

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Health
Date:	13 March 2018
Title:	Supportive Communities Grant Award
Report From:	Director of Adults' Health and Care

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1. Recommendation(s)

1.1. That approval be given by the Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Health to award the following grants:

- i) To award Methodist Homes Association (MHA) a grant totalling £66,304 over a two year period between April 2018 and March 2020 as part of the Community Based Support Grant.
- ii) To award Brendoncare Clubs a grant totalling £49,696 over a two year period between April 2018 and March 2020 as part of the Community Based Support Grant.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. The purpose of this paper is to seek approval for making grant awards to the voluntary and community organisations outlined in this report as part of the Supportive Communities Programme.
- 2.2. The Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) contributes to improving people's quality of life. The grants programme is one of the ways in which the County Council supports the sector to support people to live fuller more independent lives.
- 2.3. The report outlines a proposal for funding towards projects to support support older people on the cusp of care within their local communities in Winchester and Gosport, and how it complements similar schemes in the other districts of Hampshire that are already funded.

3. Contextual information

- 3.1. 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.

- 3.2. 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.
- 3.3. 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.
- 3.4. 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.
- 3.5. 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.
- 3.6. 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.
- 3.7. 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.

4. Community Based Support Grant

- 4.1. The Community Based Support Grant shall support in the development of a community based support service in Hampshire. The community based support model fits within the prevention and early intervention landscape: the idea is to support older people on the cusp of care within their local communities. These support solutions will be based in a local venue which will act as a hub for the local community. The range of support solutions will include befriending, support for carers, services which keep people in contact, transport and meals, social activities and wellbeing services.
- 4.2. The Community Based Support Grant is a contribution to the operation of the services provided. The organisations awarded the funding are expected to secure funding from other sources, as well as charging a small fee to those that use the service who can afford to do so. As a result the award made by the County Council is expected to account for no more than 21% of the total funding of the services provided.

- 4.3. The grants to support the development of Community Based Support schemes in Winchester and Gosport will complement community based support schemes that were established and supported in the other nine District Council areas in 2017–18 (Decision 8052) which achieve the same outcomes. It is envisaged that the existing schemes will form part of the overall approach for Hampshire. The reason for not including Winchester and Gosport in the previous Community Based Grant award was that similar services were previously awarded funding from the Older Persons Community Support Grant (Decision Reports 6548 and 7077), which ends on 31 March 2018
- 4.4. The organisation recommended for a Community Based Support grant award of £33,152 per year for two years towards delivering a service in Winchester is Methodist Homes Association (MHA). In the two years they expect their service to support over 400 older people.
- 4.5. The organisation recommended for a Community Based Support grant award of £24,848 per year for two years towards delivering a service in Gosport is Brendoncare Clubs. In the two years they expect their service to support 400 older people.

5. Supportive Communities Programme

- 5.1. 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.
- 5.2. Applicants have to demonstrate how they would work with people aged 65 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 a 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.

6. Finance

- 6.1. The grant proposals in this report will commit additional expenditure totalling £116,000 over a two year period commencing 2018/19. The expenditure has been profiled between years as follows, £58,000 in 2018/19, £58,000 in 2019/20. Subject to approval of this report the total grants committed for payment will remain within the agreed, (2018/19) and anticipated, (2019/20) annual budget envelopes for the Supportive Communities Programme.

- 6.2. Payments of both grant awards set out in this report will be made in two instalments for each 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.

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. Consultation and Equalities

- 8.1. 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.
- 8.2. The grants awarded under the Community Based 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 pot has changed it is expected that grants awarded to organisations will be broadly similar to current levels of funding for similar schemes. As a result it is likely that a similar number of individuals in each the protected characteristics will benefit, with older people being of particular benefit.

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>Date</u>
Supportive Communities Grants Award (Reference 8052)	17 January 2017
Older Persons Community Support Grant (Reference 7077)	25 November 2015
Older Persons Community Support Grant (Reference 6548)	11 March 2015

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.)

DocumentLocation

None

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equality Duty

1.1. 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:

- a) The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant characteristic connected to that characteristic;
- b) Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- c) 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 Community Based 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 pot has changed it is expected that grants awarded to organisations will be broadly similar to current levels of funding for similar schemes. As a result it is likely that a similar number of individuals in each the protected characteristics will benefit, with older people being of particular benefit.

2. 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 Supportive Communities 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.