

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Decision Report

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Health
<b>Date:</b>	11 January 2021
<b>Title:</b>	Demand Management and Prevention Grants
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Adults' Health and Care

**Contact name:** Sarah Snowdon  
Peter Stokes

**Tel:** 0370 779 1037

**Email:** [Peter.Stokes@hants.gov.uk](mailto:Peter.Stokes@hants.gov.uk)

#### **Purpose of this Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval for making grant awards 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 Adult Social Care and Health to award the following grants:
  - i) To award grants totalling £65,390 to cover a 2 year period between 1 February 2021 and 31 Jan 2023 as part of the Local Solutions Grant as detailed in Appendix 1.
  - ii) To award Age Concern Hampshire a grant totalling £20,000 to cover a twelve month period between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022 as part of the Rural Connections Grant.
  - iii) To award MHA a grant totalling £480,000 to cover a 2 year period between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2023 as part of the Community Based Support Grant.

#### **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
  - Briefly consider the future direction of the project.

## **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 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 would 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 would 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 County Council will encourage this by

making the healthy choice the easy choice and developing accessible, inclusive and readily available information and advice services. The County 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 County Council will work with partners, in particular the NHS, GPs and the Voluntary sector to achieve the above aims.

13. In alignment with the overall Demand Management and Prevention Programme Strategy, the five year objectives for the Demand Management and Prevention Programme are:
  - More people will be keeping fit and well in the community, reducing the need and demand for health and social care services.
  - Information and advice via Connect to Support will be routinely accessed to enable people to make informed choices about their care and support.
  - The County Council's contact centre will resolve the majority of client enquiries for help and support.
  - Private pay care technology solutions will be routinely requested and provided.
  - Community support offers will be increasingly known about, better trusted and more widely used.
  - Fewer people will be socially isolated or people will be better connected and Carers will be better supported.
14. A number of countywide grants and contracts are awarded as part of the Demand Management and Prevention programme, all designed to complement and deliver the aims and objectives of the programme. These grants enable services to be delivered across Hampshire, such as Community Based Support, and Rural Connectors, both recommended in this report. In addition, a number of smaller place-based grants are also recommended as part of the programme of work, in response to specific community needs identified within that locality. These place-based grants include the Local Solutions Grants discussed in this report.
15. In this report all grants being recommended follow on from an advertised programme that is open for applications from relevant organisations.

#### Local Solutions Grant

16. 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
17. Services developed through this locality focused approach (either through building capacity in existing provision or through new initiatives) 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.

18. 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 would 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 were also present on each of the grant panels, so that the local 'voice' informed the decision making.
19. In this paper, local solutions grants are recommended for communities within East Hants, Havant, Hart, Test Valley and Basingstoke, based on the local stakeholder engagement (see Appendix 1). The areas covered in this grant round build on those covered in previous Local Solutions grant rounds. The Local Solutions Grant is open to applications from any voluntary, community or not for profit organisation delivering services to resident in any part of Hampshire. The Local Solutions Grant is open to applications year-round, enabling further application that meet the grant outcomes and objectives in other areas to be funded at other points in the year.

## **Countywide Grants**

### Rural Connections Grant

20. The Rural Connections Grant would enable an organisation to provide a service that develops and supports local volunteers in rural settings to provide information and advice for vulnerable adults in their communities, and to facilitate connections with other services and assets (e.g. community groups and buildings). In particular the focus would be on supporting people at risk of social isolation and loneliness.
21. The Village Agent service delivered by Age Concern Hampshire has currently over 50 trained volunteers operating in different rural locations across Hampshire. The service is preventative in nature, aiming to encourage and capacity build so that people stay well and independent in their communities for as long as possible, linking to other local voluntary services including others funded by the County Council. This is of particular importance in rural communities where providing care is more challenging and costly. In the current year, due to the impact of COVID-19 the service adapted its usual

home visiting model to provide an average of 1,100 hours of virtual wellbeing support a month.

22. Over the period of funding Age Concern Hampshire are seeking to expand the existing service to other rural areas not currently covered and ensure that it takes in a greater number of residents at risk of falling into social isolation and loneliness. The selected organisation would work closely with Hampshire County Council to ensure the areas of greatest need are targeted for expansion of the service as well as working with the County Council to develop outcome measures which would evidence the impact of the scheme on both the wellbeing of residents and on the costs of care incurred by Hampshire County Council.

