

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Adult Services and Public Health
Date:	21 September 2021
Title:	Demand Management and Prevention Grant Award
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 a grant award 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 a grant totalling £29,700 to Citizens Advice Winchester to cover an 18 month period between 1 Nov 2021 and 30 Apr 2023 as part of the Local Solutions Grant

Executive Summary

3. This report seeks to
 - Set out the background to the grants
 - Set out the reason for the recommendation
 - 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 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 this report the grant being recommended follows on from an advertised programme named the Local Solutions Grant 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. 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. Local stakeholders and local Adult's Health and Care Community Teams were involved in the decision making to ensure that the grants recommended meet the community need.
17. In this paper, a local solutions grant is recommended benefitting residents of Winchester and the surrounding areas, based on need identified through local stakeholder engagement. The area covered in this grant round builds 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.

18. The Integrated advice and Mental Health Pilot seeks to offer a holistic service to in-patients at Melbury Lodge (Winchester), both pre and post-discharge. The service will support users in financial and life management skills to support mental health recovery and reduce the risk factors to future acute mental health episodes.
19. Studies have consistently shown the link between financial worries and debt issues and lower mental health and wellbeing amongst adults. By supporting users to regain control of their finances, and support with financial independence, the project will target acute mental health patients in the Winchester area to maximise the benefits and outcomes.
20. Citizens Advice Winchester have actively engaged with staff within the Adults' Health and Care staff involved in both the delivery of operational mental health community services and the commissioning of mental health support services. This engagement has ensured the proposed service meets the needs of people supported by the community teams and other existing provision by providing additionality but not duplication in terms of support to be offered.
21. Successful delivery of the project will see reduced pressure on mental health services, increased support for residents with acute mental health issues and significant improvements in the quality of life for the users of the service. By targeting debt as one of the key risk factors in the triggering of acute mental health episodes, the outcomes will be of benefit to users of services and Hampshire County Council alike. In the joint discussions across teams in both with operational and commissioning functions of the Adults' Health and Care with the applicant have also identified relevant operational benefits such as decreasing the need for operational staff presence in providing support to the service users, enabling additional capacity of staff to engage in other critical work.

Finance

22. The grant proposal in this report will commit additional expenditure totalling £29,700 over 2 financial years (2021/22 and 2022/23). Subject to approval of this report the total grants committed for payment will remain within the agreed, (2021/22, 2022/23) annual budget envelopes for the Demand Management and Prevention Programme.
23. Payment will be made in 3 instalments as are traditionally used for awards in excess of £10,000. 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

24. 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.
25. 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.
26. 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. Discussions with commissioning and operational staff in Adults' Health and Care during the application process has led to the identification of key benefits designed to increase capacity of operational delivery. These key benefits will be monitored and evaluated during the life of the grant to both ensure delivery against identified outcomes from the funded service, as well as informing the future development of services.
27. A comprehensive evaluation assessment tool has been developed and is in use for the beneficiaries of previous grant rounds, ensuring consistency of data capture.
28. 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

29. 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.
30. The Local Solutions Grant will have a positive impact on adults with mental health issues, as the awards will create a new service to support with long term management and reduction in acute mental health episodes.
31. 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.

Climate Impact Assessment

32. 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.
33. A full assessment of climate change vulnerability was not completed as the initial vulnerability assessment showed that the project is at minimal risk from the climate vulnerabilities because the project is not within a flood risk zone and will be operated from premises not owned by the County Council or the organisation in receipt of the grant.

Conclusions

34. In receiving a Local Solutions Grant Citizens Advice Winchester will provide a service identified through engagement with Adults Health and Care staff to support adults using mental health services both during and after discharge from Melbury Lodge by providing financial and life management skills. This will prevent, reduce or delay these adults from requiring future social care involvement. This will also support with the ongoing aims and objectives of the Hampshire County Council Demand Management and Prevention Department and support Hampshire residents to live safe, healthy independent lives

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:

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 Adults'/ Health and Care Strategy 2018.

Grants in this paper:

Local Solutions Grant awarded to Citizens Advice Winchester for one on one support to in-patients with acute mental health issues at the Melbury Lodge facility in Winchester.: £29,700

Geographical impact: Winchester District.

Proposed Change:

The introduction of a new project in the Winchester district to support in-patients with acute mental health issues at the Melbury Lodge facility both pre and post discharge. One on One support will be given around finance, benefits and support with life issues to remove some of the triggers to relapse and reduce the overall incidence of acute mental health episodes in users of the service. The service seeks to work with participants strengths to ensure the greatest benefits.

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 proposal for an acute mental health support service has been shaped in its design by local stakeholder engagement. Consultation has been undertaken with staff at the facility concerned. Citizens Advice has a great deal of experience dealing with people in financial difficulty and understand the impact which this can have on peoples mental health. A robust monitoring and evaluation process is in place and takes into account the views of users of the service and HCC local teams who will be engaged throughout the evaluation process.

Age Public Impact: Neutral

Age Staff Impact: Neutral

Assessment Rationale: The service is open to all age groups and aims to support people with acute mental health issues irrespective of age.

Disability social impact: Positive

Disability staff impact: Neutral

Assessment Rationale: The service seeks to support people with acute mental health issues both pre and post discharge from the Melbury Lodge facility in Winchester. One of the biggest triggers for acute mental health episodes is financial difficulty and debt which this project seeks to overcome. Support will be given in applying for and managing benefits, managing debt levels and teaching money management skills . The outcomes of the project are seen as being better mental health outcomes for participants, a reduction in frequency of acute mental health relapses and a greater quality of life.

Sexual orientation public impact: Neutral

Sexual orientation staff impact: Neutral

Assessment rationale: The service is open to all age groups and aims to support people with acute mental health issues irrespective of sexual orientation.

Race social impact: Neutral

Race staff impact: Neutral

Assessment Rationale: The service is open to all age groups and aims to support people with acute mental health issues irrespective of race.

Religion or belief social impact: Neutral

Religion or belief staff impact: Neutral

Assessment Rationale: The service is open to all age groups and aims to support people with acute mental health issues irrespective of religion.

Gender reassignment public impact: Neutral

Gender reassignment staff impact: Neutral

Assessment Rationale: The service is open to all age groups and aims to support people with acute mental health issues irrespective of Gender reassignment.

Sex public impact: Neutral

Sex staff impact: Neutral

Assessment rationale: The service is open to all age groups and aims to support people with acute mental health issues irrespective of gender identity.

Marriage or civil partnership: Neutral

Marriage or civil partnership: Neutral

Assessment Rationale: The service is open to all age groups and aims to support people with acute mental health issues irrespective of marriage or civil partnership status.

Pregnancy and maternity public impact: Neutral

Pregnancy and maternity staff impact: Neutral

Assessment rationale: The service is open to all age groups and aims to support people with acute mental health issues irrespective of whether pregnant or not.

Poverty public impact: Positive

Poverty staff impact: Neutral

Assessment Rationale: The service seeks to support people with acute mental health issues both pre and post discharge from the Melbury Lodge facility in Winchester. One of the biggest triggers for acute mental health episodes is financial difficulty and debt which this project seeks to overcome. Support will be

given in applying for and managing benefits, managing debt levels and teaching money management skills. The outcomes of the project are seen as being better mental health outcomes for participants, a reduction in frequency of acute mental health relapses and a greater quality of life.

Rurality public impact: Neutral

Rurality staff impact: Neutral

Assessment rationale: Owing to the location of the project and the district covered there will be no impact on rurality so a neutral assessment was made.