

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Decision Report

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| <b>Decision Maker:</b> | Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Health |
| <b>Date:</b>           | 29 September 2020                                 |
| <b>Title:</b>          | Demand Management and Prevention Grants           |
| <b>Report From:</b>    | 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 Winchester GoLD a grant totalling £10,000 to cover a 24 month period between 1 October 2020 and 30 September 2022 as part of the Local Solutions Grant as outlined below.
  - ii) To award MHA Eastleigh a grant totalling £4,700 to cover a 12 month period between 1 October 2020 and 30 September 2021 as part of the Local Solutions Grant outlined below.
  - iii) To award Unity a grant totalling £15,000 to cover a period of 6 months between 1 October 2020 and 31 March 2021 towards a connector service.

#### **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

## **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, levering 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 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 works 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 the two grants being recommended via the Local Solutions Grant follow on from an advertised programme that is open for applications from relevant organisations.
16. The County Councillors who represent the divisions that will be supported by the recommended awards in this report are aware of the recommendations.

#### Local Solutions Grant

17. 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.

18. 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.
19. 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.
20. There have been three previous rounds of Local Solutions Grants (Round 1 (awarded 24 July 2019), Round 2 (awarded 15 January 2020) and Round 3 (awarded 18 March 2020) and this paper seeks to build on these, applying the new grants process which was trialled in Round 3 and outlined in the Executive Decision paper 15 January 2020. The trial of the new process in Round 3 was deemed a success and will now form the standard process for all future Local Solutions Grants, including those detailed in this report.
21. The new approach delivered a greater level of collaborative working between County Council and the applicant with the level of support provided by the County Council being highlighted as a significant benefit of the new process.
22. The grant proposed for Winchester GoLD (£10,000), if awarded would fund a series of workshops across the 24 month duration of the grant, aimed at supporting those with learning disabilities in building both confidence and practical life skills required for living full and independent lives. Focus will be placed on those who have suffered a drop in confidence and independence as a result of Covid- 19 and clients with lower level needs, ensuring they are able to live independently with minimal support requirements for as long as possible.
23. The grant proposed for MHA Eastleigh (£4,700), if awarded would fund the opening of 4 local book groups targeting the socially isolated and lonely older adults in the area. Whilst all groups will be run as physical book groups funding will enable a digital approach to be embedded into the project allowing those who are housebound or unable to join in person to take part remotely. Full digital training will be given to those taking part and the project seeks to build on and maintain the digital skills which many older adults have gained in lockdown as a means of keeping in touch with friends and family.

#### Connector Grant

24. Adults' Health and Care teams cover wide geographical areas so have limited scope to identify and relationship build with communities. In many cases,

people could have accessed the right level and type of help without coming into a formal social care route, or people are offered a service when alternative support options would have been equally effective or even more suitable.

25. The Hampshire Connector Model aims to use existing local service experience to provide an offer to people across Hampshire which will support people to maintain their independence. The overall aim of the model is to build on the strengths of individuals and communities to enable support and connections which improve people's health and wellbeing and reduce their health and social care needs. This is being developed in such a way as to complement the work being done within the NHS on social prescribing.
26. A range of social prescribing or connector schemes already exist in Hampshire and these services have been locally designed and implemented to meet the population's needs. The Hampshire Connector model does not seek to duplicate or replace these existing schemes, but through this framework, we have been developing and evaluating a new collaborative funding approach between health and social care. Following the grants awarded in July 2019 the Hampshire Connector model has built on a number of existing services currently commissioned through various funding models by Clinical Commissioning Groups in Hampshire to test their ability to manage demand on Adult Social Care.
27. Following the grant that was awarded in July 2019 it has been identified that there is a need to continue the work conducted by Unity (formally known as Test Valley Community Services), who operate in Romsey and Andover. Unity have been fully embedded in Test Valley's COVID-19 response. The connector service has been an integral part of Test Valley's local response centre, responding to requests directly from Test Valley Borough Council and it is felt that removing the service and support it provides could adversely affect the COVID-19 recovery in that area. As a result, a grant award to enable the connector service to continue for an additional six months without wider advertisement of this potential grant opportunity is recommended to avoid destabilisation at this time. Any further grant, if required will be advertised for open application.
28. A new referral pathway has been developed and implemented in July 2020 to support the local response, with the connector service working with people who have contacted the COVID-19 helpline as well as taking referrals from the Adults' Health and Care teams. In the first month of this new pathway being operational, the connector service has worked with 17 people who have contacted the helpline, with issues of social isolation and loneliness being the biggest request of support. During the period recommended for funding the connector service will continue to work with these people referred from the sources above, as well as accepting new requests going forward.
29. This new referral pathway developed in response to COVID-19 has given connector service increased opportunity to work with people before they reach Adults' Health and Care. By awarding a grant to extend funding by 6 months, and being tied in with the County Council's response and recovery to coronavirus, they are expected to continue to work with a high number of

people and prevent a need for Adults' Health and Care intervention. This period will give opportunity to evaluate the new referral pathway to incorporate lessons learned into potential future service design.

