

# HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

## Decision Report

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Member for Performance, Human Resources and Partnerships
<b>Date:</b>	12 July 2021
<b>Title:</b>	Supporting Families Programme – 2021 Grant Funding

Alison Smailes, Head of Sector Led Improvement and Service Development

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### Purpose of this Report

- 1 The Supporting Families Programme has included within both the 2020/21 and 2021/22 budget the provision of £100k to be allocated through grants rounds to charity and voluntary sector organisation who support families by delivering early help services within the community. This paper provides an overview of the proposed distribution of this funding (£200k in total) 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 Executive Member for Performance, Human Resources and Partnerships, to approve the distribution of £200k grant funding to organisations who support families in the provision of services which complement and support Early Help services across Hampshire.
- 4 The Executive Member for Performance, Human Resources and Partnerships to approve the individual grants listed which exceed £5k:

	£
i) Hart Voluntary Action	17,500
ii) Yellow Door	15,000
iii) The Vine Centre	13,185
iv) No Limits	12,139
v) Unity	11,365
vi) Solent Youth Action	11,175
vii) Andover Crisis Support Centre	10,750
viii) Home-Start – Rushmoor	10,000

ix)	Home-Start – Havant	10,000
x)	Home-Start –Winchester & Districts	10,000
xi)	Educating Individuals – Empowering Families	10,000
xii)	Y Services for Young People	9,808
xiii)	Y Services – Y LGBTQ	9,400
xiv)	Baby Necessities Southampton	7,480
xv)	Home-Start – Gosport	6,000
xvi)	Home-Start – New Forest	6,000
xvii)	The Roberts Centre	5,000
xviii)	Home-Start – North West Hampshire	5,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>179,802</b>

## **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. In March 2020, at the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, additional funding was made available which was allocated to undertake an emergency Covid-19 response grant round. As a result of this work and the impact of the pandemic, the original grants round did not commence as planned. As a result of the delay, the 2021/22 budget has also been subsequently approved which includes an additional £100k grants allocation, in recognition of the key work the voluntary and charity sector undertake locally to support families. Due to the timings, the high levels of need as a result of the impact of the pandemic on families and the ongoing uncertainty for the Supporting Families Programme beyond 2022, the decision was made to undertake a single grants round which included both the 2020/21 and 2021/22 grants funding.
- 6 On 10 March 2021 the Hampshire County Council's Small Grants Portal opened for SFP 2021 grant applications. It closed on 13 April.
- 7 In total, 34 bids totalling £444,725 were received and considered by the Grant Panel. The panel was split into two sessions, both sessions consisted of representatives from the Supporting Families central team, the Family Support Service and DWP. In addition, the first panel (reviewing predominantly bids for the north of the County) was supported by a representative from the district council, the second panel (reviewing predominantly bids for the south of the county) was supported by a Local Children's Partnership chair. Each bid was assessed against the criteria provided to applicants, but also to ensure, where possible, a spread of support across priority areas and across the County geographically. The recommendation from the panel was that 24 projects be awarded SFP grant funding. 18 of these are recommended for receiving grants in excess of £5k.

## **Contextual Information**

- 8 From 10 March 2021 grants were invited from organisations who had projects working with families with support needs that complimented any of the

Supporting Families Programme criteria: Education, Crime/ASB, Worklessness or Risk of Financial Exclusion, Children who need Help, Domestic Abuse or Health. In particular grants were sought from services to complement existing provision in areas known to have been particularly impacted upon as a result of the pandemic and lockdown, and where additional resources are a priority. These included:

- a. Families affected by child or adult mental well-being
- b. Families requiring support with sustainable debt and budget management/advice
- c. Families experiencing domestic abuse or increased parental conflict
- d. Families experiencing child on parent/adolescent on parent violence
- e. Children with poor school attendance or excluded from school

- 9 Bidders could apply for grants up to the value of £20k, and were assessed against the follow criteria:

