

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Adult Services and Public Health
Date:	22 July 2022
Title:	Demand Management and Prevention Grant Award
Report From:	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 a grant award to the voluntary and community organisations outlined in this report as part of the Demand Management and Prevention Programme

Recommendation

2. That approval be given by the Executive Member for Adult Services and Public Health for the following actions:
 - i) To award 6 grants totalling £131,509 to cover a range of time periods between 1 August 2022 and 31 December 2023 as part of the Local Solutions Fund (as detailed in appendix A).

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
 - Look at key issues

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 Council will encourage this by making the healthy choice the easy choice and developing accessible, inclusive and readily available information and advice services. The 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 Council will work with partners, in particular the NHS, GPs and the Voluntary sector to achieve the above aims.

Local Solutions Grant

13. 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.

14. Local Solutions Grants seek to fund projects, which over time will reduce the demand seen on Hampshire County Council statutory services and support participants to live healthy and independent lives for as long as possible. Grants are awarded to projects operating in a specific location with one off funding given. All Local Solutions applicants are expected to demonstrate how the project will be sustained in the long term, beyond the life of the grant.
15. Services developed through the Local Solutions locality focused approach, 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.
16. The focus and criteria for each Local Solution Grant has been shaped by engagement with local stakeholders. 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. Some grants are more specific in what is being asked to be delivered and others outline more generally the focus of the change required. Across all, it will be looked for the successful bidder(s) to ensure local insight and expertise continue to shape the support and services as they further develop, in order to deliver positive outcomes. Local stakeholders and local Adult's Health and Care Community Teams were involved in the decision making to ensure that the grants recommended meet the community need.
17. In this paper Local Solutions grants are being proposed covering a range of demographics, seek to support users of services across numerous localities in Hampshire. This represents the diversity and range of support which continues to be offered through this bespoke fund and full details of the grants being proposed are contained in Appendix A of this paper

Finance

18. The grant proposal in this report will commit additional expenditure totalling £131,509 for two years up to the financial year (2023/24), from planned one off resources already available. Subject to approval of this report the total grants committed for payment will remain within the agreed annual budget envelopes for the Demand Management and Prevention Programme.
19. Payments will be made in 2 instalments for all grants approved in this report. 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.

Performance

20. 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.
21. 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.
22. A comprehensive evaluation assessment tool has been developed and is in use for the beneficiaries of previous grant rounds, ensuring consistency of data capture.
23. 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

24. 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.
25. All grants included for consideration in this report represent additional facilities and services for those they serve and a full Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed to capture the benefits for each group.

Climate Impact Assessment

26. Hampshire County Council utilises two decision-making tools to assess the carbon emissions and resilience 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.
27. A full assessment of climate change vulnerability was not completed as the initial vulnerability assessment showed that the project is at minimal risk from

the climate vulnerabilities because the projects delivered will be operated from premises not owned by the County Council or the organisation in receipt of the grant.

Conclusions

28. The Local Solutions Grant continues to offer local organisations in the voluntary and community sector, the opportunity to fund their projects to the benefit of local residents in a local way to address the specific needs of communities in each district. The grants proposed in this paper have a range of benefits and outcomes but all seek, as a minimum to reduce social isolation and loneliness and connect participants to their local communities and support networks.

REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Strategic Plan

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	no
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> Demand Management and Prevention Grant Award Demand Management and Prevention Grant Award Demand Management and Prevention Grant Award	<u>Date</u> January 2022
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents	
<p>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.)</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 Adult's Health and Care Strategy 2018.

Grants in this paper:

Local Solutions Grants, covering the districts of Rushmoor, Havant, East Hants, Basingstoke and Deane, Fareham and Eastleigh - period July 2022 – December 2023. Total Pot: £131,509

Geographical impact: Grants in this paper are recommended for award, which if approved will provide additional services, beyond what is already available in the districts of: Rushmoor, Havant, East Hants, Basingstoke and Deane, Fareham and Eastleigh

Proposed Change: The grants proposed in this paper all represent new services which were not previously funded and therefore are of additional benefit to those they seek to serve.

The Local Solutions fund continues to offer funding to projects which support a diverse range of Hampshire residents, and does so in collaboration with Social Care Teams, health partners and the community and voluntary sector.

As a result of the proposals contained within this Executive Member Decision Report we do not anticipate any changes to service provision, rather these are extensions to existing services or new services which were not previously available.

Will the proposed project/service change affect people in the protected characteristics groups or any of the other groups for consideration? Yes

Who does this impact assessment cover?: All

Has engagement or consultation been carried out?: Yes

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

The Local Solutions Grant application process is designed to enhance collaboration between HCC and the applicant every step of the way. Throughout the application process, the grants within this paper were shaped in order to ensure the outcomes proposed align with the Adults Health strategy and deliver the maximum benefit for participants.

A key focus for DM&P at the current time is building and strengthening relationships with the local districts across Hampshire. The individual districts have been consulted with on each project which impacts their locality for their thoughts and suggestions to ensure the maximum benefit across multiple levels of Local Government.

Finally various HCC teams have been involved with the shaping of the projects outlined in this report, from the LD Team input into the proposed SpeakEasy application to the Social Care Team input into the NeighbourCare application.

Collaboration will continue should these projects be approved with lessons learned captured and shared and outcomes evaluated to assess the value and outcomes being delivered.

