 applications.

Grants for Consideration in report

17. Happy Healing Hut (£30,000 for a duration of 18 months from June 2024 to November 2025) – A project staffed by qualified mental health professionals and counsellors who volunteer to support vulnerable older adults to regain confidence and emotional resilience after a period of time in hospital, helping them to reconnect to local communities and networks of support in the Basingstoke, East Hampshire and Rushmoor areas. Weekly support sessions will be delivered for a 12 week period to provide confidence building and emotional support to participants after a period in hospital, once they return to their home. Support will also be provided to carers of those returning home to

ensure that participants are able to recover confidence to regain their previous independence and reduce reliance on packages of care and external intervention.

18. First Steps New Forest (£7,000 for a duration of 18 months from June 2024 to November 2025) – A project which will work with the Settled Gypsy and Traveller Community in the New Forest to prevent homelessness and reconnect those who are homeless with their family and networks of support. The project will be staffed with members of the community who understand the unique challenges and opportunities of intensive intervention and share a lived experience. The Homelessness Support Project will work with adults in the community who are rough sleeping as a result of family breakdown and work to reconnect them to their network of support. Work will particularly target those individuals with learning disabilities and the County Council packages of support to ensure that they have the family and community support they need to reset their situations.
19. Fawley Community Centre (£21,000 for a duration of 18 months from June 2024 to November 2025) – A project which will fund bespoke equipment and training which will enable residents of the Waterside Area of the New Forest to access physical wellbeing support after a period in hospital as a result of a stroke or fall. Working alongside local Social Prescribers and the local Adults' Health and Care team, this project will enable users who have left hospital to regain their strength, physical fitness and independence irrespective of their level of mobility. Focussed on residents who have left hospital with a package of care in place and with decreased mobility and increased vulnerabilities, trained members of staff will work with individuals, using a strengths based approach to rebuild their physical fitness and independence in a social setting.
20. The project will also increase the frequency of the social afternoons to 5 x per week which will enable the centre to support 200 people keep connected to their community, reducing social isolation and loneliness. Transport will be provided to the centre which will enable adults from across the Waterside area to access the project and the focus on supporting those leaving hospital with a package of care in place will see enhanced outcomes for the County Council in being able to return people to independence and fitness to reduce down the cost of care package or preventing its escalation in the future.
21. Basingstoke Neighbourcare (£29,612 for a period of 12 months from June 2024 to May 2025) – Project will set up and deliver a community hub for older adults in the Popley area of Basingstoke. The funding will provide start up capital for the project and its delivery for 15 months after which it is then expected that the Hub will be self-sustaining. Building upon learning from their network of community cafes which are more socially orientated, this Community Hub will provide a wrap around one stop hub for older people and their carers to come to each week. Through a weekly programme of events and activities focused around providing independent living skills, as well as the provision of information, signposting and support and transport to attend, this Community Hub will offer a range of targeted support to those aged over

75, carers and those with disabilities and respond to an identified need within this community.

Finance

22. The grant proposal in this report will commit additional expenditure totalling £87,612 over the financial year 2024/25. Subject to approval of this report the total grants committed for payment will remain within the agreed, 2024/25 annual budget envelope for the Demand Management and Prevention Programme.
23. Payments will be made in 2 instalments for all grants in excess of £10,000 and in one payment for projects approved below this amount. 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.
24. The County Council has recently consulted on a proposal to withdraw funding of the adult social care grant schemes, including the Local Solutions Grant scheme, from April 2025. This does not impact the award of these Local Solutions Grants in 2024/25 financial year.

Performance

25. The provision of grants to VCSE organisations by statutory bodies always presents a degree of risk. Specific risks that statutory bodies are required to manage include VCSE 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.
26. 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.
27. A comprehensive evaluation assessment tool has been developed and is in use for the beneficiaries of previous grant rounds, ensuring consistency of data capture.
28. 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

29. 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.

30. 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. In summary the grants recommended in this report have been assessed to have a positive impact to the characteristics of age and disability, as well as having a positive impact on poverty and for residents living in rural areas of the County, as they are increasing the access to services that will benefit these groups.

Climate Impact Assessment

31. The 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.
32. 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

33. The Local Solutions Grant continues to offer local organisations in the VCSE 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> Demand Management and Prevention Grant Award Demand Management and Prevention Grant Award Demand Management and Prevention Grant Award Demand Management and Prevention Grant Award	<u>Date</u> October 2022 March 2023 July 2023 December 2023
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>

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

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.

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, community and social enterprise (VCSE) 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 Adults' Health and Care Strategy 2023.

