

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Adult Social Care
Date:	22 February 2013
Title:	Local Welfare Provision
Reference:	4657
Report From:	Director of Adult Services

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1. The decision:

That approval be given by the Executive Member for Adult Social Care for the following actions to be undertaken for the period of April 2013 – March 2014;

- a) The transfer of £110,000 to the 11 District and Borough Housing Authorities (£10,000 per authority) to support under supported groups such as offenders and single people
- b) Award grant funding of £5,000 to the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) to enable the maintenance of the Hampshire Advice Network (HAN) and facilitate regular meetings of this network
- c) That the Executive Member for Adult Social Care approves a grant of up to £35,000 to food banks within Hampshire and delegates authority to the Director of Adult Services to determine the allocation to individual food banks. Decisions will be made in consultation with the Executive Member for Adult Social care.

2. Reasons for the decision:

- 2.1 From April 2013 the Government will begin making welfare reforms. These reforms will have a significant impact upon individuals and families in terms of access to benefits, benefit award amounts and the process by which benefits are paid. As part of this process Local Authorities are required by the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) to develop their own approach to Local Welfare Provision – a low level response to assist people who are struggling to cope or who are in crisis.
- 2.2 Hampshire County Council's approach to this is to develop three core elements;

- Providing more comprehensive information and advice to support a range of crisis situations and to provide individuals with ways to cope and manage with challenging times.
- Develop access to, and opportunities for, individuals to receive support from existing services. This will be achieved through enabling better signposting and inter agency referrals. Also by supporting the capacity of these services to intervene, respond to and work with individuals and families at times of crisis.
- Provide existing and new services with access to goods and cash to support individuals and families in exceptional circumstances.

The recommendations in this report support this approach.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

3.1 None

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 Conduct Advisory Panel: none.

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

7. Statement from the Decision Maker:

Approved by:

Date:

22 February 2013

**Executive Member for Adult Social Care
Councillor Felicity Hindson**