

# HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

## Decision Report

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Member for Younger Adults and Health and Wellbeing
<b>Date:</b>	17 July 2023
<b>Title:</b>	Demand Management and Prevention Grant Award
<b>Report From:</b>	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 Adults and Health and Wellbeing for the following actions:
  - i) To award grants totalling £60,450 to cover a range of time periods between August 2023 and September 2024 as part of the Local Solutions Fund (as detailed in paragraphs 18-24).

### 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, Community and Social Enterprise sector (VCSE) 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 VCSE 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 VCSE 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. VCSE 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 VCSE 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 adults and younger adults at risk of requiring social care intervention 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.

### **Grants for Consideration in report**

18. Safer Futures (£12,000 for duration August 2023- Jan 2024) – A project to deliver a 6-month course for 15 younger adults at risk of social care involvement, offering a cognitive and psychological approach to support them in overcoming barriers to volunteering and community engagement in the Havant area. The proposed project will work alongside Community First and

test a new more intense approach to building individuals, community engagement.

19. Open Sight (£12,000 for a duration August 2023 – August 2024) – A project seeking funding to support residents with sight loss and visual impairment across Havant and New Forest districts. If funded the project will support with practical in-home vision assessments, benefits and money management advice and use of tech support to increase independent living skills. This project is supported by the HCC Sensory Team who suggested Havant and the New Forest as being the areas which would most benefit from provision of this kind.
20. Eastleigh Citizens Advice (£13,000 for a duration September 2023 – August 2024) – Funding is being sought for one year to provide a dedicated resource to focus on supporting carers to access financial information and advice through home visits and community outreach across Eastleigh. The Service is structured to provide a complementary resource working alongside specific carer support services and commissioned services in the district. This project seeks to not only support carers to help care for themselves through being better equipped but also to be able to support and care for their loved ones for longer.
21. Forest Forge (£4,750 for a duration August 2023 – Feb 2024) – A project across the New Forest for adults with learning disabilities which seeks to increase independent living skills through a series of theatre based workshops, culminating in a performance with the theme of independent living following by an interactive discussion focusing on the themes of the performance along with the creation of a range of self-help resources to be available to audience members and project participants.
22. Friday Night Project (£11,000 for a duration September 2023 – August 2024) – A project seeking to increase independent living skills for people with mild and moderate learning disabilities in Fareham and Gosport districts. The project delivers through social and recreational support/activities and more formal workshops, seeking to support in the building of networks of support and community alongside upskilling participants in a range of life skills.
23. Kingsclere Residents Group (£2,750 for a duration October 2023 – September 2024) – Funding is sought for a project which will build upon the current 'Kingsclere Monthly Meets Program' which brings older people together in a social way across the community. If funded the project will be able to expand to weekly sessions and will work to expand to surrounding villages and reach out to those most at risk to ensure maximum engagement. The aims of the project is to reduce social isolation and loneliness and to connect participants to a range of local support services.
24. Making Space (£4,950 for a duration August 2023 – July 2024) – A craft based project which seeks to support carers across Havant and East Hants. Sessions will be user led and use creative activities to draw people together, create a sense of community with the aim of delivering weekly peer support to the carers who participate. Sessions will be facilitated with the aim of connecting those taking part to other support services across the community.

## **Finance**

25. The grant proposal in this report will commit additional expenditure totalling £60,450 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 and forecast 2024/25 annual budget envelopes for the Demand Management and Prevention Programme.
26. Payments will be made in 2 instalments for all grants in excess of £10,000 and in one payment for projects approved below this amount. 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**

27. The provision of grants to VCSE organisations by statutory bodies always presents a degree of risk. Specific risks that statutory bodies are required to manage include VCSE 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.
28. 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.
29. A comprehensive evaluation assessment tool has been developed and is in use for the beneficiaries of previous grant rounds, ensuring consistency of data capture.
30. 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**

31. 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.
32. 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. In summary the grants recommended in this report have been assessed to have a positive impact to the characteristics of age and disability, 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**

