

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Health
Date:	18 March 2020
Title:	Demand Management and Prevention Grants
Report From:	Director of Adults' Health and Care

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Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval for making grant awards 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 to award the following grants:
 - i) To award Citizens Advice Havant a grant totalling £35,000 to cover a 2 year period between 1 May 2020 and 30 April 2022 as part of the Local Solutions Grant fund as detailed below.
 - ii) To award Totton and Ealing Volunteers a grant totalling £12,500 to cover a twelve month period between 1 May 2020 and 30 April 2021 as part of the Local Solutions Grant as outlined below.

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
 - Briefly consider the future direction of 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, leveraging 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 2018.

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.
13. 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.
14. 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. Some grants are awarded countywide but in addition, a number of smaller place-based grants are also required awarded as part of the programme of work, in response to specific community needs identified within that locality. These place-based grants include the Local Solutions Grants discussed in this report.
15. In this report all grants being recommended follow on from an advertised programme that is open for applications from relevant organisations.

Local Solutions Grant

16. 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

17. Services developed through this locality focused approach (either through building capacity in existing provision or through new initiatives) 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.
18. The focus and decisions for each Local Solution Grant has been shaped by engagement with local stakeholders, care teams and officers. 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.
19. There have been two previous grant rounds under the Local Solutions Fund (Round 1 (awarded 24 July 2019) and Round 2 (awarded 15 January 2020)) and this paper seeks to build on these albeit under the new grants process outlined in the 15 Jan 2020 decision paper. The two applications contained within this paper were made into previous grant rounds, on both occasions the initial Decision Panel supported the application in principle but felt additional work and consideration was required prior to submitting for Executive approval. It was decided to trial the new grants process with these two existing applications prior to widescale rollout as these applications were already well understood by officers and well progressed in development.
20. As previously outlined, the new approach will see a greater level of collaborative working between The County Council and the applicant to ensure the correct level of support is given (particularly to less experienced applicants) and that projects are tailored to best meet the needs of both clients and The County Council. Applications will be presented for Executive Member decision 3 times yearly, as per the amounts set out in the Council Constitution.
21. A grant of £35,000 has been recommended for Citizens Advice Havant to fund a volunteer coordinator to recruit, train and manage a team of volunteers to work intensively with housebound County Council clients in need of debt and benefits advice. The intensive support aims to re-engage clients with resources in their local community, tackle social isolation and build client confidence to enable them to leave their homes. Similar projects run elsewhere in the UK have resulted in clients being on average £1750 better off per year and 35-40% subsequently re-engaging with their local communities after the supported intervention. The need for such a service has been raised by the Havant Community Teams and the Adults Health Place Based Worker and it is projected to support 200 clients over the life of

the project. Similar projects have been funded in other districts, again on the back of recommendations from community teams.

22. A grant of £12,500 has been recommended for the Totton and Ealing Volunteers which would fund the purchase of a wide range of activity equipment for use in the new community building, and some additional equipment to support accessibility for residents with restricted mobility. Equipment will be used in weekly classes, aimed at the 70+ demographic to promote physical activity and tackle social isolation and loneliness. Staffed and run entirely by volunteers classes will focus on some of the key demographic groups which the New Forest Teams have stressed the need for support, for example a support group for veterans and a living well with dementia group. Demand already exists with some classes already running, although a shortage of community capacity means they can only take place monthly. This project will deliver increased community capacity, moving classes from their current monthly frequency to weekly, improving their effectiveness and the wellbeing of users.