#### Community Based Support Grant

23. The Community Based Support Grant supports a county-wide service for Hampshire residents over the age of sixty-five, who are at risk of social isolation and diminished independence. The community based support model fits within the prevention and early intervention landscape: to support older people on the cusp of care within their local communities. The grant aims to increase social connectivity and exercise opportunities for residents, supporting them to improve their health and wellbeing. Services would be based both in local community venues across Hampshire for face to face activities and also through the phone and online, enabling remote service options.
24. The current funded provision under this grant is also provided by MHA communities. In Sept 2020 there were 2,082 members and 387 volunteers. Due to COVID-19 restrictions this year, services have generally not been face to face and new, remote opportunities have been developed. While face to face services are important, from April 2021, the aim is to continue to provide popular remote options in addition to restarting face to face services when possible. Initial home visits and transport provision as necessary would continue to be an element of the service.
25. The Community Based Support Grant is a contribution towards the operation of the service provided. The successful organisation must fundraise the remaining costs. A proportion of costs can be requested from service users but no user can be excluded if they are unable to pay. As a result, the award made by the County Council is expected to account for no more than 33% of the total funding of the services provided. All prior Community Based Grant awards made to all organisations funded in previous years, which includes MHA, have shown the award amounted to a similar level of contribution.

#### **Finance**

26. The grant proposals in this report would commit additional expenditure totalling £565,390 over a three financial year period commencing in 2020/21. The expenditure has been profiled between years as follows: £44,425 in 2020/21, £280,965 in 2021/22 and £240,000 in 2022/23. Subject to approval of this report the total grants committed for payment would remain within the

agreed, (2020/21) and anticipated, (2021/22 & 2022/23) annual budget envelopes for the Demand Management and Prevention Programme.

27. Payment of the majority of Local Solutions grants would be made in one instalment with multiple instalments used for awards in excess of £10,000 (proposed payment schedules outlined in Appendix 1). The Rural Connections Grant award would be made in one instalment upon receipt of a signed grant agreement. Being a significantly larger amount the Community Based Support Grant would be paid on a half yearly basis, in equal instalments, commencing on the signing of the issued grant agreement. 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**

28. 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.
29. 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.
30. Awards under the Rural Connections and Community Based Support, have all be made in previous financial years and as such performance would be measured against previous provision with the assigned liaison officer tasked with outlining success factors prior to the commencement of the grant. Future instalment payments would be decided upon based on performance against these success factors e.g. volume of referrals, growth in provision and Hampshire County Council costs diverted.
31. The Local Solutions Grants would also include measures to define the volume of referrals taken and how much care costs have been diverted. The precise details of this performance framework would be subject to further discussion and subsequent agreement with the grant recipients prior to accepting the grant. The measures agreed would be used amongst other measures, including those collected in relation to the Countywide Grants, to quantify and qualify the cost avoidance of the Local Solutions grant spend, specifically in relation to the efficacy in offsetting demand that would otherwise fall on formal Social Care services. Performance would be monitored through senior internal governance structures. It is envisaged that the financial benefits derived would exceed the one-off cost invested provided that the activity

undertaken is in accordance with the grants. The activity would be monitored and reviewed over the life of the award to ensure it remains on track.

32. A comprehensive evaluation assessment tool has been developed and is in use for the beneficiaries of previous grant rounds, ensuring consistency of data capture.
33. 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**

34. 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.
35. The Local Solutions Grants (see Appendix 1), Rural Connections Grant and Community Based Support Grant would have a positive impact on older adults aged 65 and over, as the awards would enable either new or expanded services to those belonging to this protected group. Also, the Rural Connections Grant would be of benefit to residents of Hampshire living in rural locations, supporting them in accessing services which may be harder to reach than those in urban areas.
36. The Local Solutions Grants have been shaped in their design by local stakeholder engagement, including those working in the local voluntary community sector, local councillors as well as staff working for Adults' Health and Care, Health and from local councils.
37. The Countywide grants have all been funded before with similar criteria and so seek to continue the provision these services provide to the community.

### **Conclusions**

38. The organisations receiving a Local Solutions Grant would provide services identified at a local level as required to either prevent or delay adults from requiring social care involvement or would reduce their need for care by providing alternative solutions.
39. The Rural Connections Grant would seek to connect individuals in rural locations to the facilities and services in their local community and reduce social isolation and loneliness in users.

The Community Based Support Grant would build connections and support older residents across Hampshire to become less isolated, more engaged with their local community and more physically active.

**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 Grants Demand management and Prevention Grants Demand management and Prevention Grants Supportive Communities Grant Award Supportive Communities Grant Award	<u>Date</u> 29 September 2020 18 March 2020 15 January 2020 13 March 2018 17 January 2017
<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.

1.1 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 Grant in Basingstoke, East Hants, Hart, Havant and Test Valley areas - period 1 Feb 2021 - 31 January 2023. Total Pot: £65,390

Rural Connections Grant Awarded to Age Concern Hampshire – period 1 April 2021- 31 March 2022 Total award: £20,000

Community Based Support Grant Awarded to MHA – period 1 April 2021- 31 March 2023 Total award: £480,000

**Geographical impact:** All Hampshire

**Proposed Change:**

All the Local Solutions Grants recommended for award are new and have not been awarded to any organisation for these purposes before. These are in addition to other grants currently awarded on behalf of Adults' Health and Care.

