

SHAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Younger Adults and Health and Wellbeing
Date:	28 March 2023
Title:	Demand Management and Prevention Grant Award
Report From:	Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Adults' Health and Care

Contact name: Sarah Snowdon
Peter Stokes

Tel: 0370 779 1037

Email: Peter.Stokes@hants.gov.uk

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 the following actions:
 - i) To award grants totalling £71,891 to cover a range of time periods between April 2023 and September 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 people at increased risk of requiring social care 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, 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 other adults at risk or requiring social care 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 Report (Additional Information in Appendix A)

18. Koala Club (£29,891) – A project to support older adults with learning disabilities, autism and other spectrum disorders for an 18 month period of duration. The project will fund a case/support worker role who will work 1:1 with residents in an intensive way over a 10 week period of intervention to

build independent living skills, coping mechanisms and increase community connectivity.

19. Unity (£7500) – A project to provide targeted befriending to older adult residents experiencing with social isolation and loneliness across Test Valley District. Focus will be residents returning home from hospital and struggling to adjust to live back in their own homes and communities. A more active approach to befriending will be undertaken to link participants into their communities and other resources to ensure long term benefits beyond the life of any intervention.
20. Basingstoke Voluntary Action (£30,000) - A Project to create and extend a number of community builder posts across Basingstoke and surrounding areas to enhance community assets across the district. Using an asset based community development approach, project will build on the strength of local community assets with a focus on developing resident led sustainable local solutions to support older people across a number of wards within the Basingstoke district. Project is being coordinated by Basingstoke Voluntary Action and will involve an element of peer support and focus on building assets which benefit Older Adults and independent living.
21. Artwell (£4500) – A project providing therapeutic art interventions to residents with moderate mental health challenges, enabling them to better express themselves and build strength and coping strategies through a series of art workshops. Workshops will be user led but professionally delivered in order to maximise outcomes and enable participants to build a community of support across Winchester.

Finance

22. The grant proposal in this report will commit additional expenditure totalling £71,891 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.
23. 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

24. 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.

25. 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.
26. A comprehensive evaluation assessment tool has been developed and is in use for the beneficiaries of previous grant rounds, ensuring consistency of data capture.
27. 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

28. 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.
29. 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

30. 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.
31. 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

32. 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, Test Valley and Winchester - period February 2023 – September 2024.
Total Pot: £71,891

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, 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.

One grant held within the report (Unity Ltd) has been proposed in order to support another grant funding project which is ongoing but has exceeded capacity and so the funding of this project will positively impact another Hampshire County Council Project

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? 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 the Koala Club project which has been created in collaboration with our LD Team in order to maximise the benefits for participants and for Hampshire County Council.

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 supporting those who meet the criteria in younger age demographics.

As an example the Unity project specifically seeks to support adults 70+, recently discharged from hospital and struggling to adjust to life back in their homes. This project was created out of a need identified due to an over subscription in one of our other services and supported by our Health partners and Teams who identified a lack of this provision in the Test Valley area.

The Koala Club project supports residents with learning disabilities (LD from this point on in the EIA) and it was agreed with our LD colleagues that in this demographic older adults would refer to anyone in the 45+ age group in order to maximise the support given to specific needs within this community. Furthermore this project will support unpaid carers of participants, many of which will fall into the traditional definition of Older Adults (70+), supporting independent living to reduce the support requirements on unpaid carers.

Disability social impact: Positive

Disability staff impact: Neutral

Assessment Rationale: All projects recommended for funding in this paper are open to residents with disabilities in order to provide additional support to what is already available in the community.

The Koala Club project specifically supports residents with disabilities in a more intensive way than what is currently available and aims to boost independent living skills, coping mechanisms and link participants to other resources in the community to ensure long term benefits. Lower level support is currently available but this new project will enable us to trial whether a more intensive intervention will improve outcomes for those taking part and feed into future HCC decisions. The Unity project supports people at point of discharge from hospital. Many of the participants of this project may leave hospital with disabilities they did not have when they entered or may be experiencing increase frailty as a result of an extended hospital stay. The project seeks to support and connect those it works with to their communities to help people rebuild and reintegrate once they return to their homes.

