

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Adult Social Care
Date:	19 March 2013
Title:	Adult Services Grants to Hospices 2013/14
Reference:	4723
Report From:	Director of Adult Services

Contact name: Mark Allen

Tel: 01962 845056

Email: mark.allen@hants.gov.uk

1. Executive Summary

1.1. The purpose of this paper is to seek approval for making grant awards to the voluntary and community organisations outlined in this report.

All grant applications received are considered in relation to how well they link with current Adult Services priorities, in particular:

- Maximising independence and inclusion;
- Right support in the right place at the right time for users;
- Vulnerable people are protected;
- Delivering a high quality, cost effective service to the vulnerable people of Hampshire;
- The Hampshire Model of Personalisation, in particular offering early intervention and preventative services and support to carers.

1.2. The report outlines the following recommendations:

- 8 grants of £10,000 per hospice to support carers

1.3. This paper seeks to

- Offer background details of the Adult Services grant programmes, including grant programme criteria;
- Provide details of recommendations of organisations supported including recommended funding allocations and details of proposed activities;
- Provide details of the monitoring and evaluation process;
- Provide a summary of the Equality Impact Assessment.

2. Contextual information

- 2.1. A voluntary organisation may be considered for grant aid from Adult Services only if its services, projects or activities are in compliance with the aims and objectives, priorities and policies of the Adult Services Department. The grants to Hospices also represents a joint venture with Health, under the proposed transfer of funding from the NHS to support Adult Services and Health priorities in 2013/14, this is subject to final agreement.
- 2.2. 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.
- 2.3. The publication 'A Guide to Procuring Care and Support Services', published by the Department for Communities and Local Government, October 2006, draws a helpful distinction between grants and contracts.
- 2.4. 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.
- 2.5. 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 Adult Services contributes to and helps sustain this activity.
- 2.6. 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.
- 2.7. The Department and the organisations being recommended for grant funding are expected to show a commitment to the One Compact for Hampshire (the jointly agreed framework of principles to guide the working relationship of the Voluntary and Community Sector and the Public Sector).
- 2.8. 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 newly adopted reserves policy which is in line with the Charity Commission's policy on these matters.
- 2.9. In 2011-12 the Best Value Statutory Guidance came into place, which requires local authorities to give statutory notice to all organisations

receiving grant funding. All organisations applying for a grant in 2013-14 have signed a declaration stating they accept that grant funding can only be awarded for a single year and no commitment exists from the council to continue funding in future years.

3. Adult Services Grants to Hospices 2013/14

- 3.1 The National End of Life Care strategy outlines how to ensure health and social care services can be made available in a variety of settings within the community to meet the needs of people nearing the end of life and their carers at the time when they need it.
- 3.2 Hampshire County Council Adult Services works in partnership with Hampshire Primary Care Trust and voluntary and community organisations to provide a broad range of services for people at end of life. The services are aimed at enabling them to achieve the best possible quality of life for both the person who is nearing the end of life and their carers. The grants recommended in this report aim to promote the well being of this specific group of carers.
- 3.3 Carers have a vital role in the provision of care. In order to support them in this, their views need to be considered in planning and decision making, ensure they have access to appropriate information and advice to minimise the risk of financial hardship, support them to have a life outside of their caring role and ensure they have access to services to help them stay mentally and physically well. For many this will have been the first time they have cared for someone who is dying.
- 3.4 In 2008 the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee identified that this particular group of carers in Hampshire were often struggling to cope with aspects of their lives and that they did not neatly fit into standardised carer support services. The End Of Life Programme Board recommended there should be specific services available to best meet their needs.
- 3.5 In order to demonstrate the commitment to this and in recognition of their role, at the 22 February 2008 Decision Day the Executive Member for Adult Social Care approved a grant of £70,000 to be awarded to seven hospices to support the needs of carers supporting people nearing end of life. This improved access to services and support at a time when they most needed it.
- 3.6 A further £40,000 in grant funding was approved under delegated authority in March 2010 to eight hospices to continue to support this specific group of carers. Evidence suggests the grants proved very successful in developing services to promote carers' wellbeing.
- 3.7 In 2011/12 an additional £70,000 in grant funding was identified from the Leader's budget and awarded to the same eight organisations to continue to contribute towards services delivered to support carers. Again in 2012/13 £80,000 was awarded from the same source to support services to carers.

3.8 The services have been successful in providing a variety of support to carers to ensure their needs are most effectively met. Examples of support include the following:

- complementary therapy / relaxation
- the development of carer led support groups within the hospice setting
- Individual carers grants of up to £200 to improve carer wellbeing or provide respite opportunities, e.g. subsidising long distance travel to visit family / friends; and
- contributing towards computer equipment / broadband access, days out and adult learning courses.