- a. Clear commitment to the whole family approach
- b. Evidence of joint working, it's commitment to inter-agency working and promotion of the early help offer and early prevention
- c. Evidence of who it would work with local Early Help Hubs to ensure the right families received support and outcome information was shared where supporting the family as part of an Early Help plan.
- d. If a new project/initiative, the level of innovation and creativity
- e. How the project would improve outcomes for families, particularly with issues linked to either education, mental wellbeing, debt management, household/family conflict or a combination of these
- f. Clear information on spending and how the organisation will demonstrate and record positive outcomes for the project.
- g. How the programme will comply with any social distancing requirements or changes to government guidance to ensure outcomes can still be achieved.

The grant was available to fund projects for the period August 2021 - March 2022.

- 10 Within the grants period, 34 bids were received from a range of organisations supporting vulnerable groups. These were assessed by the Grants Panel and 24 were identified for proposed awards. These ensure all districts have a minimum of two projects in receipt of funding from the grants, and includes a mix of existing and innovative projects, providing a range of support.
- 11 A brief summary of the 18 bids recommended by the Grants Panel for awards over £5k for approval are as follows:
- i) Hart Voluntary Action (supporting: Hart and Rushmoor)  
£17,500 partial award towards Hart Voluntary Action to enable a new 'family therapy' option to support the pre-existing young person (11-25 year olds) therapy as part of their Counselling Services project. The

project aims to work with approximately 25 families, and to prioritise families nominated through the Early Help Hub. The organisation has identified a gap in support for parents who want to be involved and support the therapy being offered to the young person, often they also report needing help for their own mental health. In addition, young people often report feeling that their parents do not understand them and they are unsure how to communicate effectively. The support will enable individual therapy for family members and the provision of family therapy if family members agree it would be of value, to support this need.

ii) Yellow Door (supporting: New Forest)

£15,000 partial award towards Yellow Door to fund family therapy support for those with experience of domestic and sexual abuse to help them to understand the impact of trauma within the family, strengthen communication and aid recovery. The service will be provided by a team of qualified Family Therapists and Counsellors and will build on existing work to support with the increase in families affected by these issues during the Covid-19 pandemic. The service recognises that the impact of domestic and sexual abuse affects not only those directly involved but the entire family. The therapists are able to provide a safe space to help families understand the impact of the trauma caused by abuse and find ways to improve family communications and understand each other's perspectives.

iii) The Vine Centre (supporting: Hart and Rushmoor)

£13,185 partial award to The Vine Centre to support their Family Support Worker pilot project. Over the last year, as a result of the Covid pandemic, The Vine has been supporting many more families and wish to continue to this work as the lockdown eases to support them with the longer term impact of the pandemic. Support currently has included food packages, budgeting, mental health, addiction support and support for young carers. The Family support worker will support the whole family and link them into the various projects run through The Vine Centres. The Vine already have close links to local services who can make referrals, and support offered will include all areas of need including eating healthily on a budget, managing money, removing barriers and empowering families to progress. The six month pilot will enable an assessment of needs to help to secure further funding, if appropriate.

iv) No Limits (supporting: Basingstoke, East Hampshire, Eastleigh, Hart, New Forest, Rushmoor, Test Valley and Winchester)

£12,139 partial award towards the No Limits – Supporting Vulnerable Families project. This project aims to enhance the existing youth counselling service with the provision of support for parents and carers through online workshops and online/telephone based one to one in order to support them in helping their child with their mental wellbeing. Work undertaken during the pandemic included the successful delivery of therapeutic groups via Zoom, and No Limits aim to offer a 'menu' of

stand-alone workshops which will enable parents and carers to select the most relevant sessions for their needs. The workshops will respond to the needs highlighted in consultation with Early Help Hubs, but could include topics such as self-harm, cyber security, coping with anxiety, exam stress, bereavement and loss.

v) Unity (supporting: Test Valley)

