

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Lead Member for Children's Services and Young People
Date:	24 February 2021
Title:	0-19 Children's Services Grants
Report From:	Director of Children's Services

Contact name: Laura Timms, Head of Children's Services Commissioning

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Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to set out the context of the 0-19 Children's Services grant fund and to seek approval to cease operating the fund from April 2021 as it is a non-statutory service.

Recommendation(s)

2. It is recommended that the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services and Young People:
 - a) Approves the cessation of 0-19 Children's Services grant of £78,000 from April 2021.
 - b) Notes that support for Young Carers is a commissioned service under contract and therefore unaffected by the proposal as it is not reliant on grant funding.

Contextual information

3. The 0-19 Children's Services grant historically supported funding applications from voluntary sector, community and not for profit organisations to deliver services, aligned to meet the countywide priority approved by Local Children's Partnerships (LCPs) for targeted/detached youthwork.

4. Applicants applying for funding from the 0-19 grant were required to demonstrate, through their application, how they met the priorities set by the LCPs and the priorities set out in the Children and Young Peoples Plan 2015/18 (CYPP). Applicants also had to declare any additional support they were receiving from other funding sources such as trusts, District/Borough councils, businesses or other sponsorship.
5. There is no specific statutory basis for the provision of this type of grant. The local authority has more general duties relating to supporting children in need, ensuring the well-being of children and ensuring that certain facilities and opportunities are available locally. Hampshire Children's Services continues to meet these duties through the range of support available such as preventative services through early help, short break activities for children who have disabilities and statutory support provision.

Finance

6. With successive rounds of budget reduction across the County Council, the total value of the 0-19 Children's Services grant available has been reduced since 2018/19, with £250,000 contributing a saving to the County Council's Transformation to 2019 saving requirement of £140m. Prior to the creation of the 0-19 Children's Services grant, the Youth Support Services grant was not extended after 2016/17. These gradual reductions mean that providers have had to become less reliant on the grant to fund services.
7. A separate £165,000 is allocated annually to support contracted services for Young Carers.
8. In 2020/21, three applicants received 0-19 grants totalling £78,000 to provide youth work focussing on emotional health and wellbeing across the County.
9. The Decision Report considered by the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services at Decision Day on 15th January 2018 outlined the future direction of the grant and explained that savings from the grant contributed to the Transformation to 2019 savings target.
10. The Decision Report considered by the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services at his Decision Day on 17th January 2019, set out that the process for awarding 0-19 funding would no longer be sustainable in the light of year-on-year reductions, and that options for the future were being evaluated. In addition, this report highlighted that the historic grant support for Young Carers would be commissioned via a contract and therefore no longer dependent on a grant process.

11. In addition, providers and LCPs have been kept informed of the changes to the grant and its likely cessation.

Performance

12. The three providers who are currently in receipt of a 0-19 Children's Services grant are not dependent solely on the grant to operate. The most recent grant as a percentage of their income, assuming annual income is consistent, varies between 1.6 and 20%.

Consultation and Equalities

13. Providers have been aware of the reducing grants available year on year. Both Decision Day reports are available to them and there have been continued communications that the grant round is decreasing and is unsustainable in the long term.

14. Discussions took place with the three providers on 18th and 19th January 2021 advising them of our intention to discontinue the 0-19 grant stream. In summary,

- They confirmed that the ending of the grant was not unexpected and that although this meant some activity would need to cease or change format, the overall organisation was not dependent on the grants to remain viable.
- All three had been looking to secure alternative funding already, however they acknowledged how challenging the current financial landscape is.

15. Chairs of the Hampshire Local Children's Partnerships are aware of the diminishing grant pot and that future funding via the 0-19 grant stream was at risk, and this has been reported frequently since 2018.

Other Key Issues

16. There is other grant activity within Hampshire that community and voluntary organisations working to similar objectives to those agreed for the use of the 0-19 Children's Services grant can apply.

