

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Younger Adults and Health and Wellbeing
Date:	24 January 2023
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(s)

2. That approval be given by the Executive Member for Younger Adult's and Health and Wellbeing for the following actions:
 - i) To award grants totalling £86,654 to cover a range of time periods between February 2023 and July 2024 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 directorate can be significant, leveraging 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 supporting older and vulnerable adults with a range of bespoke solutions and services across numerous localities in Hampshire. The grants within this paper reflect the innovation, flexibility and project sustainability which are characteristic of Local Solutions application and full details of the grants being proposed are contained in Appendix A of this paper

Grants for Consideration In this report (Additional Information in Appendix A) are as follows:

18. Hatch Warren Community Association (£14,980) – A project to support carers of young adults with learning disabilities across the Basingstoke district. Project will offer one-to-one intensive support and facilitated peer support activities and seeks to support approximately 50 carers to increase

confidence, skills, access to information, as well as increased mental and physical health and wellbeing. Hatch Warren Community Association currently deliver a successful independent living skills project for young adults with learning disabilities and through this project the need to support carers has been identified, which this project seeks to address.

19. SOCO Music Project (£4950) – A project to support 30 carers across a number of districts through a wellbeing singing programme. The project would offer respite support through the medium of facilitated singing and music session with a strong element of peer support build into the programme to strengthen the support networks for those carers involved.
20. Princess Royal Trust For Carers (£29,724) - A project which seeks to support 100 carers across various districts to respond to the increasing complexity of need and increasing demands and pressure placed upon informal carers. Offering specialist support and working with carers in crisis, through one-to-one support, signposting and advocating, the intention is that this provision will support potential carer breakdown which in turn will prevent cared for person's social care needs escalating. This project seeks to complement and respond to rising demand placed upon carers and will work alongside other carer support services being provided across the districts.
21. Recapture Life CIC (£21,000) – A project which would support structured independent living skills workshops alongside peer support groups for those living with dementia and their carers. Run by qualified CST therapists, sessions will aim to boost and maintain cognitive function whilst also building relationships to reduce social isolation and loneliness in participants. Skills workshops will be driven by the needs of those participating but will have the primary outcomes of ensuring people feel supported and are able to live safely and independently in their homes for as long as possible. Support for carers is a key element of the project not only providing peer support but also respite opportunities and the chance to connect to others with the same lived experiences.
22. Happy Healthy Healing Hut (£16,000) – A project builds on the successful (but now complete) project of the same name funded through Get Going Again (GGA) Grant Fund, extending it to the areas of Havant and East Hants where significant demand for the service is being seen from HCC Social Care Teams. The project would fund 12 sessions of intensive support from qualified therapists to around 50 housebound and vulnerable adults in the districts. Sessions focus on breaking down barriers to engagement in their communities and boosting confidence to achieve goals set around a strengths based approach. Whilst modelled on the GGA grant project if funded this project would develop to take in learnings from that and will focus support on those aged 70+ which is where greatest benefit is seen and take primary referrals from HCC Teams where demand is currently greatest.

Finance

23. The grant proposal in this report will commit additional expenditure totalling £86,654 over the financial years 2023/24 and 2024/25. Subject to approval of this report the total grants committed for payment will remain within the

agreed, (2023/24 & 2024/25) annual budget envelopes for the Demand Management and Prevention Programme.

24. 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

25. 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.
26. 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.
27. A comprehensive evaluation assessment tool has been developed and is in use for the beneficiaries of previous grant rounds, ensuring consistency of data capture. As part of the application process the measurement of outcomes has been discussed with the applicants, and has been informed by County Council staff who are experienced in the monitoring and collection of demand management and prevention outcomes.
28. 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

29. 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.
30. 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, which can be found as an appendix to this report. In summary the grants recommended in this report have been assessed to have a positive impact to the characteristics of age, disability and sex, as well as having a positive

impact on poverty, as they are increasing the access to services that will benefit these groups.

Climate Impact Assessment

31. 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.
32. 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

33. 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 July 2022 October 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 Basingstoke and Deane, Eastleigh, East Hampshire, Fareham, Gosport, Havant, New Forest, Test Valley and Winchester - period February 2023 – July 2024. Total Pot: £86,654

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: Basingstoke and Deane, Eastleigh, East Hampshire, Fareham, Gosport, Havant, New Forest, Test Valley and Winchester.

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.

Will the proposed project/service change affect people in the protected characteristics groups or any of the other groups for consideration? No

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. An example of this is with the Happy Healthy Healing Hut application which was work on in collaboration between the organisation and DM&P at the request of the local social care team who identified this as a needed service for their vulnerable client base.

Age public impact: Positive

Age staff impact: Neutral

Assessment Rationale: All projects suggested for funding have a primary target audience of Older Adults (70+), though will also be support those who meet the criteria in younger age demographics. As an example the Happy Healthy Healing Hut project specifically seeks to support adults 70+ with support sessions aimed at boosting confidence, social connectivity and improving health and wellbeing outcomes. This project has been requested by the Adults Social Care Teams as they are seeing an increase in isolation and vulnerability in older adults in certain geographic locations which this project seeks to address.

Disability social impact: Positive

Disability staff impact: Neutral

Assessment Rationale: A number of the projects proposed support those with physical and learning disabilities across multiple districts. Provision is also being made to improve services for carers of those living with physical and learning disabilities to ensure comprehensive peer support and minimise the risk of carer breakdown. The Hatch Warren Community Association project seeks to support carers of those with learning disabilities and will build on their very successful independent living skills project which is ongoing, in order to offer a more comprehensive level of support. The Recapture Life CIC project supports those with dementia and their carers/ support network to build emotional resilience and support with lifestyle adjustments to ensure participants are able to live as healthily and independently for as long as possible.

