

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Officer Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services and Young People
Date:	15 March 2021
Title:	connect4communities Grant Awards
Report From:	Suzanne Smith, Assistant Director, Children's Services

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1. The decision:

That the Director of Children's Services approves the award of grants to:

1.1 **Inspero (Basingstoke), the sum of £7,352**

Inspero received a £12,500 grant from the connect4communities programme in January 2021. Inspero used the funding to expand its services in the Basingstoke area, and have highlighted particular need in South Ham, Buckskin and Popley, as well as areas of Kempshott and Beggarwood. Inspero have requested this additional funding to respond to the increased need for their services in these areas. Inspero will be providing their usual food hampers, as well as Easter themed food and activity hampers, and growing kits to encourage families with children to grow their own food. Inspero need to purchase a new fridge freezer, PPE and cover volunteer petrol costs to enable delivery of food, essential items and prescriptions.

Inspero intend to support 126 families with children, and 43 vulnerable older people with this grant, some of whom were supported with the previous grant and some who are new to Inspero's support.

1.2 **Fleet Phoenix (Harts), the sum of £1,320**

Fleet Phoenix received a £4,430 grant from the connect4communities programme in February 2021, to provide food, store cupboard essentials and cover delivery costs. Fleet Phoenix have applied for additional funds to support an Easter project, specifically supporting families with children. Fleet Phoenix will be providing Easter hampers, alongside their regularly weekly food hamper, over the Easter holidays to families with children who already receive food and essential items support from Fleet Phoenix. These hampers will include crafts, cooking materials and recipes, family fun games, Easter treats and healthy snacks. Fleet Phoenix want to

support family cohesion using the items in this hamper as they have noticed increased strain on familial relationships during the pandemic.

Fleet Phoenix intends to support 50 families with children with this grant. These 50 families are known to Fleet Phoenix and were supported by the previous grant but are identified as particularly vulnerable due to financial hardship, hence further support being offered during the Easter holidays.

1.3 Feed a Family with Gosport Borough FC (Gosport), the sum of £3,000

Feed a Family received a £4,400 grant from the connect4communities programme in January 2021. Feed a Family have seen an increased demand for their services, with the number of referrals from the three main schools they work with increasing each week. Feed a Family have applied for additional funds to support an Easter project specifically supporting families with children. Feed a Family with Gosport Borough FC will be providing food hampers, including Easter treats and activity/wellbeing packs, over the Easter holidays to families with children who receive food hampers from Feed a Family regularly.

Feed a Family Gosport intends to support 50 families with children with this grant. Some of these families have supported by Feed a Family's previous funding, but some are new referrals by schools and the local council.

1.4 ARK Eastleigh (Eastleigh), the sum of £300

ARK Eastleigh received a £300 grant from the connect4communities programme in February 2021. The previous grant was used to deliver recipe bags to the children who use their services, and it was very successful, with the recipe bags being delivered by the end of March. ARK Eastleigh have applied for additional funding to provide a similar project. ARK Eastleigh will be providing Easter themed recipe bags, which include ingredients and a recipe, to 30 vulnerable children who use their services in the Eastleigh area. The children are referred to ARK by social services, health visitors, their school or other relevant local organisations.

1.5 Solent Youth Action (Hampshire), the sum of £300

Solent Youth Action have been delivering a project, funded by Connect4communities, called Solent Food Action. The funding was used to run cook and eat sessions during the February half term with children who are registered with a disability and from a low-income household and create eight SEN-friendly cooking videos alongside a weekly delivery of food to re-create the recipe. This project has been very successful, and uptake was quicker than expected. As a result, the project has cost more than anticipated. This £300 will top up the grant of £1,940 already awarded to Solent Youth Action and will be used to buy the final two weeks' worth of ingredients for the weekly cooking scheme.

2. Reasons for the decision:

The community grant fund forms part of Hampshire County Council's COVID Winter Grant Scheme response. A grant fund of £100,000 has been made available to organisations who wish to support their local community with food and fuel poverty, particularly in rural areas. This grant fund has been supplemented by a further £320,000 to support the delivery of holiday activity and food clubs during February half term for vulnerable children. Use of such a grant fund will enable a flexible and responsive approach to addressing local needs as and when they are identified, in accordance with the Department for Work and Pensions guidance.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

3.1. N/A

4. Conflicts of interest:

4.1. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker:

4.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted:

5. Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel:

6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent:

7. Statement from the decision maker:

Approved by:	Date:
----- [Insert name of Decision Maker] [Insert title of Decision Maker]	[Insert date]