

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Health
Date:	21 September 2017
Title:	Supportive Communities Grant Award
Report From:	Director of Adults' Health and Care

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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. The purpose of this paper is to seek approval for the delegated authority to the Director of Adults' Health and Care to make grant awards to the voluntary and community organisations outlined in this report as part of the Supportive Communities Programme.
- 1.2. The Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) contributes to improving people's quality of life. The grants programme is one of the ways in which County Council supports the sector to support people to live fuller more independent lives and to reduce the demand for County Council services.
- 1.3. This paper sets out:
 - the background to the Supportive Communities Programme;
 - the background to the Adults' Health and Care grant programmes;
 - the details of the grants to be awarded and the expected benefits that will be derived from those grants.

2. Background

- 2.1. The aim of the Supportive Communities Programme is to increase community self-sufficiency, help build inclusive, strong communities and promote individual independence. This will help to reduce, delay and/or divert demand on Adults' Health and Care. To achieve this aim the Supportive Communities Programme has a number of workstreams that include promoting information and advice activities and supporting organisations that can develop new, innovative ways to enable communities to become better connected have been identified as key areas for development if the programme is to be successful.

- 2.2. In 2016/17 Adult's Health and Care made changes to its grants programme, as outlined in Decision Report 7183. These actions were developed in consideration of Adult Services responsibilities under the Care Act 2014 (in particular the Wellbeing duty). Furthermore organisations receiving grants need to demonstrate that they can deliver services that best meet the specific outcome areas identified by Adult Services for the grant period in the pursuit of strengthening community resilience and reducing demand for costlier adult social care services.
- 2.3. In 2017/18 grants have already been awarded in-line with this approach, as outlined in Decision Report 8052. The grants recommended for funding in this report will support delivery of the Supportive Communities Programme. Sections 3, 4, and 5 of this paper describe the three grants for which approval is sought.

3. Neighbourhood Care and Support Grant

- 3.1. The Neighbourhood Care and Support Grant will enable an umbrella organisation to provide advice and support to a network of smaller local organisations whose purpose is to:
- i) Support vulnerable individuals in the community so that those individuals maintain their independence leading to a reduced demand for council services.
 - ii) To work with these neighbourhood organisations so that they understand local needs and develop support to meet those needs.
- 3.2 The role of the organisation awarded the grant will be to promote, support and develop neighbourhood level groups to thrive by helping them provide safe, sustainable support to vulnerable individuals and provide advice to enable people to utilise their resources and assist them to develop support that meets the needs of their community.
- 3.3 There are over 120 neighbourhood level groups currently operating within Hampshire providing a wide range of services, for example befriending, social activities and transport assistance. Last year these groups supported around 27,000 Hampshire residents undertaking 166,700 interventions with over 4000 volunteers. This expected level of activity was supported by a grant of £100,000 to an umbrella organisation, with no direct County Council funding being provided to the individual groups. These interventions can, divert and delay the requirement for social care services. An evaluation¹ of the neighbourhood level groups showed strong improvements for individuals, in particular in greater use of community resources and increased independence. The organisation selected for funding will help support these existing groups to ensure they continue to best meet the needs of vulnerable residents in line with priorities of the County Council, through best practice, training and development.

¹ Kuyer, J., NEF Consulting (June 2017) Hampshire Supportive Communities Evaluation Framework

- 3.2. We have identified areas of Hampshire where there are gaps and where it would be beneficial to either increase the capacity of existing neighbourhood level groups, or to develop new groups. The successful applicant will also need to demonstrate how they will develop capacity or new groups in areas of need.