## **Finance**

30. The grant proposal in this report will commit expenditure totalling £29,700 over a two-year period commencing in 2020/21. The expenditure has been profiled between years as follows: £22,350 in 2020/21, and £7,350 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. Payment of all grants will be made in one single instalment upon the signing of the Grant Agreement, signalling the commencement of the project.

## **Performance**

31. 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.
32. 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.
33. 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. As part of the new grants process County Council officers worked closely with applicants as part of their Business Plan to ensure meaningful and measurable outcomes were identified which could be monitored throughout the life of the projects.
34. A comprehensive evaluation assessment tool has been developed and is in use for the beneficiaries of Round 1, Round 2 and Round 3 grants and will

continue to be used and refined for those awarded in future Local Solutions Grant submissions.

35. The new process for award of Local Solutions grants has been trialled for the two grants recommended for award in the March Decision Report with feedback collated and considered. Feedback from the two organisations funded under the new process was positive with the level of support from County Council being highlighted as a particular benefit. Further benefit has been seen in the level of County Council understanding of the projects which has allowed for a more detailed, robust and meaningful monitoring and evaluation to have taken place.
36. The Connectors Grant has a County Council officer assigned to work with Unity to ensure the project delivers in line with the agreed outcomes following the award of a previous grant for a similar purpose in July 2019. This officer will continue to be assigned to liaise with the organisation for the additional six months. A monitoring and evaluation process is already in place with quarterly returns and at least monthly contact with Unity to ensure that communication is maintained and any challenges are resolved quickly. The monitoring and evaluation will be revised and extended to cover the duration of the new recommended grant.
37. 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**

38. 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.
39. The Local Solutions Grants proposed will have a positive impact on older adults aged 65 and over, as well as adults with physical disabilities. The MHA proposed project seeks to tackle social isolation and loneliness through digital and in person reading forums. The Winchester GoLD project recommended for award will have a positive impact on adults with disabilities, as it will be offering services designed to increase support provision for adults living with learning disabilities.
40. The Connector Grant proposed will have a positive impact on both older adults and residents with physical disabilities living in the Test Valley area, supporting with this areas COVID-19 recovery and connecting users to community organisations and support networks in order to tackle the issue of social isolation and loneliness.
41. 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.

## **Conclusion**

42. 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.
43. The new changes to the process enacted for these Local Solutions Grant 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.
44. The Connectors service funded will enable the supported organisation to have the capacity and ability to take referrals from Adults' Health and Care and local support measures linked to COVID-19 response and recovery, which will prevent, delay or reduce the need for social care involvement.



**REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:**

**Links to the Strategic Plan**

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| <b>Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:</b> | no  |
| <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                         | 18 March 2020 |
| Demand Management and Prevention Grant Award                         | 15 Jan 2020   |
| Demand Management and Prevention Grant Award                         | 24 July 2019  |
| <b>Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives</b> |               |
| <u>Title</u>   | <u>Date</u>   |
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|--|-----------------|
| <b>Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents</b>  |                 |
| <p><b>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.)</b></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 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 Adults' Health and Care Strategy 2018.

Grants in this paper:

Local Solutions Grants in Eastleigh and Winchester areas - period 1 October 2020 - 30 September 2022. Connector Grant in Test Valley Area – period 1 October – 31 March 2021. Total Pot: £29,700

**Geographical impact:** Winchester, Eastleigh and Test Valley Districts

**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.

The Connector Grant recommended for award will allow for the continuation of provision which has previously been grant funded, with changes made to the service provision in order to better respond to challenges raised as a result of Covid-19.

**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.

The Connector Grant has been shaped through the monitoring and evaluation of the current provision, identifying the benefits as well as the potential improvements of the service. Engagement has also been sought from local staff from Adults' Health and Care who work and refer directly to the project.

**Age:** Positive

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

**Disability:** Positive

**Impact:** The Winchester grant will seek to offer new support provision to residents in the area with learning disabilities.

The Connector Grant will work with adults of all ages with physical disabilities to connect them to support services and networks within their local area.

**Sexual orientation:** Neutral

**Race:** Neutral

**Religion or belief:** Neutral

**Gender reassignment:** Neutral

**Gender:** Neutral

**Marriage or civil partnership:** Neutral

**Pregnancy and maternity:** Neutral

**Poverty:** Neutral

**Rurality:** Neutral