

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Health
Date:	16 March 2021
Title:	Demand Management and Prevention Grants
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 for making grant awards to the voluntary and community organisations outlined in this report as part of the Demand Management and Prevention Programme

Recommendations

2. That approval be given by the Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Health to award the following grants:
 - i) To award Brendoncare Clubs a grant totalling £10,000 to cover a period of 1 year between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 22 as part of the Local Solutions Grant as detailed below
 - ii) To award Autism Hampshire a grant of £50,000 to cover a period of 1 year between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022 as part of the Autism 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

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, levering 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 more than 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 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 the Autism Support Grant. In addition, a number of smaller place-based grants are also required awarded 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.

Local Solutions Grant

15. 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
16. 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.

17. 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.
18. In this report, a local solutions grant is recommended to be awarded to Brendoncare Clubs for communities within Fareham and Gosport based on the local stakeholder engagement. 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.
19. The project recommended for funding seeks to act on data captured which shows that males over the age of 70 and people with a caring responsibility are significantly less likely to engage with online activities and groups or to access online support. The £10,000 requested will form part of a £15,000 project which seeks to remove the identified barriers for participation in the identified groups, trial new engagement initiatives and ensure that nobody is left behind, in terms of digital inclusion. The end objective is to enable participants to feel confident to engage with a range of tailored online groups, classes and resourced to break down social isolation and loneliness.
20. The benefits of the grant recommended for award is a reduction in participants social isolation and loneliness, a primary risk factor for physical and mental decline and increased risk of reliance on social care provision. With widespread Covid-19 restrictions in place and likely to continue, online social activity is essential to ensuring people remain connected to their communities and this project directly targets those least likely to engage with a digital service. Further benefit for Hampshire County Council will be derived from the regular reporting which will support a better understanding of which approaches work in addressing a lack of digital confidence in certain demographic groups which can be utilised across the county.

Countywide Grant

Autism Support Grant

21. The Autism Support Grant will continue to fund services to support people with autism before, during and post diagnosis with advice, guidance,

signposting/support through referrals from the diagnostic services across Hampshire. The advice, guidance, signposting and support will be tailored to the individual with the aim of promoting and supporting their independence wherever possible. The outcomes will include preventing escalation of situations into crisis for those within the diagnosis process, and providing support linked to the diagnostic assessment with recommendations to support the uniqueness of each person's individual autism needs. Consequently, these services will continue prevent, reduce and divert demand on County Council services.

22. The organisation recommended by the panel for the grant award next financial year are experienced in supporting Hampshire residents on the autism spectrum and have provided services to meet these individual's diverse needs for a number of years. Autism Hampshire were also awarded the Autism Support Grant last financial year and have since reported on a number of outputs that support the overall aim of promoting and supporting the independence of Hampshire residents with autism wherever possible. Further to this they have diversified their original offering in light of covid-19 restrictions to bring a greater digital emphasis to ensure they are able to support residents even with greater restrictions in place.
23. The top 3 areas of support requested by of this service in the last financial year were: advice and emotional support, employment and autism diagnosis. Overall, support has been provided in many different forms; telephone and email contact, face to face meetings, providing social group opportunities and supporting people to access appointments or interviews. The support provided by Autism Hampshire has resulted in outcomes such as: people accessing environments and services which they were unable to previously, increased understanding and awareness of autism within local communities, and increased resilience and opportunities for people.
24. Autism Hampshire also provides support and co-ordination for the Serendipity Social Groups. As part of this grant, Autism Hampshire is expected to continue assisting with the recruitment of volunteers for further establishment of Serendipity Groups, where there are currently identified gaps within Hampshire. Serendipity Groups are user-led social groups for those with Asperger's and High Functioning Autism. Many people with autism are severely disadvantaged by the difficulties they have with social interaction, communications and sensory issues and can easily become isolated from their community. The Serendipity Groups are designed to prevent this isolation, and receive positive feedback from users.
25. The grant-funded service will also provide 'light touch' support, as required, to accompany individuals to attend initial taster sessions to community-based services and activities, to enable the person to feel more confident in attending independently. The services provided by the Autism Support Grant will therefore help to reduce isolation through supporting social needs and goals and improve home life by providing stability for people with autism and their families through telephone support to people with autism, their families, and paid carers/professionals.

