

Equality Impact Assessment

Name of project/proposal

Adult Services Grant Programme

Contact name

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Department

Adult Services

Date to be published on Hantsweb

08 Jan 2016

Purpose for project/proposal

The purpose of this Equality Impact Assessment is to consider whether changes to the Adult Services grant programme in 2016-17 will have an impact on the voluntary sector organisations recommended for grant funding in 2015-16. In 2016-17 there has been no reduction to the programme budget, but changes are proposed to ensure that grants programme follows an outcome focused approach through three grants streams:

- Longer term grant funding for Hampshire wide, umbrella and infrastructure organisations, beyond the current one year ceiling
- Developing a small grants pot administered by the voluntary sector
- Short term grants to enable innovation and time limited projects

In order to ensure a timely changeover to this future funding approach, transitional grant funding will awarded to identified voluntary and community organisations funded by Adult Services between 1st April 2016 and 30th September 2016.

Consultation

Has a consultation been carried out?

No

In September 2015 Adult Services wrote to all organisations who received a grant award from the Adult Services Main Grant programme in 2015-16, informing them of the review of the grant programme, reminding them that their current funding was for that year only with no expectation of future funding, but also asking them to contact Adult Services if they had any concerns about the impact of these changes. Furthermore, organisations who had been awarded a grant of £10,000 or more in 2015-16 were invited to meet with Adult Services between September and November to discuss their sustainability, including exploring the likely impact of both the new approach and delay in awarding grants in 2016-17, and to be directed to alternative sources of funding.

Adult Services has also held workshops to discuss the new approach to which all organisations who were awarded funding in 2015-16 were invited. The first round of these workshops were held in late September and early October 2015, with the second round of workshops being held in late November and early December 2015. Further events are scheduled for the end of January and early February.

Statutory considerations

Impact

Age	Low
Disability	Low
Sexual orientation	None
Race	Low
Religion and belief	None
Gender reassignment	Low
Sex	None
Marriage and civil partnership	None
Pregnancy and maternity	None

Other policy considerations

Poverty	Low
Rurality	None
Other factors	None
If other please describe	

Geographical impact

All Hampshire

Have you identified any medium or high impact?*

Yes

No

Why do you consider that your project/proposal will have low or no impact?

The proposal that has been made will have a low impact for the Adult Services Grant Programme, as all applications which were agreed in the 2015-16 round will either:

- have the opportunity to apply for funding through the establishment of a small grants pot (to award funds from April 2016)
- be funded for six months from April 2016 to end of September 2016, to enable further discussions to take place with organisations regarding longer term arrangements
- have identified, or have been directed towards, alternative sources of funding.

The total grants budget to be awarded by Adult Services in 2016-17 is still to be confirmed, but it is not anticipated that this will have any specific impact on any of the protected characteristics.

The establishment of a small grants pot, to be named Valuing Hampshire Communities, to be administered by a voluntary sector organisation, will increase the visibility to voluntary sector organisations who have not previously applied for a grant from Adult Services, whilst still enabling organisations who have applied in previous years to apply. The voluntary organisation administering the grant pot will also provide support to organisations who are unsuccessful with their application, including sign-posting to alternative sources of funding.

The organisations recommended for transitional grant funding have been identified through an intelligence-led process, informed by the meetings with organisations between September and November 2016. The organisations recommended for transitional funding provide services across the whole of the county, or specifically provide access to mainstream services for marginalised groups identified in the Equality Act 2010.

This transitional funding should have a positive impact on older people, those with disabilities, those undergoing (or have undergone) gender reassignment, and those from the travelling community, developing and improving activities and projects in local communities, promoting choice and community engagement and reducing social exclusion, isolation and loneliness.

Final decision date

Final decision date due
Decision to be made by

18 Jan 2016
Executive Member