

# HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

## Decision Report

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| <b>Decision Maker:</b> | Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Health |
| <b>Date:</b>           | 27 February 2018                                  |
| <b>Title:</b>          | Demand Management and Prevention Grant Award      |
| <b>Report From:</b>    | Director of Adults' Health and Care               |

**Contact name:** Bethany Tanton, Service Development Officer

**Tel:** 01962 846698

**Email:** [Bethany.Tanton@hants.gov.uk](mailto:Bethany.Tanton@hants.gov.uk)

### 1. Recommendation(s)

- 1.1. That approval be given by the Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Health to award Autism Hampshire a grant totalling £49,974 over a twelve month period between April 2019 and March 2020 as part of the Autism Support Grant.

### 2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. The purpose of this paper is to seek approval for making a grant award to the voluntary and community organisation outlined in this report as part of the Demand Management and Prevention Programme.
- 2.2. 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.
- 2.3. The report outlines a proposal for funding towards a scheme to support adults with, and those suspected to have, an autism spectrum condition. As well as their families and those connected to them, professionals, and the wider community.

### 3. Contextual information

- 3.1. 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.
- 3.2. 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.

- 3.3. 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.
- 3.4. 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.
- 3.5. As grants are a contribution to service or activity costs the economic benefit to the department can be significant, leveraging in additional funding, the benefit of volunteer time and therefore providing good value for money to the authority.
- 3.6. 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 inline with the Charity Commission's policy on these matters.

#### **4. Demand Management and Prevention Programme**

- 4.1. 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 2018.
- 4.2. 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.
- 4.3. In alignment with the overall Demand Management and Prevention Programme Strategy, the five year objectives for the Demand Management and Prevention Programme are:
  - More people will be keeping fit and well in the community, reducing the need and demand for health and social care services.

- Information and advice via Connect to Support will be routinely accessed to enable people to make informed choices about their care and support.
  - The County Council's contact centre will resolve the majority of client enquiries for help and support.
  - Private pay care technology solutions will be routinely requested and provided.
  - Community support offers will be increasingly known about, better trusted and more widely used.
  - Fewer people will be socially isolated or people will be better connected and Carers will be better supported.
- 4.4. A number of countywide grants and contracts are awarded as part of the Demand Management and Prevention programme, all designed to complement and deliver the aims and objectives of the programme. This includes the Autism Support Grant discussed in this report. In addition, a number of smaller place-based grants will also be awarded as part of the programme of work, in response to community needs identified.

## **5. Autism Support Grant**

- 5.1. The Autism Support Grant will continue to fund services to support people with autism before, during and post diagnosis with advice, guidance, signposting/support through referrals from the diagnostic services across Hampshire. The advice, guidance, signposting and support will be tailored to the individual with the aim of promoting and supporting their independence wherever possible. The outcomes will include preventing escalation of situations into crisis for those within the diagnosis process, and providing support linked to the diagnostic assessment with recommendations to support the uniqueness of each person's individual autism needs. Consequently these services will continue prevent, reduce and divert demand on County Council services.
- 5.2. The organisation recommended by the panel for the grant award next financial year is Autism Hampshire. Autism Hampshire are experienced in supporting Hampshire residents on the autism spectrum and have provided services to meet these individual's diverse needs for a number of years. Autism Hampshire were also awarded the Autism Support Grant last financial year and have since reported on a number of outputs that support the overall aim of promoting and supporting the independence of Hampshire residents with autism wherever possible. For example, in the first 3 quarters of the grant period last year (April – December 2018) the service saw the following key outputs:
- 669 people received support via the Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) service
  - 30 people received intensive support
  - 80 1:1 support sessions held
  - 5 crisis cases supported
  - 43 people supported through groups and social events (on average)
  - 0 complaints received