- a) Hampshire Violence Reduction Unit sought applications for Community Intervention Grants to reduce the risks relating to serious violence.
- b) The Supporting Families Programme has been delivered since 2012 and is currently due to end in March 2021. Hampshire County Council made available £100,000 in 2020/2021 to fund initiatives with the aim of districts/partnerships continuing the legacy and principles of the Supporting Families Programme post March 2021 and to assist in the transition process.

- c) The Department for Education's Holiday Activities and Food programme 2021 will be rolled out in Hampshire with new grant opportunities available for local community groups. This grant programme is managed by Hampshire County Council.
- d) There are a number of other grants available via District Councils that groups can apply for. Details of such grants can be found on district council websites.

17. Hampshire & Isle of Wight Community Foundation (HIWCF) is working with Moneybarn in a grants initiative. The Fund will distribute £25,000 in grants, of between £1,000 and £5,000.

Conclusions

18. The 0-19 Children's Services grants have decreased significantly over the last three years and there is no statutory requirement to provide them. Key stakeholders including previous grant recipients and LCPs have been aware of the reducing budget for a number of years and none of the current grant holders are solely dependent on this funding to continue operating.

19. It is recommended that the cessation of 0-19 Children's Services grant of £78,000 as of next financial year (from April 2021) is approved, acknowledging alternative funding availability as outlined in paragraphs 17-18 above. Support for Young Carers is a commissioned service under contract and is therefore unaffected by the proposal.

REQUIRED CORPORATE AND 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:	yes
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	yes

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
Youth Support Service Re-design	29/07/11
Children's Services and Youth Support Services Grants 2012/13	20/02/12
Youth Support Service Grants 2012/13	31/05/12
Youth Support Service Grants 2012/13	17/07/12
Youth Support Service Grants 2013/14	26/09/12
Grants from Children's Services 2012/13 and 2013/14 Grants from Children's Services 2013/14	23/01/13
Children's Services grant awards 2013/14	25/03/13
Children's Services grant awards 2013/14	24/10/13
Grants from Children's Services 2014/15	21/01/14
Grants from Children's Services Integrated Grant 2015/16	21/01/15
Grants from Children's Services Integrated Grant 2016/17	20/01/16
0-19 Children's Services Grants 2018/19	15/01/18
0-19 Children's Services Grants 2019/20	17/01/19
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
Every Child Matters	2003
Children Act	2004
Childcare Act	2006
Apprenticeship Skills Children and Learning Act	2009

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.

2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

A detailed Equality Impact Assessment has been completed for this decision.

Name of project or proposal (required): Children's Services 0-19 grants

Is this project a Transformation project? (required): Neither

Name of accountable officer (required): Suzanne Smith

Email (required): Suzanne.Smith2@hants.gov.uk

Department (required): Children's Services

Date of assessment (required): 28/01/2021

Is this a detailed or overview EIA? (required): Detailed

Describe the current service or policy: The 0-19 Children's Services grant responds to needs of children and young people around the county by supporting funding applications from voluntary sector, community and not for profit organisations to deliver services, aligned to meet the countywide priority

approved by Local Children's Partnerships for targeted/detached youthwork. The key funding principles of this grant are to:

- support the 0-19 agenda and align with the Family Support Service (FSS);
- support the delivery of Children and Young People's Plan priorities 2019-2021;
- support a countywide priority approved by the Local Children's Partnerships (LCPs);
- be targeted at levels 2 & 3 on the Children's Trust threshold chart.

Geographical impact (required): All Hampshire

Describe the proposed change: This grant has been decreased year on year for the last few financial years. The department is having to prioritise statutory duties over discretionary ones due to budgetary pressures. It is no longer possible to continue providing this grant funding and the proposal is to discontinue it to achieve a £78,000 annual saving.

