

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Director of Children's Services
Date:	22 May 2020
Title:	SFP Covid-19 Emergency Support Grant Funding

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Purpose of this Report

- 1 Following the approval of the Supporting Families budget for 2020/21 to include £100k Grant provision, this paper provides the Director of Children's Services with an overview of the proposed distribution of this funding to organisations working in local communities providing services to vulnerable groups.
- 2 This report provides recommendations for the allocations of the Grants where the grant value is in excess of £5,000, as well as providing information on the grants under £5,000.

Recommendation(s)

- 3 The Director of Children's Services, to approve the distribution of £100k to support vulnerable families during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 4 The Director of Children's Services to approve the individual grants listed which exceed £5k:

	£
i) Home-Start Hampshire	8,554
ii) Andover Crisis & Support Centre	8,350
iii) Fleet Phoenix	8,000
iv) Yellow Brick Road	7,700
v) Stop Domestic Abuse (previously SDAS)	7,500
vi) Y Services	6,155
vii) Cherrywood Primary School.	5,919
viii) The Moving On Project	5,296
ix) YMCA Fairthorne	5,261
x) Havant & East Hants MIND	5,200
xi) Inspero	5,100
xii) The Vine Drop In Centre	5,000
Total	78,035

Executive Summary

- 5 The decision to allocate £100k budget to undertake a grants round during 2020/21 was approved in February 2020. This was originally planned to take place in summer 2020.
- 6 Following the outbreak of Covid-19, the subsequent lockdown, and the impact of this on Hampshire's most vulnerable residents, it was agreed to undertake this grants round exponentially to provide the funding needed to support urgently needed early help support services.
- 7 On 1st April 2020 the Hampshire County Council's Small Grants Portal opened for SFP Emergency Covid-19 bids. It closed on 16th April, however was re-opened from 24th April – 3rd May to facilitate additional bids to support New Forest.
- 8 In total, 36 bids were received and considered by the Grant Panel. The panel consisted of manager representatives from the Supporting Families central team and the Family Support Service. Each bid was assessed against a set of criteria and latest government guidance. The recommendation from the panel was that 20 projects be awarded SFP Emergency Covid-19 grant funding. Twelve were recommended for receiving grants in excess of £5k.

Contextual Information

- 9 On 1st April 2020 grants were invited from organisations who had projects working with vulnerable families where one or more of the following criteria applies:
 - a. A member of the family/household has lost employment/reduced income due to CV19.
 - b. A member of the family/household diagnosed with CV19.
 - c. The family would benefit from on line/telephone support with parenting.
 - d. A family member(s) suffering from mental health issues who would benefit from wellbeing activities that could be done within the current CV19 restrictions.
 - e. Domestic abuse issues (including where victim or abuser need to be removed from the household)
 - f. Children who cannot access/have restricted access to educational material/support/activities.
- 10 Bidders could apply for grants up to the value of £10k, and were required to be clear about how their projects would work in adherence with government Covid-19 guidance, and how vulnerable families would be identified and reached. The grant also stipulated the expectation that all projects should deploy the whole of any grant awarded by end July 2020.
- 11 Within the initial grants period, 30 bids were received from a range of organisations supporting vulnerable groups. These were assessed by the Grants Panel and 16 were identified for proposed awards.

