

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Decision Report

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Member for Adult Services and Public Health
<b>Date:</b>	21 September 2021
<b>Title:</b>	Demand Management and Prevention Learning Disability Connector Grant
<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 from the Executive Member for Adult Services and Public Health to open a grant scheme for organisations to provide a connector service for residents with Learning Disabilities) (to be known as the Learning Disability Connector Grant) and for the authority to award grants to be delegated to the Director of Adults' Health and Care in consultation with the Executive Member following receipt of bids. The proposed value of the grant scheme is £30,000 and will be fully funded from the Demand Management and Prevention Change Unit 2021/22 budget

#### Recommendations

2. That approval be given by the Executive Member for Adult Services and Public Health to publish a grant scheme known as the Learning Disability Connector Grant, with a total value of £30,000.
3. That the Executive Member for Adult Services and Public Health delegates authority to the Director of Adults' Health and Care in consultation with the Executive Member following receipt of bids to award grants from the Learning Disability Connector Grant.

#### Executive Summary

4. This report sets out the proposals for establishing and managing the Learning Disability Connector Grant in Hampshire, including proposals to delegate authority to award the grants to the Director of Adults' Health and Care.
5. This report will also do the following:
  - Set out the background to the grant scheme

- 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**

### Demand and Prevention Programme

6. 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 Adults' Health and Care Strategy 2018.
7. The Demand Management and Prevention work builds 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.

### Learning Disability Connector Grant

8. It is recognised that across Hampshire there are local initiatives, support networks and services achieving positive outcomes for adults with a learning disability 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.
9. It is important that these local services are promoted and utilised for maximum benefit, both to the users of the services and the organisations themselves. The Learning Disability Connector Grant will seek to fund organisations that can develop and deliver a project, to support adults with a learning disability to access local community services and provide support to enable them to increase their independence and potentially move away from traditional commissioned services. This will help to ensure that local people have effective support available now and into the future.
10. The focus and criteria for the Learning Disability Connector Grant has been shaped by engagement with local stakeholders, Hampshire County Council community teams and the users of services themselves. This engagement has identified that whilst provision exists many potential users of these services are unaware of how to access them or lack the confidence to do so independently.
11. By increasing awareness of these services through another provider via this grant will have direct benefit to these operational teams in reducing the need for the operational staff to support this enabling them to undertake other key duties. Indirect benefits will include the person being supported by the

Learning Disability Connector Grant provider to the most effective support for the individual enabling them to lead safer, healthier and more independent lives which will prevent or reduce the need for direct support from operational staff and social care provision

12. The Learning Disability Grant Scheme will be available for award to award in the Hart and Rushmoor district areas. This decision has been based on engagement with the Learning Disability staff with responsibility for commissioning who have identified a specific need for these initiatives in these areas. By focusing the Learning Disability Connector Grant in this geographical area enables the County Council to test this approach before further decisions are made on future provision. Any future decision will be subject to an additional Executive Member decision report
13. In this paper, the proposed Learning Disability Connector Grant will seek funding to address and overcome the barriers for participation in local services and ensure that the residents of Hart and Rushmoor with learning disabilities are able to access the services which would be of greatest use to them.

### **Delegation Of Authority**

14. In order to ensure that grants are awarded in a timely way, it is proposed that the Executive Member for Adult Services and Public Health delegates the authority to award grants from the Learning Disability Connector Grant to the Director of Adults' Health and Care in consultation with the Executive Member following receipt of bids.
15. Following a period of isolation and restriction owing to the Covid-19 pandemic, many residents who are targeted to benefit from this grant award are seeking services and support to help them rebuild their connections. It is important that any grant is awarded in a timely manner to allow the project to commence and support those individuals looking to build back stronger post Covid-19

### **Use of Grants**

16. 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. 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.
17. 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.

