

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health
Date:	30 July 2014
Title:	Local Welfare Assistance
Reference:	5986
Report From:	Director of Adult Services

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1. The decision:

- a) That the Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health agrees to the implementation of option three in this report.
- b) That the Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health agrees the transfer of LWA funding for 2014-15 plus a proportion (£226,962) of underspend from 2013-14 to the Corporate Services department to be delivered within the Supporting Troubled Families programme.
- c) That the Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health agrees that the future distribution of resources for delivering LWA is determined by the Executive Member for Policy and Resources and Leader of the Council.

2. Reasons for the decision:

- 2.1. Ministers announced in January 2014 that funding for delivering LWA from 2015-16 would be transferred within the overall settlement from DCLG to local authorities. It is expected by ministers that any LWA provision will be funded from this budget. The allocation process for this grant would mean that the County Council are unlikely to receive additional resource to meet this additional burden.
- 2.2. While there still remains no statutory duty or ring fence for the money it is still expected that the funding is used to help those in genuine need.
- 2.3. Recommendations for decision reflect learning from delivering LWA in year one, April 2013 to March 2014, and the judgement made regarding the impact of central government funding arrangements for LWA in 2014-15 and 2015-16 and beyond.
- 2.4. While the initial proposal was to look at this in year three, given the decisions taken by ministers these recommendations come a year earlier than planned.

- 2.5. The decision to align funding and future services with corporate work streams and to target resources through strategic local partnerships will develop a more sustainable local offer that will reduce the risk placed upon LWA through recent funding decisions.
- 2.6. This approach will ensure that the strong partnership work carried out from April 2013 and information gathered during this period is not lost, but is built upon to continue to develop the offer of support to vulnerable residents struggling to cope and facing times of crisis and financial hardship.
- 2.7. The real risk to any LWA scheme is that funding is reduced over time and the service withers away. By stimulating and enabling sustainable activity it is possible that this funding could be the catalyst for longer term support and better identification of early intervention and prevention services that reduce people's likelihood of reaching crisis.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

- 3.1. To terminate Local Welfare Assistance.
- 3.2. To use the finding from 2014-15 and any underspend to deliver the same approach in year two and potentially a further year until the funding is spent.

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:
Not applicable

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:
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Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health	
Councillor Liz Fairhurst	