- 12 On review of the bids, it was identified that there were limited bids from the New Forest, and therefore a decision was made in discussion with the Executive Member of Public Health to open up a further brief grants window specifically to organisations supporting the New Forest district.
- 13 The additional New Forest grants period resulted in a further six bids, of which four were identified for proposed awards.
- 14 A brief summary of the 12 bids recommended by the Grants Panel for awards over £5k for approval are as follows:
 - i) Home-Start Hampshire (supporting: East Hants, Fareham, Gosport, Havant, Hart, New Forest, Rushmoor, Winchester)
£8,554 award to enable the organisation to provide online/telephone support to existing and new families with multiple and complex needs. Focusing on mental health and wellbeing, support around parenting and provision of packs to support with practical ideas for interaction and play with families with a focus on educational activities to support home-school engagement.
 - ii) Andover Crisis and Support Centre (supporting: Whole of Hampshire)
£8,350 award to upgrade outreach staff mobile phones to enable them to work with victims of domestic abuse remotely. Also support the requirement to keep one room available for emergency accommodation, at this time when reports of domestic abuse are increasing.
 - iii) Fleet Phoenix (supporting Hart district)
£8,000 award to extend IT and communication capacity and enable activities including food and craft kit delivery, wellbeing and educational support and virtual youth groups to be undertaken. The funding will support the increased costs associated with these activities. The total cost of the project is in excess of £17,700. Fleet Phoenix is committing £6,000 of their own funds and have also sought other funding streams to support this project.
 - iv) Yellow Brick Road (supporting Test Valley district)
£7,700 award to support families nominated by Winton Community Academy to receive additional whole family support from the multi-disciplinary Reaching Out team.
 - v) Stop Domestic Abuse (previously Southern Domestic Abuse Service) (supporting Basingstoke district)
£7,500 award to provide laptops to support children's education within the Basingstoke refuge and a playworker to develop educational activities for families to do together compliant with social distancing requirements.
 - vi) Y Services (supporting Fareham, Gosport and Havant)
£6,155 award to fund 20 hours per week support for 12 weeks, for up to 20 families at a time. The support will be targeted towards families and young people where mental health is being affected by the Covid-19

situation and where young people have restricted access to educational material and support. As well as offering regular support (with frequency and method appropriate to individual/family needs), the funding will also support the costs of activity packs tailored to specific needs and where appropriate, the funding will go towards AQA accreditation for young people.

vii) Cherrywood Primary School (supporting Rushmoor district)

£5,919 award to support Cherrywood to continue the support being offered to their most vulnerable families with the provision of a breakfast and healthy snack hamper and a stationery pack to support home learning. By delivering these items to the households it enables staff to stay in contact with families and children, some of whom are already being supported by Children's Services or are in the process of being referred. Maintaining these links helps to ensure continued support and oversight of vulnerable children and families in the current situation. The school are also contributing £7,760 of own funds, because of the positive impact the scheme is having already.

viii) The Moving On Project (supporting Fareham and Gosport districts)

£5,296 award to adapt working practices to comply with government guidelines, which has resulted on one-to-one counselling ceasing. The programme will support 11-25 year olds experiencing anxiety, stress and low mood relating to the current situation and aims to support them to identify trigger situations and build their resilience. The funding will go towards the new telephone service and the administration and running costs associated with this to maximise the number of young people they are able to support at this time of increasing demand.

ix) YMCA Fairthorne (supporting East Hants, Fareham, Gosport, New Forest, Test Valley, Winchester districts)

£5,261 award to support their 'Nursery at Home' project providing telephone support to vulnerable families registered at their early years settings in Hampshire and provide online evidence-based learning and activity resources to all families. The telephone contact will be at least weekly (depending on the vulnerability of the family) and will explore family wellbeing, and support with parenting and the child's home learning. The online early years programme will be available to all and aimed at each early years age group. The project will be undertaken by staff from the setting who are funded through EYE funding. Funding is needed to cover the costs of the EY Quality Lead and Digital Lead and the IT infrastructure required to implement the Nursery at Home project.

x) Havant & East Hants MIND (supporting East Hampshire, Fareham and Gosport districts)

£5,200 award to support an additional 21 hours per week co-ordination and support time for families where the mental health and wellbeing has been affected by Covid-19. Existing resources have been stretched with increasing demand and complexity of issues arising. The service is already delivering regular phone "family check ins" and offering mental

health and practical support for families. The co-ordinator will enable new referrals to triaged and supported appropriately, and ensure best use of the available resources. The additional support time will increase capacity within the service.

xi) Inspero (supporting Basingstoke district)

£5,200 award to provide a local support network in the Beggarwood, Buckskin, Hatch Warren and Kempshott areas of Basingstoke, focusing on the vulnerable and low income families. The network will provide a range of services delivered by volunteers. The funding will fund a Project Co-Ordinator, and will also support the purchasing of food/care packages, activity resources/printing materials and the safe delivery of items (petrol, subsistence, PPE)

xii) The Vine Drop In Centre (supporting Rushmoor district)

£5,000 award as a contribution to a far larger six month project which consists of a telephone support service supporting vulnerable and isolated members of the community unable to access support in person around mental health, anger management and addiction. As well as the telephone support, the organisation is planning for six months support to those self-isolating or on minimal income, who lack the support network to help at this time, this includes meal deliveries and care packages including toiletries and basic food provisions. The grant funding will go towards the telephone and technology required to adjust working practices, as well as the purchasing and delivery costs associated with the food/care packages.

