

REPORT OF THE
Executive Member for Adult Social Care
PART II

189. EMPLOYMENT FOR PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY

1. On 25 November 2015, the Executive Member for Adult Social Care gave approval to go out to tender and award a contract for a supported employment service for people with social care needs, on a 4 year 2+1+1 basis with an annual contract value of up to £620,000 and a total contract value of up to £2,480,000 to commence on 4 July 2016.

2. Nationally less than 1 in 5 people with a learning disability work. Individuals who have undergone a work capability assessment, assessed as not capable and placed in the Employment Support Allowance (ESA) "support group", are not a strategic priority for the Department for Work and Pensions. Without Adult Services led initiatives, people in the ESA Support Group would have no clear route into employment and could remain Not in Education, Employment, or Training (NEET) for the rest of their lives. This is highly likely to increase their reliance on funded services at a time when resources are under increasing pressure.

3. The new service will be aimed at working with people who have social care needs and who currently receive a funded service. Increasing opportunities to move into employment will have a positive impact for people with a learning disability and other assessed social care needs. It will offer greater independence and enable people to engage in a meaningful way with their local community, becoming less dependent on funded services as natural networks develop. Some people are currently receiving funded day opportunities who, with the right support, could access employment, therefore diverting future referrals away from funded day care services.

4. The provision of employment has been identified as a key opportunity in relation to Transformation to 2017 and there are potential benefits to the County Council whilst facilitating employment opportunities for individuals through a reduction in the number of people receiving funded day opportunities and the development of a more systematic approach to Access to Work funding applications.

190. OLDER PERSONS COMMUNITY SUPPORT GRANT

1. On 25 November 2015, the Executive Member for Adult Social Care gave approval to award older persons community support grants for a three year period from December 2015 to March 2018 totalling £298,524.

2. The Care Act 2014 has placed a requirement on local authorities to promote wellbeing when carrying out any care or support functions, and prevent need or delay an individuals' deterioration wherever possible. It is recognised that this can be done individually, or in partnership with other local organisations, communities and individuals themselves.

3. The Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health awarded the first round of the Older Persons Community Support Grant on the 11 March 2015 to voluntary and community-based organisations to support the wellbeing of people in Hampshire. The majority of these services were based on the Live at Home model which offers support and friendship to people living in their own homes. A successful Live at Home scheme is in operation in the Winchester area and a positive pilot for Live at Home has also taken place in Gosport. This round of grant forms part of a wider programme of the County Council's activity in this sector. Elements such as Village Agents and Older People's Area Link recognise the needs of Hampshire's older population with a variety of options and offers.

4. It is recognised that 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.

Further details on these items can be found at www.hants.gov.uk/councilmeetings.htm by typing in the relevant reference number:

- Employment For People With A Disability (6999)
- Older Persons Community Support Grant (7077)

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