Age Public Impact: Positive

Age Staff Impact: Neutral

Assessment Rationale: All projects included in this report serve, as one of their key demographics, older adults in the 70+ age range. The projects included will increase support beyond what is already available to support older adults with household tasks (Farham Citizens Advice and Neighbourcare applications), reduce social isolation and loneliness (Zion Projects and Like Minds Together

projects) and improve individual health and wellbeing outcomes (Rushmoor Healthy Living Project)

Disability social impact: Positive

Disability staff impact: Neutral

Assessment Rationale: The projects recommended for funding support Hampshire residents living with a range of disabilities and in a range of ways. The SpeakEasy application represents additional and targeted support for residents living with a learning disability and The East Hants Mind and Be Healthy Be You projects support people with mental health challenges. These projects are designed to provide targeted and tailored support to participants in order to help them live independent, healthy and fulfilling lives.

Sexual orientation public impact: Neutral

Sexual orientation staff impact: Neutral

Assessment rationale: All projects recommended for award in this paper are open to all residents irrespective of their sexual orientation though none in this round of funding are specifically targeted at people with this defined characteristic.

Race social impact: Positive

Race staff impact: Neutral

Assessment Rationale: The Be Healthy Be You project is targeted specifically at the Nepali community in Rushmoor district in order to support participants to increase their health across a range of measures. Specific focus will be given to the health metrics this community has traditionally seen lower outcomes in when compared to other communities in Hampshire, in order to enable participants to live healthy and active lives for longer.

Religion or belief social impact: Neutral

Religion or belief staff impact: Neutral

Assessment Rationale: All projects recommended for award in this paper are open to all residents irrespective of their religion or beliefs. though none in this round of funding are specifically targeted at people with this defined characteristic.

Gender reassignment public impact: Neutral

Gender reassignment staff impact: Neutral

Assessment Rationale: The projects recommended for funding in this paper are open to all and aim to support people in a range of ways irrespective of gender reassignment.

Sex public impact: Neutral

Sex staff impact: Neutral

Assessment rationale: The projects recommended for funding in this paper are open to all and aim to support people in a range of ways irrespective of Sex.

Marriage or civil partnership: Neutral

Marriage or civil partnership: Neutral

Assessment Rationale: The projects recommended for funding in this paper are open to all and aim to support people in a range of ways irrespective of marriage or civil partnership status.

Pregnancy and maternity public impact: Neutral

Pregnancy and maternity staff impact: Neutral

Assessment rationale: The projects recommended for funding in this paper are open to all and aim to support people in a range of ways irrespective of whether they are pregnant or not.

Poverty public impact: Positive

Poverty staff impact: Neutral

Assessment Rationale: A number of projects recommended for funding in this paper support residents in financial hardship. The Neighbourcare application offer reduced price services for people enabling them to live independently in their homes for longer. The Older Persons Support and Advice project is designed to support older adults in applying for benefits, managing their limited budgets and supporting with financial management.

Rurality public impact: Neutral

Rurality staff impact: Neutral

Assessment rationale: The projects recommended for funding in this paper are open to all and aim to support people in a range of ways irrespective of rurality.

APPENDIX A

LOCAL SOLUTIONS GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS BY AREA

Grant 1

Organisation: Rushmoor Healthy Living

Project Title: Be Healthy Be You Project

Area: Rushmoor

Amount: £15,840 (Duration 12 months)

Project Description: Protect which delivers on a face to face and group basis to improve health outcomes in the Nepali community in Rushmoor District. The Nepali community score lower on a number of health outcomes than the wider Hampshire population and these outcomes will be the focus of the project to improve health and wellbeing in participants. The primary participants will be older adults in the 70+ age group and this project will be used as a pilot for targeted intervention with specific health metrics with a view to potentially expanding it to the wider community if successful.

Grant 2

Organisation: East Hants Mind

Project Title: Like Minds Together

Area: Havant and East Hants

Amount: £17,131 (Duration 12 months)

Project Description: Community mental health support project which focuses on one to one intervention and support groups across Havant and East Hants districts. Supporting people to build their emotional resilience and improve their mental health in a setting which can also reduce social isolation and loneliness. Participants will be able to set their own goals and objectives as part of a strengths based approach and maximise beneficial outcomes.

Grant 3

Organisation: Neighbourcare

Project Title: Handy Support Service

Area: Basingstoke and Deane

Amount: £20,262 (Duration 12 months)

Project Description: Funding will support the recruitment of a development officer which will use the life of the grant to set up and run a local support service to provide handyman, gardening and day to day low level support to older adults in Basingstoke and Deane district. The first 6 months of the project will be setting up the project and the remaining 6 months implementation and development with a view to the project being fully sustained beyond the life of the grant. Focus of the project will be on supporting older adults to remain safe and independent in their own homes for as long as possible.

Grant 4

Organisation: SpeakEasy

Project Title: Support To Independence

Area: Basingstoke and Deane

Amount: £29,000 (Duration 14 months)

Project Description: Targeted one on one and group support for users of LD services in Basingstoke in order to increase life and independence skills. Workshops and support will be delivered in a post Covid-19 way to support participants to adapt to the new reality of life after Covid, boost confidence and become connected to their communities and the other support networks available.

Grant 5

Organisation: Citizens Advice Fareham

Project Title: Older Persons Advice And Support

Area: Fareham

Amount: £29,562 (Duration 15 months)

Project Description: Project which works in a targeted way with Hampshire County Council Social Care Teams at the point of client assessment. Holistic service which goes beyond just financial management and looks comprehensively at how to improve independence, wellbeing and health measures for each individual. Caseworker lead to deliver for each participant in a strengths based way for long term health and wellbeing outcomes.

Grant 6:

Organisation: Zion Projects

Project Title: Parish Care Connections

Area: Eastleigh

Amount: £19,750 (Duration 12 months)

Project Description: A range of community based projects, from a community café to in home help and support and digital upskilling which is designed to better connect older adults in the Fair Oak and Horton Heath areas of Eastleigh Borough to their local community and available resources. Main outcomes are to reduce social isolation and loneliness amongst the older adults in the target area and increase participants digital connectivity.