12 The remaining £21,965 of the £100k grant fund, was allocated for grant values below £5k. The details of these awards are provided in the following table.

Organisation	Grant Award	Summary of project proposal
Yellow Door (Solent)	£4,400	Therapy for families experiencing domestic abuse delivered by a qualified Family Therapist who has experience of addressing the impact of abusive histories on family functioning.
It's Your Choice	£4,318	Increase in youth advisor capacity to enhance support due to increased referrals and need resulting from Covid-19. They offer an emergency helpline, online video calls & phone sessions to support with anxiety and mental health concerns.
Oaktree Family Group	£3,980	Supplying vulnerable families with Early Years Learning pack for children who cannot access educational materials/support/activities and telephone support with parenting.
Winchester	£3,602	To maintain (and potentially expand) existing support by

Street Reach		adapting youth work service to provide contact through on line platforms to ensure vulnerable young people can access ongoing support, guidance and advice
Bushy Leaze	£2,720	IT support to enable the organisation to continue to provide support to vulnerable families remotely whilst face to face and one to one support is not possible.
Stop Domestic Abuse	£1,000	This project will support children in the New Forest refuges to positively promote and maintain their well-being through the provision of educational resources and activities during lockdown.
Solent Youth Action	£995	Purchase & distribute 'Happiness Toolkit' to provide support to families of young people identified as being the most of risk of emotional harm during Covid-19.
Community First	£950	Additional support and activities, for Young Carers and families, during the Coronavirus pandemic and subsequent lockdown.
Total	£21,965	

13 Within the grant funding agreement, all organisations will commit to providing feedback to Hampshire County Council by the end of August 2020 which will provide detail of expenditure and outcomes achieved as a result of the funding received.

Consultation and Equalities

14 Equalities Impact Assessment in respect of the programme were completed in both 2012 and 2015. See Section 2 on the last page of this report.

Conclusions

15 All the recommended bids detailed in paragraphs 3, 4 and 12 have been assessed using Hampshire County Council's Small Grants process. Following consultation with the Executive Member for Public Health, her support will be sought.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Strategic Plan

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	Yes
People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:	Yes
People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:	No
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	Yes
OR	
This proposal does not link to the Strategic Plan but, nevertheless, requires a decision because: Not applicable.	

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
Update on Supporting Families Programme Transition Grants 2019/20	27/11/19
Supporting Families Programme Transition Grants 2019/20 (Executive Member for Public Health Decision Day)	16/09/19
Supporting Families Programme update (Cabinet)	15/07/17
Supporting Families Programme update (Children & Families Advisory Committee)	31/01/18 & 05/02/19
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
MHCLG Financial Framework for the Expanded Troubled Families Programme (current guidance) https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/financial-framework-for-the-troubled-families-programme-january-2018-onwards	January 2018
DCLG Supporting disadvantaged families Troubled Families Programme 2015-20: Progress so far https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/611991/Supporting_disadvantaged_families.pdf	April 2017

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.)

<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
Evaluation of Phase 2 of Hampshire's Supporting Troubled Families Programme (March 2019)	Hampshire County Council/Solent University

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 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 which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

2.1 An equalities impact assessment was completed by the SFP at the start of the programme planning in 2012. This highlighted that the programme may disproportionately impact upon families within particular age groups and families with women in the household due to the restrictive Government definition of a troubled family in Phase 1.

2.2 A further equalities impact assessment was undertaken at the start of Phase 2 in 2015 taking account of the extended criteria used to attach families which means the issue highlighted in 2.1 no longer applies. SFP is a supportive programme designed to improve the lives of some of Hampshire most troubled families and communities, and therefore the impact of the proposed SFP Emergency Covid-19 Grants is likely to be positive.