26. The successful applicant will also be expected to market and advertise the other autism services available in Hampshire to maximise their uptake and benefit as many as possible. The current service is referred to by the County Council's call centre, community teams, and other partner organisations, helping to reduce and divert demand away from County Council services. It provides a point of contact for professionals and supports the communication of services and opportunities to people with autism and their carers.
27. The proposed issuing of a 1 year grant will allow the services provided under the 2020/21 grant to continue, with outcomes monitoring and evaluation of the service demonstrating it is providing support to the services users and their families at a time of risk of increased vulnerability. Consideration will be given to working with other commissioners to explore whether a joint commissioning strategy maybe appropriate in the future.

Finance

28. The grant proposal in this report will commit additional expenditure totalling £60,000 over a 1-year period commencing in 2021/22. The expenditure has been profiled between years as follows: £60,000 in financial year 2021/2022. Subject to approval of this report the total grants committed for payment will remain within the agreed, (2021/2) annual budget envelopes for the Demand Management and Prevention Programme.
29. Payment of the Local Solutions grant will be made in one instalment on receipt of the signed grant agreement. As the Autism Support Grant recommended for award is for a significantly higher amount, this will be paid in two equal instalments. The first payment for all grant awards will be made on signature of the Grant Agreement, with payment of the remainder of the grant being made at the agreed intervals outlined in the 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

30. 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.
31. 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.

32. Awards under the Autism Support Grants have all be made in previous financial years and as such performance will 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 will be decided upon based on performance against these success factors e.g. volume of referrals, growth in provision and HCC costs diverted.
33. The Local Solutions Grant will 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 will be subject to further discussion and subsequent agreement with the grant recipients prior to accepting the grant. The measures agreed will 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 will be monitored through senior internal governance structures. It is envisaged that the financial benefits derived will exceed the one-off cost invested provided that the activity undertaken is in accordance with the grants. The activity will be monitored and reviewed over the life of the award to ensure it remains on track.
34. A comprehensive evaluation assessment tool has been developed and is in use for the beneficiaries of previous grant rounds and will continue to be used for those awarded funding in this paper, ensuring consistency of data capture.
35. 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

36. 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.
37. The Local Solutions Grant outlined in this report will have a positive impact on older adults aged 65 and over. The Autism Support Grant will have a positive impact on people with a disability.
38. 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.
39. The Countywide grant has been funded before with similar criteria and so seek to continue the provision these services provide to the community.

Conclusions

40. The organisation receiving a Local Solutions Grant will provide services identified at a local level as required to either prevent or delay adults from requiring social care involvement or will reduce their need for care by providing alternative solutions.
41. The Autism Support Grant will support residents living with autism and those who have been recently diagnosed and their families to understand their condition, support with lifestyle choices such as housing and employment and provide telephone support when needed for all users.

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 Grants Demand Management and Prevention Grants Demand Management and Prevention Grants	29 September 2020 18 March 2020 15 January 2020
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 Grant in Fareham and Gosport areas - period 01/04/2021 - 31/03/2022. Total Pot: £10,000

Autism Support Grant Awarded to Autism Hampshire – period 1 April 2021- 31 March 2022 Total award: £50,000

Geographical impact: Fareham and Gosport for Local Solutions Grant and Autism Support Grant for Autism 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.

The Local Solutions Grant is a new grant to provide services addressing a locally identified need. The 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 grant has been provided before and funding proposed in this paper will seek to extend funding to continue the provision for an additional time period.

Who does this impact assessment cover?: 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 have been shaped in their design by continual 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. Each of the grants panels carefully assessed the expressed needs and suggestions of the Hampshire County Council local teams and feedback from the voluntary sector.

The Autism Grant funds a service which has already been provided in the community with ongoing evaluation carried out on effectiveness by Officers reporting to the Autism Partnership Board for steer which including representation from service users and interest groups

Age: Positive

Impact: The Local Solutions Grant seeks alternative ways to engage older adults who have previously been reluctant to engage with digital upskilling and online activity in order to test out news ways of approaching this.

Disability: Positive

Impact: The Autism Support Grant seeks to continue the support offered to clients with Autism and their families.

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: Neutral