

# HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

## Decision Report

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Health
<b>Date:</b>	22 November 2017
<b>Title:</b>	Supportive Communities Grant Award
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Adults' Health and Care

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### 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. The purpose of this paper is to seek Executive Member approval to make a grant award to the voluntary and community organisation 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. The report outlines a proposal for funding towards a project to support formerly homeless people within Hampshire.

### 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.
- 2.1. A voluntary organisation may be considered for grant aid from Adult Services only if its services, projects or activities are in compliance with the aims and objectives, priorities and policies of the Adult Services Department.
- 2.2. 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.
- 2.3. 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.
- 2.4. 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 Adults' Health and Care contributes to and helps sustain this activity.

- 2.5. As grants are a contribution to service or activity costs the economic benefit to the department can be significant, leveraging in additional funding, the benefit of volunteer time and therefore providing good value for money to the authority.
- 2.6. 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 inline with the Charity Commission's policy on these matters.

### **3. Emmaus Hampshire**

- 3.1. Emmaus Hampshire is a charitable social enterprise aimed at supporting homeless people in Hampshire. Emmaus Hampshire provide accommodation and meaningful work experience through retail, catering, distribution and DIY services along with personal development for all individuals, which can help maximise their potential and secure their entry back to independent living.
- 3.2. Currently Emmaus Hampshire provide accommodation on their main site in Winchester for twenty six formerly homeless people, known within the service as Companions. The trustees of Emmaus Hampshire have successfully withdrawn the need for an on-site staff role on the site, with the companions empowered to operate the community themselves, with on-call staff back up. As a result the charity are seeking to repurpose the space of the former staff flat in to an additional three rooms that will be used to accommodate an additional 3 Companions. The works to redevelop the staff flat will not be detrimental or cause disturbance to the existing Companions residing in the building.
- 3.3. In order to fund the redevelopment, Emmaus Hampshire are seeking to raise £60,000. It is proposed that the County Council will award a grant of £10,000 towards the cost of the redevelopment. Emmaus Hampshire have secured an additional £25,000 from donors, and have submitted grant applications to provide the remaining balance of the funds required. As a result it is expected that the project will have the funds to enable the building work to begin in January 2018 for a six week period.
- 3.4. Based on their current outcomes, Emmaus Hampshire expect 1 in 3 of the Companions leave us for work and their own home (independent living) each year, this project can reasonably expect to see at least 1 of the 3 companions allocated to these flats successfully leave within a year, for an

independent lifestyle. Emmaus Hampshire estimate the financial pay back to the project of less than 4 years on the capital investment proposed for this project.

#### **4. Supportive Communities Grants Process**

4.1. All grant applications received are considered in relation to how well they link with current Adults' Health and Care 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.

4.2. Applicants have to demonstrate how they would work with people aged 18 years and over at risk of social isolation and diminished independence. Applicants are required to demonstrate their ability to help people with various levels of need through a wide range of solutions based upon an asset based approach. 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.

#### **5. Financial Implications**

5.1. The grant proposals in this report will commit additional expenditure of £10,000 in 2017/18. Subject to approval of this report the total grants committed for payment in 2017/18 will remain within the current annual budget envelope for the Supportive Communities Programme.

5.2. Payments of the grant award set out in this report will be made in one instalment. The payment of the award will be made on signature of the grant agreement. The grant agreement has conditions that enable the County Council to require repayment of the award or any part of it if it remains unspent, or if there is a material breach of the grant agreement.

#### **6. Equalities**

6.1. 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.

6.2. The grant awarded to Emmaus Hampshire will increase the number of people who can access the service, but it is not expected that the profile of individuals accessing the project will alter as a result of the extra rooms being built. The project currently has Companions of both genders accessing

the service aged from 21 to 64 years of age, some of whom identify as having a disability. The grant is expected to have a positive impact on reducing those affected by poverty, as it will enable more people to be supported on the pathway to independent living.

## **7. Risk Assessment and Management**

- 7.1. 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.
- 7.2. 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..
- 7.3. 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.

## **8. Recommendations**

- 8.1. That the Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Health agrees to award a grant totalling no more than £10,000 to Emmaus Hampshire towards the development of additional accommodation for formerly homeless people.

**CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**

**Links to the Strategic Plan**

<b>Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:</b>	yes
<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

## **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 grant awarded to Emmaus Hampshire will increase the number of people who can access the service, but it is not expected that the profile of individuals accessing the project will alter as a result of the extra rooms being built. The project currently has Companions of both genders accessing the service aged from 21 to 64 years of age, some of whom identify as having a disability. The grant is expected to have a positive impact on reducing those affected by poverty, as it will enable more people to be supported on the pathway to independent living.

## **2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:**

2.1 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.