

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Adult Social Care
Date:	25 May 2012
Title:	Roll-Out of Village Agents Programme
Reference:	3901
Report From:	Director of Adult Services

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1. The decision:

- a) That the Executive Member for Adult Social Care, agrees the funding of a grant of £170, 000 (over 3 years) to Age Concern Hampshire to fund a three year roll-out of the Village Agent Initiative across the county. Funding will commence in July 2012, when the current trial is due to cease. The Village Agents programme will run until June 2015.
- b) That the Executive Member for Adult Social Care, agrees that additional work will be facilitated by the Community Development Team to roll out the Village Agents model to other excluded communities within Hampshire.

2. Reasons for the decision:

- 2.1. The Village Agents programme is designed to help deliver value-for-money solutions to the challenges of offering greater choice and control to Hampshire's growing number of older people.
- 2.2. Village Agents, via Age Concern Hampshire, will ensure a range of interventions that enable older people to remain living independently in their community, with access to the services they require.
- 2.3. The voluntary activities of Village Agents clearly assists in providing prevention and early intervention initiatives. Grant funding by Adult Services contributes to and helps sustain this activity. Grant funding offers increased flexibility to meet the differing needs of individuals and communities and will allow the opportunity for individual Village Agents to 'test out' new ideas.
- 2.4. The programme is designed to increase the participation and involvement of older people in their communities, and thus build strong and cohesive rural communities, and avoid social isolation.

- 2.5. In using volunteers as Village Agents, supported by a salaried co-ordinator, the Hampshire scheme offers much greater value for money than other schemes, which use agents employed by the local authority.
- 2.6. The Village Agents programme supports each of Hampshire County Council's three Corporate Priorities: Hampshire Safer and More Secure for All; Maximising Well-Being; Enhancing Our Quality of Place. Its activities and desired outcomes are also very closely aligned with a number of the Council's key strategies and plans, specifically Adult Services' Prevention and Early Intervention Strategy, the Rural Delivery Action Plan, the Corporate Customer Access Model and Hampshire Open for Business.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

- 3.1. Cease funding for the Village Agents programme at the end of the current trial (July 2012).
- 3.2. Extend the Village Agents programme for a further 3 years, bringing the scheme in-house and replacing the local volunteers with salaried staff (model used by some local authorities).

4. Conflicts of interest:

- 4.1. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker: None
- 4.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted: None

5. Dispensation granted by the Standards Committee: none.

6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: not applicable.

7. Statement from the Decision Maker:

Approved by:	Date:
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Executive Member for Adult Social Care Councillor Felicity Hindson	