18. Voluntary and community organisations provide valuable locally based services that are often rooted in the communities which they serve. This approach recognises that the County Council is often not the only, or the best, source of help for local people.
19. The governance around managing the Learning Disability Connector Grant is set out in sections 21-25 of this report

## **Finance**

20. The grant proposed in this report will commit additional expenditure totalling £30,000 over a single financial year period of 2021/22. Subject to approval of this report the total grants committed for payment will remain within the agreed, (2021/22) annual budget envelopes for the Demand Management and Prevention Programme.
21. Payment of any successful Learning Disability Connector Grant awards will be made in one instalment if under £10,000, with multiple instalments used for awards in excess of £10,000. All Grant Agreements will 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.

## **Performance**

22. 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.
23. 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.
24. Any Learning Disability Connector Grants awards 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. Before recommending applicants for award there will be further discussions with commissioning and operational staff in Adults' Health and Care. This will inform the identification of key benefits designed to increase capacity of operational delivery. These key benefits will be monitored and evaluated during the life of the grant to both ensure delivery

against identified outcomes from the funded service, as well as informing the future development of services.

25. A comprehensive evaluation assessment tool has been developed and is in use for the beneficiaries of previous grant rounds, ensuring consistency of data capture.
26. 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**

27. 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.
28. The Learning Disability Connector Grant, if approved, will have a positive impact on adults with Learning Disabilities in the Hart and Rushmoor districts specifically as the awards from this will allow better signposting to the ever increasing services and provision in the community.
29. The Learning Disability Connector Grant has been shaped in 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.

### **Climate Change Impact**

30. Hampshire County Council utilises two decision-making tools to assess the carbon emissions and resilience impacts of its projects and decisions. These tools provide a clear, robust, and transparent way of assessing how projects, policies and initiatives contribute towards the County Council's climate change targets of being carbon neutral and resilient to the impacts of a 2°C temperature rise by 2050. This process ensures that climate change considerations are built into everything the Authority does.
31. The Learning Disability Connector Grant scheme has been designed to support people with Learning Disabilities in the Hart and Rushmoor to access community services and support to maximise their independence. The grant scheme proposals have been assessed against the two decision-making tools which are designed to assess impacts on climate change and carbon emissions. As a grants scheme no impacts have been identified, however the impact of individual projects supported by the scheme would need to be assessed at an individual project level.

## **Conclusions**

32. The organisations receiving a Learning Disability Connector Grant will support and signpost users of the service to provision in the community which will support their increased independence and allow them to become more connected to their communities. They will support with the ongoing aims and objectives of the Hampshire County Council Demand Management and Prevention Department and support Hampshire residents to live independently for longer.

**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

**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.)**

Document

Location

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 Adult's Health and Care Strategy 2018.

Grants in this paper:

Learning Disability Connector Grant (proposal to advertise and award in line with stated outcomes): £30,000

**Geographical impact:** Hart and Rushmoor District. The Learning Disability Grant Scheme will be available for award to award in the Hart and Rushmoor district areas. This decision has been based on engagement with the Learning Disability staff with responsibility for commissioning who have identified a specific need for these initiatives in these areas. By focusing the Learning Disability Connector

Grant in this geographical area enables the County Council to test this approach before further decisions are made on future provision. Any future decision will be subject to an additional Executive Member decision report

**Proposed Change:**

The LD Connector Grant is a new grant stream which seeks to connect adults living with LD to the expanding services available to them in the local community. These connections will allow for users of the service to become more independent, connected to their community and of course to build the skills the wish to as part of a Strength Based Approach (SBA)

**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 proposal for an LD Connector grant has been shaped in its design by local stakeholder engagement. The Learning Disability Grant Scheme will be available for award to award in the Hart and Rushmoor district areas a decision based on engagement with the Learning Disability staff with responsibility for commissioning who have identified a specific need for these initiatives in these areas. This grant represents an opportunity for Adults Services to pilot this approach across a limited number of districts to effectively assess its impact. A robust monitoring and evaluation process is in place and takes into account the views of users of the service and HCC local teams who will be engaged throughout the evaluation process.