- 5.3. The top 3 areas of support requested by contacts were: advice and emotional support (286), employment (28) and autism diagnosis (25). Overall, support has been provided in many different forms; telephone and email contact, face to face meetings, providing social group opportunities and supporting people to access appointments or interviews. The support provided by Autism Hampshire has resulted in outcomes such as: people accessing environments and services which they were unable to previously, increased understanding and awareness of autism within local communities, and, increased resilience and opportunities for people.
- 5.4. Autism Hampshire also provides support and co-ordination for the Serendipity Social Groups. As part of this grant, Autism Hampshire is expected to continue assisting with the recruitment of volunteers for further establishment of Serendipity Groups, where there are currently identified gaps within Hampshire. Serendipity Groups are user-led social groups for those with Asperger's and High Functioning Autism. Many people with autism are severely disadvantaged by the difficulties they have with social interaction, communications and sensory issues and can easily become isolated from their community. The Serendipity Groups are designed to prevent this isolation, and receive feedback from users such as, "The Serendipity Group has made me feel far less alone."
- 5.5. The grant-funded service will also provide 'light touch' support, as required, to accompany individuals to attend initial taster sessions to community based services and activities, to enable the person to feel more confident in attending independently. The services provided by the Autism Support Grant will therefore help to reduce isolation through supporting social needs and goals, and improve home life by providing stability for people with autism and their families through telephone support to people with autism, their families and paid carers/professionals.
- 5.6. Autism Hampshire will also be expected to market and advertise the other autism services available in Hampshire to maximise their uptake and benefit as many as possible. The current service is referred to by the County Council's call centre, community teams, and other partner organisations, helping to reduce and divert demand away from County Council services. It provides a point of contact for professionals and supports the communication of services and opportunities to people with autism and their carers.

## **6. Finance**

- 6.1. The grant proposal in this report will commit additional expenditure totalling £49,974 over the twelve month period commencing from April 2019. Subject to approval of this report the total grants committed for payment will remain within the agreed 2019/20 annual budget envelope for the Demand Management and Prevention Programme.
- 6.2. Payment of the Autism Support Grant award set out in this report will be made in two instalments. The first payment of the award will be made on signature of the grant agreement, with payment of the remainder of the grant being made six months later. 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.

## **7. Risk Assessment and Management**

- 7.1. 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.
- 7.2. 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. The appointed Liaison Officer for this Autism Support Grant award will be the Strategic Autism Lead to maximise the potential of this service to work in partnership with all autism organisations, networks and agencies in Hampshire.
- 7.3. 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.

## **8. Consultation and Equalities**

- 8.1. 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.
- 8.2. The Autism Support Grant to be awarded is targeting a similar range of people and is of a similar amount to the grant awarded in the previous year. As a result it is likely that a similar number of individuals in each of the groups with protected characteristics, identified in the Equality Act 2010, will benefit. In particular, the continuation of awarding the grant will ensure a sustained positive impact on people with disabilities.
- 8.3. Due to the amount awarded being similar to the grant award in the preceding year and the service being delivered to a similar group of people, the decision has been taken that a consultation and equality impact assessment is not required at this stage

**CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:****Links to the Strategic Plan**

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

**Other Significant Links**

| <b>Links to previous Member decisions:</b>   |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| <u>Title</u>                                 | <u>Date</u>       |
| Demand Management and Prevention Grant Award | 27 September 2018 |
| Supportive Communities Grant Award           | 13 March 2018     |
| Supportive Communities Grant Award           | 21 September 2017 |

**Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents**

**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.)**

| <u>Document</u> | <u>Location</u> |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| None            |                 |

## **IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:**

### **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 under the Act;

Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;

Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

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

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

#### **1.2. Equalities Impact Assessment:**

Due to the amount awarded being similar to the grant award in the preceding year and the service being delivered to a similar group of people, the decision has been taken that a consultation and equality impact assessment is not required at this stage.

### **2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:**

The County Council has a legal obligation under Section 7 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to consider the impact of all decisions it makes on the prevention of crime. The proposal in this report aims to improve the safety of vulnerable Hampshire residents and reduce the risk of crime occurring

### **3. Climate Change:**

- 3.1. How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?

The Demand Management and Prevention Grant Programme proposes to support local organisations providing services within local communities. This reduces the need to travel and therefore reduces both the carbon footprint and energy consumption.

3.2. How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?

The proposal recognises the need to adapt to climate change and issues will be addressed throughout the period of the grant award through the monitoring of outcomes.