£11,365 partial award to Unity to support their bid for a larger project to expand on the social prescription service they have been running for adults with mental health difficulties to provide a provision to young people aged 13-18. The support offers a personalised approach in a way that has been evidenced as successful previously through their work with adults. Types of activity will depend on the interests and circumstances of the young person, and they will be supported by a link worker to co-produce their “social prescription” – activities could include (amongst other things) physical activity, the arts, eating and nutrition support, connecting with nature or volunteering.

vi) Solent Youth Action (supporting: Eastleigh district)

£11,175 award to the Community Buddies project run by Solent Youth Action. The scheme, which is already being used within the Early Help framework in Eastleigh, works with vulnerable young people aged 10-17 who display complex and challenging behaviours, have mental health issues and those from complex family backgrounds. Support will vary depending on the young person and their family situation but includes young people who have mental health issues that can make attending school an impossible task for them, those that engage in criminal behaviour and young people living in a household with a variety of complex needs (such as overcrowding, neglect, domestic violence, adverse poverty, poor role models, substance abuse). A similar scheme is run for young people with learning disabilities, funded through the HCC Short Breaks Scheme, however this funding is to support young people who do not fit within this criteria, but need support. The Buddy is matched to the young person and becomes an advocate for them and helps improve self-esteem, emotional wellbeing and aims to inspire them to achieve to their potential. Local funding has enabled the project to deliver five sessions with young people, however this funding would enable 15 young people to receive six months support and increase the likelihood of achieving sustained outcomes.

vii) Andover Crisis Support Centre (supporting Test Valley district)

£10,750 award to continue to develop the SEEDS – Healthy Brain, Healthy Body project. This project began as a pilot from the 2019 SFP Transition Grants, providing adults with a series of workshops combining neuroscience of mental health with lifestyle coaching. The project aims to empower participants to maintain a healthier lifestyle which will impact on the family and each session is made up of learning, interactive exercises and supported goal setting. The concept arose from work within the refuge as a stepping following specialist programmes such as

the Freedom course. This has developed and is recognised as a benefit to a wider cohort of vulnerable families. This new grant will expand on the original pilot and includes plans to develop some of the content and enable some digital conversion. This is an innovative project with the possibility of expanding to many other vulnerable families affected by domestic abuse and other challenges.

viii) Home-Start – A number of bids from across the local providers

A number of bids were submitted by local Home-Start providers across Hampshire to support their projects in their respective districts. As the programmes and funding requests were similar, they have been grouped within this paper. With the exception of Basingstoke, the panel propose approximately half the requested funding for each district. This enables support to be available across the County. The recommended amounts are:

- £10,000 – Rushmoor – Future Proofing Families Programme
- £10,000 – Havant – Future Proofing Families Programme
- £10,000 – Winchester & Districts (inc Eastleigh) – Stabilisation of families Facing Complex challenges Programme
- £6,000 – New Forest – Future Proofing Families Programme
- £6,000 – Gosport – Future Proofing Families Programme
- £5,000 – Basingstoke – 1-1 Volunteer Support Programme
- £3,000 – East Hampshire – Future Proofing Families Programme

The Home-Start programmes provide volunteer support for families with multiple and complex needs to support them to develop strategies enabling improved and sustainable resilience, self-esteem, confidence and independence. The funding is to enable them to continue to provide trained 'matched' volunteers to provide weekly practical and emotional support to families. Home-Start work directly with families and support across all areas of need relevant for the families, this can include parenting, wellbeing and financial guidance, as well as signposting to other local agencies as appropriate and building on partnerships developed locally by the organisations.

The decision to recommend full funding for Home-Start North West Hampshire (Basingstoke) is that the bid included information that six months running costs for the project equates to £17,000, but this provider is in a position to be able to commit £5,000 of their own funds and have also been successful in gaining a further £7,000 through an alternative funding stream.