Grants in this paper:

Local Solutions Grants, covering the districts of Basingstoke and Deane, East Hants, Hart, New Forest and Winchester - period June 2024 – November 2025.

Total Pot: £87,612

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: Basingstoke and Deane, East Hampshire, Hart, New Forest 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 VCSE 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.

The First Steps New Forest project seeks to support the Settled Gypsy and Traveller Community with homelessness provision. Whilst provision in this area is already made, members of the Settled Gypsy and Traveller Community have not been accessing it and so this bespoke provision will complement this to ensure the community have the same access to resources that other communities do.

Will the proposed project/service change affect people in the protected characteristics groups or any of the other groups for consideration? No

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. An example of this is the engagement of the Transport Team with the Alresford minibus project in order to confirm the training which formed part of the application was the most appropriate and that the level of public transport demand was present in the area.

Age public impact: Positive

Age staff impact: Neutral

Assessment Rationale: A number of projects included in this report will deliver new services which are primarily aimed at Hampshire residents 70+. The Fawley Recreation Centre project works specifically with older adults to ensure that they have accessible gym equipment which will enable them take a strengths based approach to improving their fitness and recovery from strokes, falls and time in hospital. It does so in a social atmosphere to enable people to connect to others in their community and reduce the level of social isolation and loneliness. We know from Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) data that the area that this project covers has one of the highest number of residents 70+ and so transport will be provided as part of the offer in order to ensure participants from more remote villages can attend.

The decision to seek funding for the Basingstoke Neighbourcare grant was also driven by the JSNA data. The project will be based in Popley, which contains areas in the 1st and 2nd decile for highest levels of social isolation and are in the lowest decile in terms of people over 65 with bad or very bad health outcomes. Social isolation is an objective term to describe an absence of social contacts and community involvement and this project seeks to directly address the issue of social isolation in over 65s in the areas surrounding Basingstoke which see the highest rates.

The Happy Healing Hut project seeks to support older adults in recovery from time in hospital to regain their independence and confidence in the home. Targeted intervention will ensure participants (and their carers) will be able to live confidently, safely and independently in their own homes.

Disability social impact: Positive

Disability staff impact: Neutral

Assessment Rationale: All projects recommended for funding in this paper are open to residents with disabilities to provide additional support to what is already available in the community.

The Fawley Recreation Centre project will provide disabled access exercise equipment which will enable adults with a physical disability or recovering from strokes and falls to rebuild their fitness on equipment which is designed for them. Staff have been trained to support with a range of physical disabilities to ensure that participants have the support they need to exercise in a safe and supportive environment.

LSOA areas containing and surrounding Fawley have a reported 4.6% of residents with a disability which is higher than the Hampshire average and is a key driver for supporting a project like this in the area. Data shows that those with a physical disability are significantly more likely to experience social isolation and loneliness and the Waterside area of the New Forest has one of the highest scores on the social isolation index and alongside its statistically higher rate of residents with disabilities than in Hampshire as a whole. The Fawley project seeks

to address this correlation by improving participants physical mobility and strength in a social atmosphere to build community connections.

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: Positive

Race staff impact: Neutral

Assessment Rationale: The First Steps New Forest project seeks to ensure that the Settled Gypsy and Traveller community have the bespoke homelessness support required to meet the unique needs of this community. Current provision is not meeting the needs of this community and this project will seek to address this with volunteers from the community with lived experience.

The Settled Gypsy and Traveller community resides primarily in the New Forest District owing to historical ties and availability of housing. Data shows that the New Forest has the 3rd highest rate of homelessness in Hampshire at 4.8 families per 1000. This trend is reflected in the Settled Gypsy and Traveller community where homelessness has been increasing since the pandemic. Whilst homelessness support is provided in the New Forest, a range of issues mean this is not being accessed by the Settled Gypsy and Traveller community and the First Steps grant seeks to address this.

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 or belief.

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.

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 marriage or civil partnership status.

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: Awaiting the Basingstoke neighbourcare write-up.

Rurality public impact: Positive

Rurality staff impact: Neutral

Assessment rationale: Projects in this paper will support residents living in rural communities, enabling them to access provisions which are available in urban centres of the county.

The First Steps project will seek to support members of the Settled Gypsy and Traveller community across a number of rural locations in the New Forest. Similarly the Fawley Recreation Centre project will utilise community transport options to ensure that residents of smaller rural communities in the New Forest will have access to a service which would not otherwise be available in their villages. We know from Public Health data that the area covered by this project has one of the highest numbers of residents aged 70+ in the whole of Hampshire, many of whom live in smaller villages or hamlets around the area. Transport will ensure no matter where in the catchment you live, you will be able to attend.