

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Adult Services and Public Health
Date:	12 July 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.

Recommendation(s)

2. That approval be given by the Executive Member for Adult Services and Public Health to award the following grants:
 - i) To award grants totalling £43,758 to cover a 1-year period between 1 Sept 2021 and 31 Aug 2022 as part of the Local Solutions Grant as detailed in Appendix 1.

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 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 in excess of 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 Council will encourage this by making

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

13. In this report all grants being recommended follow on from an advertised programme that is open for applications from relevant organisations on an ongoing basis.

Local Solutions Grant

14. 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.
15. 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.
16. Through working closely with applicants, the focus and criteria for each Local Solution Grant has evolved as the application has progressed with input where appropriate from local community social work teams and engagement with local stakeholders. This engagement has helped 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.
17. In this paper, local solutions grants are recommended for communities within Hart, East Hampshire and Basingstoke, based on data, Demand Management and Prevention experience and where appropriate local stakeholder engagement (see Appendix 1). The areas covered in this grant round build on those covered in previous Local Solutions grant rounds and

provision made on a countywide basis. 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.

Finance

18. The grant proposals in this report will commit additional expenditure totalling £43,758 over a single financial year period of 2021/22. Subject to approval of this report the total grants committed for payment will remain within the agreed, (2021/22) annual budget envelopes for the Demand Management and Prevention Programme.
19. Payment of the Local Solutions grants will be made in multiple instalments (proposed payment schedules outlined in Appendix 1). 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

20. 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.
21. 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.
22. The Local Solutions Grants will 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, 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.

23. A comprehensive evaluation assessment tool has been developed and is in use for the beneficiaries of previous grant rounds, ensuring consistency of data capture.
24. 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

25. 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.
26. The Local Solutions Grants (see Appendix 1), will have a positive impact on older adults aged 65 and over, as the awards will enable either new or expanded services to those belonging to this protected group.
27. The new Local Solutions Grants process allows for projects (where applicable) to be 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.

Climate Impact Assessment

28. Hampshire County Council utilises two decision-making tools to assess the carbon emissions and resilience of its projects and decisions. These tools provide a clear, robust, and transparent way of assessing how projects, 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 ensures that climate change considerations are built into everything the Authority does.
29. The proposed grants brought forward under the Local Solutions Grants and detailed in this paper (appendix 1) will result in a number of impacts on climate change and emissions. Two of the grants will be based out of fixed locations with good public transport connections and will encourage travel to them using healthier and climate friendly journey options. The third grant will support people in accessing services from their home, cutting down on the overall number of journeys required. With a project centred around fixing, upgrading and repurposing old and disused IT equipment for distribution amongst residents, one of the grants will promote recycling and minimise

emissions from the manufacturing of new equipment.

Conclusions

30. The organisations 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. They will support with the ongoing aims and objectives of the Hampshire County Council Demand Management and Prevention Department and support Hampshire residents to live independently for longer.

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 Grant Award	<u>Date</u> March 2021
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>

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>
None	

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:

31. 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.

32. 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 Hart, East Hants and Basingstoke areas - period 1 Sept 2021 - 31 Aug 2022. Total Pot: £43,758

Geographical impact:

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.

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: Since the launch of the Local Solutions Grant stream, Demand Management and Prevention have built strong relationships across the county to enable effective shaping of the solutions offered. Across the life of the Local Solutions Grants stream projects 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. Local Adult's Health and Care Community Teams have been involved where applicable, at key stages in the creation of the proposed grants and, should the grants be agreed, will be engaged from implementation to support effective delivery.

Age: Positive

Impact: The Local Solutions Grants will seek to offer new services to Older Adults aged over 65 years. The provision will provide social opportunities for vulnerable older adults to break down social isolation and loneliness. The 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 the building of support networks and the number of social interactions.

Specifically the Alton (East Hampshire) project will promote a new drop in service for older adults who may be suffering from loneliness and isolation and support them in becoming more connected to services in their area. This project is supported by the Local Community Team as an asset which will support a range of older adults, but specifically those who are re-engaging with their community after Covid-19 shielding and restrictions.

The Basingstoke project whilst not exclusively supporting older adults is anticipated to draw the majority of participants from the 65+ age demographic. By supporting users with the tools needed to get online and end to end support and coaching this project will seek to address the digital divide which can still be seen in the older adults client group and enable them to connect to their community through digital tools.

Finally the Yateley project will support older adults with a range of exercise and wellbeing classes, designed to build strength and connections through group

activity. Projects will be delivered for a range of abilities and support users in achieving their own personal exercise and activity goals

Disability: Neutral

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

LOCAL SOLUTIONS GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS BY AREA

Local Solutions Grants

Organisation	Project/Service	District and Area Served	Description	Recommended Award	Payment Instalments
Basingstoke Voluntary Action	IT Reboot	Basingstoke	Project to re-purpose and re-use old IT equipment and distribute it to those unable to purchase their own. IT support from volunteers is also a significant part of the project and this will be delivered in users home to ensure that they are Tech confident and able to access a full range of services online.	£13,000	2 instalments, one on signing of the grant agreement and 6 months after.
MHA Communities	Alton Older People Community Agent	Alton	Drop in service for older adults seeking support and advice on a range of issues. Project will seek to connect those who use it with local provision with an express aim of increasing local connectivity and tackling the issues of social isolation and loneliness.	£15,758	2 instalments, one on signing of the grant agreement and 6 months after
Yateley Community Association	Activity For All	Yateley and surrounds	Range of accessible fitness and wellbeing activities inside the new community sports facilities in Yateley. Project will seek to break down the self-imposed barriers to participation in physical exercise amongst participants and also offer a social aspect to combat Covid related social isolation and loneliness.	£15,000	2 instalments, one on signing of the grant agreement (£10,000) and

					remaining 6 months after
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Sub Total: £43,758