4. Timebanking Development Grant

- 4.1. Timebanking is a way for people and organisations to share skills with others in their community and be rewarded for it in time, rather than with money. For every hour of time a bank member gives they will 'deposit' one time credit, for which they can 'withdraw' by receiving an hour of another members time for an activity when in need themselves. All activities are valued equally. Timebanking is recognised as an effective way of re-establishing neighbourliness and informal volunteering, and can achieve savings of over £1,300 per timebank member for the wider community, including social care². Volunteering can also benefit the volunteer, keeping people active, promoting physical and mental health and wellbeing, and strengthen local connections³.
- 4.2. The Timebanking Development Grant will enable an organisation to further develop timebanking across Hampshire so that they ensure the involvement and supporting of vulnerable people by increase reciprocal support in communities, as well as developing confidence, social inclusion and improved wellbeing. The successful applicant will work with six fledgling timebanks (located in Totton, Andover, Whitehill and Bordon, Hart & Rushmoor, Leigh Park and Basingstoke) to and support the development of at least five additional timebanks elsewhere in Hampshire.
- 4.3. Timebanking is recognised as an effective way of re-establishing neighbourliness and informal volunteering in ways that can often support vulnerable residents directly, or indirectly via families and friends. Initial development work of the six fledgling timebanks has estimated the minimum number of direct beneficiaries to be 600 people across all six banks. In addition it is expected that 90 groups or organisations will benefit, alongside 3000 indirect beneficiaries. These fledgling banks have enabled us to demonstrate that timebanking can be set up in Hampshire. Further grant funding is required to build on this and to evaluate the impacts of timebanking on individuals, communities and County Council services.
- 4.4. In other parts of the United Kingdom, timebanking has been used to develop home from hospital services to provide informal support such as cooking meals, doing shopping or running errands averting the demand for paid care. The County Council intends to explore the development of similar services though the developed timebanks supported by this grant.

² Department of Health, HM Government, (11 June 2012) Caring For Our Future: reforming care and support - white paper

³ Van Willigen, M., (2000) 'Differential benefits of volunteering across the life course', Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences, 55B, S308–S318

5. Autism Support Grant

- 5.1. The Autism Support Grant will 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.
- 5.2. The successful applicant will be expected to work closely with the lead organisation of the County Council funded Serendipity Support Group and to help with the recruitment of volunteers for further 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.
- 5.3. The applicant 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 help 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. The successful applicant will also have to market and advertise the other autism services available in Hampshire to maximise their uptake and benefit as many as possible. Consequently these services will prevent, reduce and divert demand on County Council services.

6. Supportive Communities Grants Process

- 6.1. All grant applications received are considered in relation to how well they link with current Adult Services priorities, in particular:
 - Maximising independence and inclusion;
 - Right support in the right place at the right time for users;
 - Vulnerable people are protected;
 - Delivering a high quality, cost-effective service to the vulnerable people of Hampshire.
- 6.2. Applications had to demonstrate how they would work with people aged 18 years and over at risk of social isolation and diminished independence. There is a list of agreed priority groups, as specified in Decision 7183.
- 6.3. Applicants are required to demonstrate their ability to help people with various levels of need through a wide range of solutions, starting with the

question 'what makes us healthy?', rather than the deficit-based question 'what makes us ill?' These approaches are based on creating and sustaining broadly based support in the community, outside the traditional boundaries of health and social care services, to promote good health and wellbeing as well as strong social connections. An asset-based approach takes account of how people live and how they can be enabled to realise their potential.

- 6.4. Those organisations that meet the criteria, including safeguarding responsibilities and who can comply with mutually agreed reporting and monitoring requirements will be considered for grant funding by a panel of Adults' Health and Care staff, a service user representative or carers representative, who in addition have confirmed they are aware of their responsibilities regarding safeguarding adults. Where an application is not successful, advice and guidance in seeking alternative funding will be offered should an organisation request it.