Sexual orientation public impact: Neutral

Sexual orientation staff impact: Neutral

Assessment rationale: Whilst none of the projects recommended for funding specifically support people within this defined characteristic, they are all open to those who need support irrespective of sexual orientation.

Race social impact: Neutral

Race staff impact: Neutral

Assessment Rationale: Whilst none of the projects recommended for funding specifically support people within this defined characteristic, they are all open to those who need support irrespective of race.

Religion or belief social impact: Neutral

Religion or belief staff impact: Neutral

Assessment Rationale: Whilst none of the projects recommended for funding specifically support people within this defined characteristic, they are all open to those who need support irrespective of religion or belief.

Gender reassignment public impact: Neutral

Gender reassignment staff impact: Neutral

Assessment Rationale: Whilst none of the projects recommended for funding specifically support people within this defined characteristic, they are all open to those who need support irrespective of gender.

Sex public impact: Positive

Sex staff impact: Neutral

Assessment rationale: All projects outlined for approval are open to all irrespective of sex. The Recapture Life CIC project will fund a number of workshops and support groups for those caring for people with dementia, some of which will be specifically targeted towards male carers. Feedback from those who have engaged with the organisation previously was that many men feel current support groups do not meet their specific needs and so targeted and tailored provision will be made in order to address this specific concern.

Marriage or civil partnership: Neutral

Marriage or civil partnership: Neutral

Assessment Rationale: Whilst none of the projects recommended for funding specifically support people within this defined characteristic, they are all open to those who need support irrespective of marriage or civil partnership status.

Pregnancy and maternity public impact: Neutral

Pregnancy and maternity staff impact: Neutral

Assessment rationale: Whilst none of the projects recommended for funding specifically support people within this defined characteristic, they are all open to those who need support irrespective of pregnancy or maternity.

Poverty public impact: Positive

Poverty staff impact: Neutral

Assessment Rationale: The proposed Recapture Life CIC provides a number of support services for those living with dementia and their carers. One element of this support is financial in order to support with applications for benefits/grants, household financial management in light of their diagnosis and support with managing associated costs.

Rurality public impact: Neutral

Rurality staff impact: Neutral

Assessment rationale: Whilst none of the projects recommended for funding specifically support people within this defined characteristic, they are all open to those who need support irrespective of rurality.

APPENDIX A

LOCAL SOLUTIONS GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS BY AREA

Grant 1

Organisation: Hatch Warren Community Association

Project Title: Adult Carer Support Project

Area: Basingstoke

Amount: £14,980 (Duration 18 months)

Project Description: Project to support carers of young adults with learning disabilities across the Basingstoke district. Project will offer one-to-one intensive support and facilitated peer support activities, and seeks to support approximately 50 carers to increase confidence, skills, access to information, as well as increased mental and physical health and wellbeing. Hatch Warren Community Association currently deliver a successful independent living skills project for young adults with learning disabilities and through this project the need to support carers has been identified, which this project seeks to address.

Grant 2

Organisation: SOCO Music Project

Project Title: Music For Carers

Area: Eastleigh, New Forest and the Romsey area of Test Valley District

Amount: £4950 (Duration 12 months)

Project Description: Project to support approximately 30 carers across varying districts through a wellbeing singing programme. The project would offer respite support through the medium of facilitated singing and music sessions with a strong element of peer support built into the programme to strengthen the support networks for those carers involved. SOCO music will work in partnership with various carer support organisations to deliver this project and to maximise outcomes for those participating in the project.

Grant 3

Organisation: Princess Royal Trust For Carers

Project Title: Complex Carer Support Worker

Area: Winchester, Eastleigh and Test Valley Districts

Amount: £29,724 (Duration 12 months)

Project Description: A project which seeks to support 100 carers across various districts to respond to the increasing complexity of need and increasing demands and pressure

placed upon informal carers. Offering specialist support and working with carers in crisis, through one-to-one support, signposting and advocating, the intention is that this provision will support potential carer breakdown which in turn will prevent cared for person's social care needs escalating. This project seeks to complement and respond to rising demand placed upon carers and will work alongside other carer support services being provided across the districts.

Grant 4

Organisation: Happy Healthy Healing Hut

Project Title: Support Back To Independence

Area: Havant and East Hants District

Amount: £16,000 (Duration 18 months)

Project Description: Project builds on the successful (but now complete) project of the same name funded through Get Going Again (GGA) Grant Fund, extending it to the areas of Havant and East Hants where significant demand for the service is being seen from HCC Social Care Teams. The project would fund 12 sessions of intensive support from qualified therapists to around 50 housebound and vulnerable adults in the districts. Sessions focus on breaking down barriers to engagement in their communities and boosting confidence to achieve goals set around a strengths based approach. Whilst modelled on the GGA grant project if funded this project would develop to take in learnings from that and will focus support on those aged 70+ which is where greatest benefit is seen and take primary referrals from HCC Teams where demand is currently greatest.

Grant 5

Organisation: Recapture Life CIC

Project Title: Dementia Support Together

Area: Havant, Fareham and Gosport Districts

Amount: £21,000 (Duration 12 months)

Project Description: Project which would support structured independent living skills workshops alongside peer support groups for those living with dementia and their carers. Run by qualified CST therapists, sessions will aim to boost and maintain cognitive function whilst also building relationships to reduce social isolation and loneliness in participants. Skills workshops will be driven by the needs of those participating but will have the primary outcomes of ensuring people feel supported and are able to live safely and independently in their homes for as long as possible. Support for carers is a key element of the project not only providing peer support but also respite opportunities and the chance to connect to others with the same lived experiences.