Finance

23. The grant proposal in this report will commit expenditure totalling £47,500 within the existing budget, over a two year period commencing in 2020/21. The expenditure has been profiled between years as follows: £32,500 in 2020/21 and £15,000 in 2021/22. Subject to approval of this report the total grants committed for payment will remain within the agreed (2020/21) and anticipated (2021/22) annual budget envelopes for the Demand Management and Prevention Programme.
24. Payment of the proposed grant to Citizens Advice Havant will be made in two instalments (£20,000 on receipt of grant agreement and £15,000 12 months into the project).
25. Payment of the Totton and Ealing Volunteers grant will be paid in one instalment on receipt of the signed 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. The Local Solutions Grants will include measures to define the volume of referrals taken and how much care costs have been diverted. The precise details of this performance framework will be subject to further discussion and subsequent agreement with the grant recipients prior to accepting the grant. The measures agreed will be used amongst other measures, to quantify and qualify the cost avoidance of the Local Solutions grant spend, specifically in relation to the efficacy in offsetting demand that would otherwise fall on formal Social Care services. Performance will be monitored through senior internal governance structures. It is envisaged that the financial benefits derived will exceed the one-off cost invested provided that the activity undertaken is in accordance with the grants. DM&P have worked closely with both applicants in drawing up the respective Business Plans, as part of the new grants process, to ensure clear and measurable outcomes have been identified and will be monitored throughout the life of the project.
29. The award of these grants will support applicant organisations to build local resilience and support clients who would otherwise likely require intervention from The County Council. Measures are in place to evaluate any cost benefits. These will include (but are not limited to) supporting clients to claim their full benefit entitlement and deal with debt, allowing them to fund any low level support they may require in order to live more independently, and supporting clients with specific health conditions to live well and manage their condition effectively to delay any health decline and associated rises in County Council funded at home care requirements.
30. A comprehensive evaluation assessment tool has been developed and is in use for the beneficiaries of Round 1 and Round 2 grants and will continue to be used for those awarded in future Local Solutions Grant submissions.
31. The new process for award of Local Solutions grants has been employed for the two grants recommended for award in this paper. The decision was taken to limit the number of applications in this period to allow for embedding of the new process and a small scale trial. This approach allows any issues to be identified and corrected and minimises risks associated with the implementation of a new process.
32. 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

33. 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.

34. The Local Solutions Grants proposed will have a positive impact on older adults aged 65 and over, as well as adults with physical disabilities, as the awards will enable either new or expanded services to those belonging to these protected groups. Also, the Age Concern project recommended for award from the Local Solutions Grant will have a positive impact on adults in poverty, as they will be offering services designed to maximise a user's income through benefit checking, giving assistance with benefit claims and supporting with financial management.
35. The Local Solutions Grants have been shaped in their design by local stakeholder engagement, including those working in the local voluntary community sector, local councillors as well as staff working for Adults' Health and Care, Health and from local councils. Each of the grants panels was held locally with representatives from the local community part of the decision making process.

Conclusions

36. The organisations receiving a Local Solutions Grant will provide services identified at a local level as required to either prevent or delay adults from requiring social care involvement or will reduce their need for care by providing alternative solutions.
37. The new changes to the process enacted for these applications has enabled a more open and collaborative approach to working with voluntary organisations in local communities, as well as increasing the opportunity for collaborative funding of applications with other funders.

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	<u>Date</u> 15 January 2020
Demand Management and Prevention Grant Award	24 July 2019
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>

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	

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.
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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 in New Forest and Havant areas - period 1 May 2020 - 30 April 2022. Total Pot: £42,500

Geographical impact:

Proposed Change:

All the Local Solutions Grants recommended for award are new and have not been awarded to any organisation for these purposes before. These are in addition to other grants currently awarded on behalf of Adults' Health and Care.

Local Solutions Grant are new grants to provide services addressing locally identified needs. These areas identified in this round have been chosen by scale of existing social care need and demographic data. There is intention to hold future grant rounds so that each district is reached.

Who does this impact assessment cover?: Service users

Has engagement or consultation been carried out?: Yes

Describe the consultation or engagement you have performed or are intending to perform: The Local Solutions Grants have been shaped in their design by local stakeholder engagement, including those working in the local voluntary community sector, local councillors as well as staff working for Adults' Health and Care, Health and from local councils.

Age: Positive

Impact: Both the Local Solutions Grants will seek to offer either new or expanded services to Older Adults aged over 65 years.

Disability: Neutral

Sexual orientation: Neutral

Race: Neutral

Religion or belief: Neutral

Gender reassignment: Neutral

Gender: Neutral

Marriage or civil partnership: Neutral

Pregnancy and maternity: Neutral

Poverty: Positive

Impact: Some of the Local Solutions Grants will fund services in communities identified of higher deprivation, with the aim that the services to be funded will improve access to support that otherwise might be prevented due to cost. Furthermore some organisations recommended for funding will be offering services designed to maximise a user's income through benefit checking, support with financial management and giving assistance with benefit claims.

Rurality: Neutral