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. There is no evidence

the that projects funded will have a disproportionate impact or benefit for those within this characteristic so is impact has been assessed as neutral.

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. There is no evidence the that projects funded will have a disproportionate impact or benefit for those within this characteristic so is impact has been assessed as neutral.

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. There is no evidence the that projects funded will have a disproportionate impact or benefit for those within this characteristic so is impact has been assessed as neutral.

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 reassignment. There is no evidence the that projects funded will have a disproportionate impact or benefit for those within this characteristic so is impact has been assessed as neutral.

Sex public impact: Neutral

Sex 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 sex. There is no evidence the that projects

funded will have a disproportionate impact or benefit for those within this characteristic so is impact has been assessed as neutral.

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. There is no evidence the that projects funded will have a disproportionate impact or benefit for those within this characteristic so is impact has been assessed as neutral.

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. There is no evidence the that projects funded will have a disproportionate impact or benefit for those within this characteristic so is impact has been assessed as neutral.

Poverty public impact: Positive

Poverty staff impact: Neutral

Assessment Rationale: The proposed Koala Club project will support participants with budgeting and financial management advice as part of the independent living skills they seek to boost in those who participate. Financial management has been identified as one of the key skills which enable those with learning disabilities to live a more independent life and this project seeks to address this in a targeted way.

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. There is no evidence that projects funded will have a disproportionate impact or benefit for those within this characteristic so its impact has been assessed as neutral.

APPENDIX A

LOCAL SOLUTIONS GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS BY AREA

Grant 1

Organisation: Koala Club

Project Title: Support To Success

Area: Test Valley

Amount: £29,891 (Duration 12-18 months, dependent on the volume of referrals)

Project Description: Project will fund a case/support worker post who will work on a 1:1 basis with residents with a range of learning disabilities, autism and other spectrum disorders to build independent living skills, coping strategies and community engagement. Provision differs to that which is currently available by providing a more intensive approach with participants receiving 10 weeks of 1:1 support in addition to group sessions which will also be run. Focus will be on delivering for residents 45+ and will support will be directed towards those who will most likely benefit from the provision in order to maximise outcomes. Alongside the benefits to the individuals who participate in the project the proposed monitoring of the project will also enable Adults Health and Care to understand in more detail which groups benefit the most from more targeted intensive support provision in order to shape future services.

Grant 2

Organisation: Unity

Project Title: Befriending Connections

Area: Test Valley District

Amount: £7500 (Duration 12 months)

Project Description: Project to provide targeted befriending to those impacted by social isolation and loneliness. Referrals will be delivered from Hampshire County Council, voluntary sector partners and Social Prescribers, open to all needing support but primarily focussed on residents recently discharged from hospital and struggling to adjust to life back in their own home. Support will be limited, in most instances to 12 weeks, during which connections will be made to community resources, activities and support with a more active approach than seen with many traditional befriending services.

Grant 3

Organisation: Basingstoke Voluntary Action

Project Title: Community Builder Project

Area: Basingstoke and Deane District

Amount: £30,000 (Duration 12 months)

Project Description: Project to create and extend a number of community builder posts across Basingstoke and surrounding areas to enhance community assets across the district. Using an asset based community development approach, project will build on the strength of local community assets with a focus on developing resident led sustainable local solutions to support older people across a number of wards within the Basingstoke district. Partnership working is a key element of the project with community centres, ICB, CVS infrastructure organisations and faith based providers coming together to support adults health and care priorities. Project is being coordinated by Basingstoke Voluntary Action and will involve an element of peer support and focus on building assets which benefit Older Adults and independent living.

Grant 4

Organisation: Artwell

Project Title: Artistic Intervention

Area: Winchester District

Amount: £4500 (Duration 9 months)

Project Description: A project providing therapeutic art interventions to residents with moderate mental health challenges, enabling them to better express themselves and build strength and coping strategies through a series of art workshops. Workshops will be user led but professionally delivered in order to maximise outcomes and enable participants to build a community of support across Winchester.