

REPORT OF THE
Executive Member for Adult Social Care
PART II

202. DAY OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH A LEARNING DISABILITY

1. At her meeting on 18 January 2016, the Executive Member for Adult Social Care gave approval to spend up to a total value of £18.4m over an initial four year period (up to £4.6m per annum) for the procurement of contracts for Day Opportunities, with an anticipated commencement of 30 January 2017.

2. Hampshire County Council currently contract with 97 independent Day Opportunity Providers for the provision of services to people with a learning disability (and small numbers of people with a physical disability or other social care needs). The services provide day time activity to approximately 600 individuals across Hampshire at an approximate cost of £4.6m per annum.

3. The “Day Opportunities” scope includes providers delivering traditional “day care” centres, vocational services, community based services and specialist services. Amongst these diverse providers, a variable approach to outcomes, enablement and skill enhancement is also evident. It is important in the future that day services maximise independence and skills and therefore reduce the support required for people. This will lead to an increased emphasis on community inclusion and the potential for employment opportunities. There will be an emphasis upon these principles in the future service specification.

4. Cost reduction in the provision of Day Opportunities has been identified as a key opportunity in relation to the savings targets facing the County Council. Standardisation of pricing and closer contractual ties will lead to reduced costs on current packages. Further savings targets are attached to the promotion of employment as a realistic outcome for some people attending services. A two stage procurement process to facilitate the achievement of these targets is proposed in the report received by the Executive Member.

203. ADULT SERVICES GRANT PROGRAMME

1. At her meeting on 18 January 2016, the Executive Member for Adult Social Care approved a grant totalling no more than £75,000 to administer the Valuing Hampshire Communities Grant, with authority delegated to the Director of Adult Services to select a suitable organisation. She furthermore approved transitional grant awards totalling £231,626 to be given to 13 organisations shown in Appendix C of the report for a period of 6 months between 1 April 2016 and 30 September 2016.

2. The Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) contributes to improving people’s quality of life. The grants programme is one of the ways in which Adult Services supports the sector to support people to live fuller more independent lives. 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.

3. Small grants provide additional flexibility and the opportunity to test new ways of working on a small scale, assisting small organisations who only require a low level of grant. Without a small grant pot, it would not be possible to support such organisations and lead to over reliance on larger organisations.

4. Using the voluntary sector to administer grants has already been tested on a limited basis, demonstrating that administration of small grants by an appropriate organisation will focus expertise and time on supporting access to funding. It was therefore proposed that the small grants pot be named the Valuing Hampshire Communities Grant and be administered by the voluntary sector going forward. This approach will release departmental resource to develop and more closely manage the grants to the umbrella and infrastructure organisations, and short-term funding to drive innovation.

5. The need to communicate and engage with the voluntary and community sector means that any application and decision process will not conclude in time to begin awarding funds from 1 April 2016. As a result of engagement thus far, it was determined that 13 organisations would require an award from Adult Services of an interim transitional grant for a six-month period between 1 April and 30 September 2016, whilst the new grants programme is fully established.

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

- Day Opportunities for People with a Learning Disability (search item reference 7174)
- Adult Services Grant Programme (search item reference 7183)

COUNCILLOR LIZ FAIRHURST
Executive Member for Adult Social Care