Who does this impact assessment cover? (required): Service users

Has engagement or consultation been carried out? (required): Yes

Describe the consultation or engagement you have performed or are intending to perform:

Individual discussions were held in January 2021 with the three providers currently in receipt of 0-19 grants. We advised of the proposal to discontinue the 0-19 grant stream going forward and asked each for their feedback in terms of potential impact and mitigations.

Age (required): High

Impact (required): Due the nature of the 0-19 grants it will be children and young people who are impacted by the discontinuation of funding. The projects awarded 0-19 Children's Services grants predominantly support young people aged 16-19 and aged 13-15 with 46% and 37% of attendees coming from these respective age groups in the first two quarters of 2020/21.

Mitigation (required): There is no specific statutory basis for the provision of this type of grant. Hampshire Children's Services will continue to meet general duties relating to supporting children in need, ensuring the wellbeing of children and ensuring that certain facilities and opportunities are available locally through the range of support available such as preventative services through early help, short break activities for children who have disabilities and statutory support provision

Disability (required): Medium

Impact (required): One of the funded projects works predominantly with children and young people and their families around additional needs.

Mitigation (required): Children's Services continues to offer grant funding for short break activities for children with disabilities.

Sexual orientation (required): Medium

Impact (required): Young people who identified as non-binary comprised 0.4% of the attendees during quarters 1 and 2 in 2020/21. One of the projects in receipt of funding is a confidential support service for young people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, questioning or unsure of their sexuality or gender identity. Therefore this cohort would be impacted by the removal of grant funding.

Mitigation (required): Hampshire Children's Services will continue to meet general duties relating to supporting children in need, ensuring the well-being of children and ensuring that certain facilities and opportunities are available locally through the range of support available such as preventative services through early help, short break activities for children who have disabilities and statutory support provision.

Race (required): Neutral

Religion or belief (required): Neutral

Gender reassignment (required): Low

Impact (required): One of the projects in receipt of funding is a confidential support service that is available for young people who are transsexual or transgender, and who therefore may be impacted by the removal of grant funding.

Gender (required): Medium

Impact (required): More males accessed the services (56.6%) over the first two quarters of 2020/21 than females (43%) so would be more affected by the removal of the grant.

Mitigation (required): Hampshire Children's Services will continue to meet general duties relating to supporting children in need, ensuring the well-being of children and ensuring that certain facilities and opportunities are available locally through the range of support available such as preventative services through early help, short break activities for children who have disabilities and statutory support provision.

Marriage or civil partnership (required): Neutral

Pregnancy and maternity (required): Neutral

Poverty (required): Medium

Impact (required): The 0-19 grants are intended to support vulnerable children and young people in the county and poverty will be a factor for some of the service users accessing the projects funded by the grant stream.

Mitigation (required): Hampshire Children's Services will continue to meet general duties relating to supporting children in need, ensuring the well-being of children and ensuring that certain facilities and opportunities are available locally through the range of support available such as preventative services through early help, short break activities for children who have disabilities and statutory support provision.

Rurality (required): Medium

Impact (required): The 0-19 grants are intended to support vulnerable children and young people in the county and rurality will be a factor for some of the service users accessing the projects funded by the grant stream. Where projects are operating in rural areas, we know that there are fewer services available in those areas and so if they were to cease operating, the children and young people receiving support may be more impacted than those living in urban areas where access to alternative support is potentially more readily available.

Mitigation (required): Hampshire Children's Services will continue to meet general duties relating to supporting children in need, ensuring the well-being of children and ensuring that certain facilities and opportunities are available locally through the range of support available such as preventative services through early help, short break activities for children who have disabilities and statutory support provision.

Any other brief information which you feel is pertinent to this assessment (optional): We asked providers currently in receipt of 0-19 grants to tell us of any other (non-financial) support that HCC may be able to provide to assist them should the funding cease. As the quality and need for the services are not in question, we also offered to provide a letter of support to assist with future funding approaches to other funding bodies.

Please confirm that the accountable officer has agreed the contents of this form (required): Yes