3.9 It is recommended a further one off grant of £80,000 be awarded between the following eight hospices (£10,000 per hospice):

- St Michaels Hospice, Basingstoke;
- Countess of Brecknock House, Andover;
- Rosemary Foundation, Petersfield;
- Naomi House Hospice, Sutton Scotney
- Oakhaven Hospice, Lymington
- Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice, Farnham
- The Rowans Hospice, Purbrook
- Countess Mountbatten Hospice, Hedge End

3.10 Naomi House Children's Hospice has been included as it provides support to adult carers. The Rosemary Foundation provides a Hospice at Home scheme which is considered equally valuable. Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice is based in Surrey and provides a service for a high proportion of Hampshire residents.

3.11 Whilst the individual hospices will manage the scheme, the funding is available for all carers looking after people at the end of life, not just palliative care. Details of services provided by the grant funding will be maintained by the hospices and sent to an identified person within Adult Services to ensure a clear audit trail is maintained.

3.12 To improve accessibility the grants to promote carer wellbeing will be promoted to all community nursing staff, cancer, cardiac, neurological, respiratory departments, and modern/community matrons.

4. Finance

4.1 Subject to final agreement the funding for these grants will be via the transfer of funding from the NHS (2013/14) to support joint Health and social care priorities. Activities that support people who care for others at the end of their life is a key area of priority for both Adult Services and the NHS.

5. Performance

- 5.1 Organisations recommended for grant funding will be able to support the priorities and outcomes identified in Hampshire 'Open For Business, in particular:
- Priority 1: Improved quality of life for all, particularly those who are vulnerable or disadvantaged. Outcomes include:
Improved Health and Wellbeing;
Reduced inequalities;
Safer communities;
Prevention through invest to save; and
Safeguard and support vulnerable children and adults;
 - Priority 2: Enhance community engagement and partnership working – strengthening/empowering communities. Outcomes include:
Resilient communities, less dependent on some Council services; and
A vibrant, not for profit sector, helping to shape and deliver public services.
 - Priority 5: Develop new models of service provision, meeting the challenges of reduced resource and evolving national policies, whilst improving the quality of services for users. Outcomes include:
Enhanced organisational and public sector capacity with reduced overheads

6. Risk Assessment and Management

- 6.1 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 a service; 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.
- 6.2 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 financial year.
- 6.3 Grants are often used to enable positive risk taking. They provide a necessary level of flexibility where development opportunities are available, in particular pump priming and market development. This is not something to which contractual arrangements readily lend themselves. A number of grants within this report are within this category. The above detailed mitigation mechanism would be employed to manage this.

7. Legal Considerations

- 7.1 Where the relevant power is not provided under Section 65 of the Health Services and Public Health Act 1968, the General Power of Competence provided in the Localism Act 2011 enables local authorities to do anything that individuals of full legal capacity may do.
- 7.2 In exercising its functions an authority must 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.

8. Equality Impact Assessment

- 8.1 A full Equality Impact Assessment has been completed to evaluate the recommendations for grant funding in 2013/14. In 2013/14 there has been no reduction in the core budget for grant funding to the voluntary and community sector.
- 8.2 The Equality Impact Assessment also highlights the importance of recommending grant funding to services or activities operating in areas of multiple deprivation as identified in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, improving access to mainstream services for marginalised groups identified in the Equality Act 2010 and ensuring the main objectives within the Hampshire Model of Personalisation were prioritised, in particular the provision of Early Intervention and Preventative Services, and ensuring user led organisations are key to both delivering personalisation and achieving independent living for disabled people.

9. Recommendation

- 9.1 That Executive Member approval be given for the following grant awards:
- 8 Grants of £10,000 per hospice listed in this report to support carers

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**Links to the Corporate Strategy**

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Maximising well-being:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Enhancing our quality of place:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	

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.)

DocumentLocation

None

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equalities Impact Assessment:

A full Equalities Impact Assessment has been published and is available on the County Council website at <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/as-equality-ia-archive.htm>.

A full Equality Impact Assessment has been completed to evaluate the recommendations for grant funding for 2013/14.

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Full consideration has been given to the potential impact of the recommendations to reduce or not award Adult Services grant funding in 2013/14 to organisations awarded funding in the previous year.

Adult Services has processes and resources in place to actively engage with excluded groups to address this. The Adult Services grant programmes have been involved in the corporate grant review. Changes to the application process are aimed at improving access to grant funded services for socially excluded or marginalised groups.

Changes also enable applicants to consider how their services and activities are accessible to protected groups identified in the Equality Act 2010. The Equality Impact Assessment relating to the Corporate Grant Review will reflect this.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

The County Council has a legal obligation under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to consider the impact of all decisions it makes on the prevention of crime. The proposal in this report aims to improve the safety of vulnerable Hampshire residents and reduce the risk of crime occurring.

3. Climate Change:

a) How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?

The Adult Services Grant Programme proposes to support local organisations providing services within local communities. This reduces the need to travel and therefore reduces both the carbon footprint and energy consumption.

b) How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?

The proposal recognises the need to adapt to climate change and plans to develop a longer term strategy in order to address this.