7. Delegated Authority

- 7.1. Applications for the Neighbourhood Care and Support Grant and the Timebanking Development Grant closed in early August. This means that there has not been sufficient time to conclude the selection process and make recommendations regarding the organisations to be awarded the grants for approval at the September Executive Member Decision Day.
- 7.2. Therefore it is proposed that the Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Health delegates authority to the Director of Adults' Health and Care, in consultation with the Executive Member to award the Neighbourhood Care and Support Grant and the Timebanking Development Grant.
- 7.3. The existing grant for autism support ends in November 2017. Applications for the Autism Support Grant close in early October. To ensure that autism support is maintained continuously it will be necessary to select an organisation to receive the Autism Support Grant funding before the planned November Executive Member Decision Day. It is proposed that the Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Health delegates authority to the Director of Adults' Health and Care in consultation with the Executive Member, to award the Autism Support Grant.
- 7.4. Approval cannot be delayed until the planned November Executive Member Decision as similar services receive grant funding from the County Council currently and there would be a risk to the continuity of these services. This could lead to vulnerable people not receiving support, which could lead to an increase of their care needs.

8. Financial Implications

- 8.1. The grant proposals in this report will commit additional expenditure totalling up to a maximum of £220,000 commencing in 2017/18. The payment of these grants will be profiled £160,000 in 2017/18 and £60,000 in 2018/19. Subject to approval of this report the total grants committed for payment in

2017/18 and 2018/19 will remain within the current annual budget envelope for the Supportive Communities Programme.

- 8.2. Payments of all grant awards set out in this report will be made in two instalments for every year of the grant award. The first payment of the award will be made on signature of the grant agreement, with payment of the remainder of the grant subject to the receipt of the organisations annual accounts for the previous financial year. 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.

9. Equalities

- 9.1. 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.
- 9.2. The grants awarded under the Neighbourhood Care and Support Grant and the Autism Support Grant will have a neutral impact on groups with protected characteristics identified in the Equality Act 2010, as although the name of the grant pots has changed it is expected that grants awarded to organisations will be broadly similar to current levels of funding. As a result it is likely that a similar number of individuals in each the protected characteristics will benefit, with older people and disabled people being of particular benefit. However the Timebanking Development Grant is expected to increase the number of timebanks operating in Hampshire and as a result this is expected to have a positive impact on older people and disabled people.

10. Risk Assessment and Management

- 10.1. 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.
- 10.2. 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..
- 10.3. In order to evaluate the impact of the grant award and to provide evidence on which decisions can be made about whether to continue with similar

grants in the future, an appropriate evaluation methodology will be agreed and specified within the grant agreement and will be undertaken during the grant year, monitored by the Liaison Officer.

- 10.4. 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.

11. Recommendations

- 11.1. That the Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Health gives delegated authority to the Director of Adults' Health and Care, in consultation with the Executive Member, to award a grant(s) to an organisation selected as part of the Neighbourhood Care and Support Grant process, up to a maximum of £100,000, for a period of 1 year from October 2017.
- 11.2. That the Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Health gives delegated authority to the Director of Adults' Health and Care, in consultation with the Executive Member, to award a grant(s) to an organisation selected as part of the Timebanking Development Grant process, up to a maximum of £70,000, for a period of 1 year from November 2017.
- 11.3. That the Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Health gives delegated authority to the Director of Adults' Health and Care, in consultation with the Executive Member, to award a grant(s) to an organisation selected as part of the Autism Support Grant process, up to a maximum of £50,000, for a period of 1 year from November 2017.

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

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	yes
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>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Date</u>
Supportive Communities Grant Award	8052	17 January 2017
Supportive Communities Grant Award	7719	21 September 2016
Supportive Communities Programme Partnership Grants	7644	20 July 2016
Adult Services Grant Programme	7183	18 January 2016

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:

1.1 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 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:

- i) The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant characteristic connected to that characteristic;
- ii) Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- iii) 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:

The grants awarded under the Neighbourhood Care and Support Grant and the Autism Support Grant will have a neutral impact on groups with protected characteristics identified in the Equality Act 2010, as although the name of the grant pots has changed it is expected that grants awarded to organisations will be broadly similar to current levels of funding. As a result it is likely that a similar number of individuals in each the protected characteristics will benefit, with older people and disabled people being of particular benefit. However the Timebanking Development Grant is expected to increase the number of timebanks operating in Hampshire and as a result this is expected to have a positive impact on older people and disabled people.

2.1 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:

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

The Adults' Health and Care 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.

- b) 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.