

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker	Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Health
Date:	29 September 2020
Title:	Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council Social Inclusion Grant Covid-19 support payment
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 permission from the Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Health to award Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council a grant of up to £26,063 to cover Covid-19 support payments to their commissioned Social Inclusion Services (Homelessness Support Services) in line with the Covid-19 support payments made to the Homelessness Support Services directly commissioned by the County Council.

Recommendations

2. That approval is given by the Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Health to award a grant of up to £22,776 to Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council for the purposes of the provision of Covid-19 support payments to service providers commissioned to provide Homelessness Support Services in this area.
3. That the Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Health gives delegated authority to the Director of Adults' Health and Care to award a further grant of up to £3,287 if a decision is made to extend the Covid-19 support payments for the providers of Homelessness Support Services commissioned by Hampshire County Council.

Executive Summary

4. This report provides an overview of the Social Inclusion Services and the Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council Social Inclusion grant, sets out the reasons for the proposed additional grant payment and the financial implications.

Contextual information

5. Social Inclusion services provide support to people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. They are more commonly referred to as Homelessness Support Services.
6. Provision includes hostels, supported accommodation, community support and street outreach services for rough sleepers.
7. The County Council currently spends £2.4m on Homelessness Support Services and has contracts with organisations to deliver services in Eastleigh, East Hampshire, Fareham, Gosport, Hart, Havant, New Forest, Rushmoor, Test Valley and Winchester.
8. Services in Basingstoke and Deane are commissioned locally through a grant agreement with the County Council agreed by the Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Health on 5 December 2018.
9. As part of the County Council's commitment to supporting the providers of care and support services during the Covid-19 pandemic, contract uplifts of 10% were agreed for the Homelessness Support Services for the period from 1 April 2020 – 11 October 2020.
10. Moreover, on 16 July 2020, the Cabinet delegated authority to the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Resources in consultation with the Director of Adults' Health and Care to agree a further month's payments to care and support providers. A decision regarding payments for this period is yet to be made.
11. To date additional funding has been used by providers to purchase Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), contribute to the cost of additional staffing to cover illness and self-isolation, increased cleaning costs, online staff training and to contribute to the cost of voids arising from contractor issues during lockdown.
12. In accordance with delegated authority for this type of spend, payments have been made to all providers with whom the County Council has a directly contracted service. However, as the payment to Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council is a grant, Executive Member approval is required to make any grant payment over £5000.
13. For a consistent approach to be taken across the County Council area, a 10% uplift of the Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council grant for the period 1 April 2020 – 11 October 2020, with the option to extend this uplift for a further 4 weeks (as outlined in point 9 above) is required.

Equalities

14. 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.

15. Whilst it is noted that some characteristics can be more prevalent among those receiving support from the Homeless Support Services, particularly in relation to levels of poverty, this proposal has not been identified as impacting positively or negatively on people with protected characteristics. Approval of this additional payment will ensure that the providers of Homelessness Support Services In Basingstoke and Deane receive the same financial support during the Covid-19 pandemic as the providers of services directly commissioned by the County Council in other District and Borough Council areas..

Finance

16. The County Council currently pays £428,509 per annum to Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council as a grant for the provision of Homelessness Support Services in their area.
17. A 10% uplift for the period 1 April 2020 -11 October 2020 is £22,776.
18. Approval is also being sought for delegated authority to award up to a further £3,287 for an additional 4 weeks from 12 October – 8 November 2020 should this approach be agreed by the Director of Adults' Health and Care following the recommendations agreed by Cabinet on 16 July 2020 regarding delegated authority
19. Together this would be a total grant payment of up to £26,063.

Conclusion

20. The providers of the Homelessness Support Services across the County Council area have shown unwavering commitment to supporting homeless people in hostels and emergency housing placements during the Covid-19 pandemic.
21. The provision of additional support payments to the County Council commissioned services has ensured that services have been able to respond to the challenges of the pandemic, adapt services and reduce the risks for both clients and staff.
22. The additional grant payment to Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council would ensure that the Homelessness Support services commissioned in this area are similarly supported and ensure a consistent response to Covid-19 support payments across this type of service within the County Council area.

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:	no

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:	
<u>Title</u> Homelessness Support Services: Outcome of the Social Inclusion Transformation to 2019 Review https://democracy.hants.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=595&MId=3503	<u>Date</u> 05 December 2018
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

No individual EIA has been completed for this report. A full EIA was completed as part of the Social Inclusion Transformation to 2019 review and included within the [decision report](#) taken to the Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Health on 5 December 2018.