Across all bids from Home-Start, it is recommended that the grant is offered subject to a guarantee of a minimum number of families nominated to the service through the local Early Help Hub.

ix) Educating Individuals Empowering Families (supporting Fareham, Gosport and Havant districts)

This is a new organisation to the area offering Early Help support to families. Educating Individuals Empowering Families have requested funding for an early intervention project known as InSync. The project is

due to be undertaken over a 12 month period, and therefore partial funding is being offered (£10,000) to support with the period up to end March 2022. The programme aims to support mental health at an early stage taking a holistic approach. The young person will be offered four sessions and the parents will also be offered four sessions, predominantly in a group setting. Work with the young person will explore emotional regulation, impact of stress, trauma, building confidence and self-esteem. The work with the young person is then explained to the parents/carers. In addition, the family are provided with resources and given workbook containing activities for the whole family to explore together. This is an organisation which is already liaising with the local FSS manager (and LCP chair) in Havant and tying into the Back to Basics initiative being run within Havant district. The panel felt, although a new organisation, the steps taken to date showed an organisation keen to engage with partners and work together to support families.

x) Y Services (supporting Fareham, Gosport and Havant)

£9,808 award to support a new programme - Y Family. This project will blend the support by the youth work team with group work opportunities for parents. The funding will enable 1:1 support for 50 young people as well as support workshops and 1:1 for parents and carers for 6-8 weeks initially, with the potential to extend if appropriate. The programme is built on and expands other work undertaken by the organisation over the last year. Workshops for parents will include topics such as: understanding different stages of adolescent development and associated behaviours, understanding arguments and how to prevent them and dealing with worry and how best to support the young people.

xi) Y Services (supporting Havant district)

£9,400 award to Y Services, for a second programme they wish to run working specifically to support LGBTQ young people within Havant. For a number of years Y Services have offered specialist support for young people and as we emerge from the pandemic they wish to run a pilot approach to LGBTQ work within one district, providing a holistic range of support to meet the needs of LGBTQ young people and their parents. As well as regular youth work and monthly drop in for parents of LGBTQ young people, the panel were particularly interested in the proposed training events to support up to 80 professionals working with young people in the Havant area to improve understanding of LGBTQ issues.

xii) Baby Necessities Southampton (supporting Test Valley, Eastleigh and New Forest districts)

£7,480 award Baby Necessities is a partial award to support with the rent for a location they wish to set up as a community hub in Romsey. The project has been piloted since February 2021 and are keen to establish a hub in a premises which meets the needs of families and professionals. At the hub, donations of new and pre-loved items for babies and young children are collected and made available to families,

or to professionals who can pick up items on behalf of families. The larger premises will increase the number of families who can be supported and reduce the financial burden on families with young children. In addition, within the reception area of the Hub there is planned to be resources to signpost families to other local services and groups, as well as access to a computer and printer. This project is different to other projects put forward, but was felt to have the potential to make a big difference in supporting families with young children and babies particularly impacted upon by the pandemic. The grant funding will provide six months rent to give the project an opportunity to establish themselves.

xiii) EC Roberts Centre (supporting Gosport district)

£5,000 is a partial award towards The Roberts Centre to support their Raise Family Service which provides support in Gosport to vulnerable families, predominantly with learning disabilities, who are regularly being referred for different levels of support through Children's Services. The Raise worker will support across the needs of the family – this may include finances, parenting, health and diet, personal hygiene and/or attendance. The project aims to work with families for a minimum of 18 months and will also look to set up of a 'circle of support' for the family to build on relationships with people known to them as a sustainable support system.