33. 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.
34. 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**

35. The Local Solutions Grant continues to offer local organisations in the VCSE 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**

<b>Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:</b>	no
<b>People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:</b>	yes
<b>People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:</b>	no
<b>People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:</b>	yes

**Other Significant Links**

<b>Links to previous Member decisions:</b>	
<u>Title</u> Demand Management and Prevention Grant Award Demand Management and Prevention Grant Award Demand Management and Prevention Grant Award	<u>Date</u> July 2022 October 2022 March 2023
<b>Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives</b>	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>

<b>Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents</b>	
<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, community and social enterprise (VCSE) 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 Havant, East Hampshire, Eastleigh, New Forest and Basingstoke and Deane - period August 2023 – September 2024. Total Pot: £60,450

**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: Havant, East Hampshire, Eastleigh, New Forest and Basingstoke and Deane.



**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 VCSE 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 Open Sight project being proposed was developed in conjunction with the Sensory Team in HCC who suggested the areas of coverage in order to maximise outcomes for both participants and for the County Council.

**Age public impact:** Positive

**Age staff impact:** Neutral

**Assessment Rationale:** A number of projects included in this report will deliver new services which are primarily aimed at Hampshire residents 70+. The Open Sight project, whilst not exclusively for those ages 70+ expects around 80% of participants to be in this age group and seeks to support people experiencing sight loss to live full and independent lives. Further to this the Kingsclere Meet Up Project will extend services in the area which are specifically designed for those aged 70+ and experiencing social isolation and dislocation from their community.

The outcomes of these projects will be monitored in accordance with the current DM&P monitoring and evaluation framework for grants. Prior to the signing of any grant agreements DM&P Officers will discuss monitoring requirements with the applicant and how to best capture the outcomes and benefits of their specific project and this will form the basis for conversations with the organisation going forward. Regular meetings and visits are held with projects to evaluate the positive impacts they are having on participants and specific impacts on protected characteristics.

**Disability social impact:** Positive

**Disability staff impact:** Neutral

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

The Open Sight project seeks to support people in adjusting to sight loss and those living with a visual impairment. The project will provide practical support to enable people to live safely in their home and maximise their connections to the community around them.

The Friday Night Project supports people with mild to moderate learning disabilities to build a range of independent living skills, something which has been identified as being in need as a result of a lot of changes which have come about post Covid-19.

The Forest Forge project supports residents with learning disabilities to live safely and as independently as possible. The project is specifically designed with the post covid-19 world in mind to ensure that independent living skills are up to date as people adjust to what is called 'the new normal'.

The outcomes of these projects will be monitored in accordance with the current DM&P monitoring and evaluation framework for grants. Prior to the signing of any grant agreements DM&P Officers will discuss monitoring requirements with the applicant and how to best capture the outcomes and benefits of their specific project and this will form the basis for conversations with the organisation going forward. Regular meetings and visits are held with projects to evaluate the positive impacts they are having on participants and specific impacts on protected characteristics.

**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:** 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.

**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: A number of the projects put forward for funding will support participants experiencing financial hardship or changes in circumstances which have led to increased financial pressures.

The Eastleigh Citizens Advice project will provide direct support to those experiencing financial hardship across Eastleigh, providing advice and support for those impacted by the rise in the cost of living.

The Open Sight project will support those with visual impairments in understanding and applying for any benefits they may be entitled to. This will enable those who benefit from this service to increase their income in order to fund any adaptations they may require owing to sight loss and visual impairment.

The outcomes of these projects will be monitored in accordance with the current DM&P monitoring and evaluation framework for grants. Prior to the signing of any grant agreements DM&P Officers will discuss monitoring requirements with the applicant and how to best capture the outcomes and benefits of their specific project and this will form the basis for conversations with the organisation going forward. Regular meetings and visits are held with projects to evaluate the positive impacts they are having on participants and specific impacts on protected characteristics.

**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.