

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Health
Date:	16 September 2019
Title:	Provision of Support in Quaker Court and Riverside Court
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 to extend a grant agreement with East Boro Housing Trust for the provision of support services in Quaker Court and Riverside Court.

Recommendation

2. That approval is given by the Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Health to award a grant of £101,000, for up to two and a half years (30 months) from 1 October 2019, to East Boro Housing Trust to allow for the continuation of support services in Quaker Court and Riverside Court whilst alternative options are explored.

Executive Summary

3. The purpose of this paper is to seek approval to award a grant to East Boro Care and Support for up to 30 months to allow for the continuation of support services in Quaker Court and Riverside Court. This is being requested to allow enough time to support a strength-based approach to the delivery of support services within the schemes and co-produce a solution that mitigates any impact that may be brought about by changes to this arrangement.
4. This report sets out the reasons for the recommendation, considers the finance for the project and outlines intentions regarding future work.

Contextual information

5. Prior to September 2016, Quaker Court and Riverside Court operated as 'extra-care housing' and each scheme had a care team on site 24/7.

6. Quaker Court is located in Ringwood and has 36 flats. Riverside Court is located in Fordingbridge and has 25 flats.
7. Three years ago, following a review of extra care schemes for older people, a decision was made by the Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Health to end the care contracts attached to these schemes as there were no longer enough residents with care and support needs to justify this expenditure.
8. Since the end of the contracts in September 2016, the care needs of clients living in these schemes have been met through other arrangements.
9. Following considerable concern from residents and families regarding the scheme changes, a three-year preventative grant was approved for the provision of additional support services, including help with meal provision and wellbeing activities.
10. This service has been provided by East Boro Housing Trust and the current grant agreement comes to an end on 30 September 2019.

Consultation and Equalities

11. Consultation meetings were held with residents on 16 May 2019 to discuss the future of support services within the schemes. The meetings were attended by 40 residents and 10 relatives.
12. Residents and family members were invited to give their views on the current support service and the possible impact if services were not funded in the same way in the future.
13. At the meeting, a senior officer outlined the financial pressures on social care budgets and explained that the current support service is not a service that the County Council has a statutory duty to fund.
14. Many residents said that they would feel vulnerable and worried if the on-site support service stopped. Some relatives stated that their family member had moved to the scheme because it had a 24/7 care support service on site and expressed concern that further changes would mean that some residents would have to move out.
15. Whilst the preference was to retain an on-site service there was also recognition of the financial challenges facing the County Council. Residents and family members requested further meetings and a planned approach to any changes. Some were keen to be involved in identifying other solutions to meet individual and scheme needs and stressed that enough time needed be given for alternatives to be explored.

16. A full Equalities Impact Assessment was undertaken in October 2016 that detailed the impact of an unplanned removal of support services to residents at Quaker and Riverside Courts. It also highlighted the benefit of interim action and that a grant to put in place support is considered the most appropriate way of delivering this. This has been reviewed and remains current.
17. 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.

Recommended way forward

18. Based on the feedback of residents and family members and importance of a planned approach to any new arrangements that is co-produced with tenants and their families, it is proposed that some level of preventative support continues to be funded to allow a period of transition from the current service to a strength based one.
19. However, as this funding is time limited, alongside this transition plan to a more strength based service will be the requirement for a robust onward plan for support delivery that is not reliant on Adult's Health and Care funding. The County Council will work in partnership with tenants, the landlord (Sovereign), the support provider (East Boro HT) and other stakeholders (including relatives) to ensure there is a clear exit strategy for the end of this funding arrangement. It is not intended that Hampshire County Council, Adult's Health and Care will provide funding beyond the end of this agreement.
20. This would enable a transition that is managed with residents and their families and takes a personalised approach to any care and support needs.
21. The focus of the extended grant would be on use of community resources and partnership work with both the landlord of the schemes and residents to build a sustainable service model.
22. Additional County Council resources would support scheme staff to identify services in the local community and explore a range of strength based alternatives, including use of assistive technology.

Finance

- 23 The grant proposal in this report will commit additional expenditure totalling £101,000 over a two and a half year period commencing on 1 October 2019. The expenditure has been profiled between years as follows: £20,100 in 2019/20 and £40,400 in 2020/21 and 2021/22. Subject to approval of this report the total grants committed for payment will remain within the agreed,

(2019/20) and anticipated, (2020/21 and 2021/22) annual budget envelopes agreed for this purpose.

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. The focus for the preventative grant would be on supporting a strength based approach to service delivery. Outcomes would be monitored at quarterly meetings with the specific details of the performance framework being subject to further discussion and subsequent agreement with the grant recipients prior to accepting the grant.

Conclusion

26. The allocation of this proposed grant funding will enable a planned and managed transition of support services at both Quaker Court and Riverside Court; ensuring that tenants are able to access appropriate support over the course of the funding period whilst developing a strength based support network that can be sustainable in the longer-term. In short, the purpose of the grant is to enable a self-sustaining approach to be put in place that will mean additional funding from Hampshire County Council will not be required beyond this period.

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

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.)

Document

Location

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.

1.2 Equality Impact Assessment

A full Equalities Impact Assessment was undertaken in October 2016 that detailed the impact of an unplanned removal of support services to residents at Quaker and Riverside Courts. It also highlighted the benefit of interim action and that a grant to put in place support is considered the most appropriate way of delivering this. This has been reviewed and remains current.