- 12 The remaining £20,198 of the £200k 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
Motiv8 (Gosport)	£4,807	A 12 week targeted diversion programme for 6 young people (12-17yrs) in each district who are felt to be at increased risk of harm, exploitation, crime, ASB and youth violence. The programme has been adapted in response to Covid – in terms of delivery and also some of the session material to reflect the emerging needs. Regular communication with the family will be in place and other family members can receive support through other Motiv8 initiatives
Motiv8 (Havant)	£4,807	
Fleet Phoenix	£4,582	Fleet Phoenix requested £4,582 to support their 'Resilience to Domestic Abuse (RADA)' project which will offer free weekly sessions for children of junior school age who have or continue to witness Domestic Abuse in the home.
Home-Start – Weywater East Hampshire	£3,000	Description provided under Home-Start (para 11, xiii)
Youth Options	£2,002	Youth Options requested the funding to support with



		their 'Nature and Mental Health' project to support young people (aged 8 and under) who are suffering from mental health issues as a result of the pandemic by engaging them in diversionary nature-based activity.
Totton and Eling Community Association	£1,000	The Totton Baby Bundles project aims to reduce the isolation of parents of very young children, or who are new the area. The funding will enable the continuation of work which commenced in January 2021 providing essential baby and equipment for young children and signposting to local events and baby and child groups.
<b>Total</b>	<b>£20,198</b>	

- 13 All bids were required to seek support from the local FSS manager. The FSS managers have local responsibility for the Early Help Hubs and the co-ordination of the Supporting Families Programme so it was important that they were aware of and supported any bids being considered by the panel. In addition, the Commissioning Team within Children's Services were involved to ensure that the funding did not duplicate existing commissioned services or grant funding streams. They also provided confirmation that there were no other known concerns relating to the organisations being recommended for funding.
- 14 Within the grant funding agreement, all organisations will commit to providing an update within the first four months of the project, detailing progress to date and outcomes achieved. In addition they will commit to providing a written evaluation of the impact of the project at the end of the grant period providing financial information, the number of families supported and the outcomes achieved.
- 15 The local Family Support Service Managers within each district will be aware of the projects being funded within their district and the projects will be expected to work closely with the local Early Help Partnerships. This will ensure ongoing local oversight. Within the grant agreement successful applicants will also be required to agree to permit a Council representative access if requested for the purpose of discussing, monitoring and evaluating their project – this will enable further oversight of the work funded through the grants round.

### **Consultation and Equalities**

- 16 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.

### **Climate Change Impact Assessment**

17. Hampshire County Council utilises two decision-making tools to assess the carbon emissions and resilience impacts of its projects and decisions. These tools provide a clear, robust, and transparent way of assessing how project, policies and initiatives contribute towards the County Council's climate change targets of being carbon neutral and resilient to the impacts of a 2°C

temperature rise by 2050. This process ensure that climate change considerations are built into everything the Authority does.

18. The carbon mitigation and climate change adaptation tools were not applicable because this report relates to a strategic programme rather than any specific intervention.

## **Conclusions**

19. All the recommended bids have been assessed using Hampshire County Council's Small Grants process and the Executive Member is asked to approve these bids.

## CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:

### Links to the Strategic Plan

<b>Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:</b>	Yes
<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
<b>OR</b>	
<b>This proposal does not link to the Strategic Plan but, nevertheless, requires a decision because:</b> Not applicable.	

### Other Significant Links

<b>Links to previous Member decisions:</b>	
<u>Title</u> Update on Supporting Families Programme Transition Grants 2019/20	<u>Date</u> 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 & 08/06/21
<b>Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives</b>	
<u>Title</u> Supporting Families Programme Guidance 2021 to 2022 (current guidance) <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/supporting-families-programme-guidance-2021-to-2022">Supporting Families Programme guidance 2021 to 2022 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>	<u>Date</u> March 2021
MHCLG Financial Framework for the Expanded Troubled Families Programme <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/financial-framework-for-the-troubled-families-programme-january-2018-onwards">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/financial-framework-for-the-troubled-families-programme-january-2018-onwards</a>	January 2018
DCLG Supporting disadvantaged families Troubled Families Programme 2015-20: Progress so far <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/611991/Supporting_disadvantaged_families.pdf">https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/611991/Supporting_disadvantaged_families.pdf</a>	April 2017

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<b>Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents</b>	
<b>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.)</b>	
<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 Spring Grants round is likely to be positive.