**Age Public Impact:** Neutral

**Age Staff Impact:** Neutral

**Assessment Rationale:** The Learning Disability Grant Scheme will seek applications for projects which will support residents with a leaning disability to make connections to pre-existing local services to support independent living and social connectivity. This will be done irrespective of the participants age and will deliver to the individuals needs in line with a strength based approach.

**Disability social impact:** Positive

**Disability staff impact:** Neutral

**Impact:** The purpose of the grant is to allow local organisations and the voluntary sector to propose projects which will seek to connect adults with LD into the existing services in the community. Studies and anecdotal evidence from the community suggest that whilst projects and services exist, barriers to participation prevent them being used in greater numbers. This grant stream seeks to fund projects to break down two specific barriers; lack of knowledge of the projects and services available and lack of confidence in initiating and attending them. Projects will be require to support users end to end, helping identify services which could benefit them but also support in building confidence, enabling them to attend.

**Sexual orientation public impact:** Neutral

**Sexual orientation staff impact:** Neutral

**Assessment rationale:** The Learning Disability Grant Scheme will seek applications for projects which will support residents with a learning disability to make connections to pre-existing local services to support independent living and social connectivity. This will be done irrespective of the participants sexual orientation and will deliver to the individuals needs in line with a strength based approach.

**Race social impact:** Neutral

**Race staff impact:** Neutral

**Assessment Rationale:** The Learning Disability Grant Scheme will seek applications for projects which will support residents with a learning disability to make connections to pre-existing local services to support independent living and social connectivity. This will be done irrespective of the participants race and will deliver to the individuals needs in line with a strength based approach.

**Religion or belief social impact:** Neutral

**Religion or belief staff impact:** Neutral

**Assessment Rationale:** The Learning Disability Grant Scheme will seek applications for projects which will support residents with a learning disability to make connections to pre-existing local services to support independent living and social connectivity. This will be done irrespective of the participants religion and will deliver to the individuals needs in line with a strength based approach.

**Gender reassignment public impact:** Neutral

**Gender reassignment staff impact:** Neutral

**Assessment Rationale:** The Learning Disability Grant Scheme will seek applications for projects which will support residents with a learning disability to make connections to pre-existing local services to support independent living and social connectivity. This will be done irrespective of the participants gender identity or gender reassignment and will deliver to the individuals needs in line with a strength based approach.

**Sex public impact:** Neutral

**Sex staff impact:** Neutral

**Assessment rationale:** The Learning Disability Grant Scheme will seek applications for projects which will support residents with a learning disability to make connections to pre-existing local services to support independent living and social connectivity. This will be done irrespective of the participants gender

identity and will deliver to the individuals needs in line with a strength based approach.

**Marriage or civil partnership:** Neutral

**Marriage or civil partnership:** Neutral

**Assessment Rationale:** The Learning Disability Grant Scheme will seek applications for projects which will support residents with a learning disability to make connections to pre-existing local services to support independent living and social connectivity. This will be done irrespective of the participants marital or civil partnership status and will deliver to the individuals needs in line with a strength based approach.

**Pregnancy and maternity public impact:** Neutral

**Pregnancy and maternity staff impact:** Neutral

**Assessment rationale:** The Learning Disability Grant Scheme will seek applications for projects which will support residents with a learning disability to make connections to pre-existing local services to support independent living and social connectivity. This will be done irrespective of the participant being pregnant and will deliver to the individuals needs in line with a strength based approach.

**Poverty public impact:** Neutral

**Poverty staff impact:** Neutral

**Assessment Rationale:** The Learning Disability Grant Scheme will seek applications for projects which will support residents with a learning disability to make connections to pre-existing local services to support independent living and social connectivity. Whilst there is the potential to link those who need advice around money management and benefits support to organisations who will do this this is anticipated to be a limited element of the overall service and so a 'neutral' outcome was selected.

**Rurality public impact:**

**Rurality staff impact:** Neutral

**Assessment rationale:** Owing to the location of the project and the districts covered there will be no impact on rurality so a neutral assessment was made.