Local Solutions Grant are new grants to provide services addressing locally identified needs. These areas identified in this round have been chosen by scale of existing social care need and demographic data. There is intention to hold future grant rounds so that each district is reached.

The countywide grants have been provided before and funding proposed in this paper would seek to extend funding to continue the provision for an additional time period.

**Who does this impact assessment cover?:** This Impact Assessment covers Service users

**Has engagement or consultation been carried out?:** Yes

**Describe the consultation or engagement you have performed or are intending to perform:**

The Local Solutions Grants were shaped in their design by local stakeholder engagement, including those working in the local voluntary and community sector, local councillors as well as Hampshire County Council staff, NHS and local councils.

The Connector Grant and Community Based Support Grant were shaped through monitoring and evaluation of the current provision, identifying the benefits as well as potential improvements of the service. This was achieved through Hampshire County Council Officers carefully scrutinising the providers' completed monitoring and evaluation documentation, using the relationship with the organisation to shape provision to increase benefits to residents. Staff who refer to the project were also engaged.

**Age:** Positive

**Impact:** Both the Local Solutions Grants and the Countywide Grants would seek to offer either new or expanded services to Older Adults aged over 65 years. The ongoing provision would provide social opportunities for vulnerable older adults to break down social isolation and loneliness. The new Local Solutions Grants offer a range of benefits which are new to residents in the areas they cover, such as seated exercise, supported travel planning, and dementia groups to encourage cognitive engagement.

**Disability:** Positive

**Impact:** Both Southern Rail Partnership and Minding The Garden Local Solutions grants would work with residents with physical and learning difficulties to develop their confidence, learn new skills and to break down social isolation and loneliness

**Sexual orientation:** Neutral

**Race:** Neutral

**Religion or belief:** Neutral

**Gender reassignment:** Neutral

**Gender:** Neutral

**Marriage or civil partnership:** Neutral

**Pregnancy and maternity:** Neutral

**Poverty:** Neutral

**Rurality:** Positive

**Impact:** The Rural Connections Grant would seek to connect residents in rural locations with local services and seek to reduce and eliminate social isolation and loneliness in these communities

**Any other information:**

Geographical impact: Grants proposed for approval cover a countywide approach in the case of the Community Support and Rural Connections grant. Local Solutions grants are proposed for the districts of Basingstoke, Hart, East Hampshire, Havant and Test Valley.

### LOCAL SOLUTIONS GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS BY AREA

#### Local Solutions Grants

Organisation	Project/Service	District and Area Served	Description	Recommended Award	Payment Instalments	Grant Duration
Springwood Community Centre	Succeed Together	Havant (Stakes Ward)	Project which brings together community centre, community volunteers and the local Housing Association. Series of events directed at residents identified as living in long term isolation, designed to improve health, wellbeing and community connectivity. Part funded by the local Housing Association who has identified those residents suffering long term social isolations and loneliness.	£6,500	One off payment on award	24 Months
Southern Rail Partnership	Travel To Success	East Hants (Liss, Liphook, Petersfield and Rowlands Castle)	A project bringing together the SRP, Hampshire County Council and a local Bus Group to study the reasons residents have for not travelling and the self imposed barriers people erect to beyond their immediate environment. Project will build on the study to provide support, coaching and classes for people to break down these barriers and increase peoples confidence to travel and tackle the issue of social isolation and loneliness.	£17,000	£8,500 on return of grant agreement £8,500 at 6 month review	20 Months

Hart Voluntary Action	Minding The Garden	Hart (Fleet)	Minding the Garden at Edenbrook Community Garden will deliver inclusive social and therapeutic horticulture sessions for a diverse group of adults seeking to break down social isolation, build confidence, enhance wellbeing, promote independence and reduce the potential for reliance on Hampshire County Council statutory services in the future. The service will serve residents with mental health issues, physical and learning disabilities and older adults suffering from social isolation.	£15,000	£10,000 on return of signed grant agreement remaining at 6 month review	18 Months
Unity LTD	Test Valley Digital Connectors	Test Valley	Project to build on existed funded connector service by employing extending the contract with our specialist advisor to increase digital literacy within the section of the community who currently engage with our Connectors and Social Prescribing (SP) services, with a particular emphasis on people with clinical vulnerabilities to Covid-19.	£17,465	£10,000 on return of grant agreement remaining at 6 month review	24 Months
Fluid Motion	Resilience Project	Basingstoke	Art and performance project which will give ten Hampshire based community groups the chance to take part in four specially designed group sessions aimed at improving the health and wellbeing of participants by reducing isolation, rebuilding confidence and increasing and improving social interaction. The project is specifically targeted at people with mild to	£9,425	Payment on return of grant agreement	6 Months

			moderate mental health problems and will seek to increase in dependence and build relationships which can be carried forward into other aspects of life			
--	--	--	---	--	--	--

Sub Total £65,390