

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Decision Report

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Member for Social Care
<b>Date:</b>	29 October 2010
<b>Title:</b>	Grants to Voluntary Organisations (HIV+ Services)
<b>Reference:</b>	2063
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Adult Services

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#### 1. Executive Summary

1.1. The purpose of this paper is to seek approval for two grants to voluntary sector organisations which provide specialist support services for people who are HIV+ in Hampshire.

1.2. This paper seeks to

- Offer contextual information to the delivery of HIV+ services in the county
- Provide information on recent changes to HIV services
- Provide details of the recommendations of organisations supported including recommended funding allocations.

#### 2. Contextual information

2.1. The nature and impact of health, and consequently social care, issues created for individuals and families by the HIV virus has substantially changed since HIV and AIDS came to public attention in the late 1980s.

2.2. Whereas the acquisition of the virus was largely regarded as a terminal illness for many years, the development of new forms of medical treatment combined with specialist health and social care support in the community has largely turned the status of having the virus into a chronic long term illness.

2.3. However there are special features that remain with this condition that differentiate being infected or affected by HIV, that are recognised by the Department of Health which to date has seen the continuance of the AIDS Support Grant (ASG) to local authorities. These are, for example:

- The stigma and prejudice attached to being HIV+ which causes people to be isolated from mainstream society and often unable to seek both medical and social care support.

- The need for strict confidentiality in all services, and within each service, as to a person's status in respect of HIV.
- The continued rise in sexually transmitted infections, including HIV, across the whole spectrum of the community and in particular groups such as the middle aged heterosexual community, the gay and bi-sexual communities, young people and the newly immigrant communities.
- In spite of the improvement in specialist health care, strict and detailed life regimes, often in the face of poverty and homelessness, are required to maintain good health for people who are HIV+ and their families.
- The continued long term impact on relatives and friends of those who are infected by HIV.

2.4. Historically specialist social care services to people who are infected by and affected by HIV in Hampshire have been provided by a combination of a full time specialist social worker and specialist voluntary sector organisations both working in partnership with local and national specialist health services.

### **3. Changes to HIV services in the county**

- 3.1. Consequent on paragraph 2.1 above and the changes that have evolved in demand for social care support, all social care support is now commissioned in the voluntary sector and focuses on the well-being of those infected or affected by HIV. This reflects the changing nature of the impact of being HIV+.
- 3.2. Although historical lines of referral have been kept open as well as the option of contact through Hantsdirect, there has been no demand for specialist social work assessment and support provided by this Department over the past 12 months and this service is now being withdrawn. Instead people choose to turn to the voluntary sector providers who are able to meet their wider variety of needs.

### **4. Finance**

- 4.1. The Authority receives an annual grant from the Department of Health – The AIDS Support Grant (ASG) was announced on 27 July 2010 and Hampshire received a grant of £276,000 – from which specialist services are proposed to be commissioned. The 'ring-fence' which previously existed for this grant has been removed by the Department of Health.
- 4.2. The total amount of grants proposed from the ASG (including one determined under delegated authority by the Director of Adult Services) is £107,500. In addition £20,500 has been used to provide one day per week specialist social work support and training and to cover commissioning costs. The remaining balance of £146,000 has remained within the Department's core funding.
- 4.3. The ASG comes to an end in March 2011 and its future is subject to the current Comprehensive Spending Review by HM Government.

## 5. Grant recommendations

- 5.1. In recognition of the changed level and nature of demand for specialist HIV social care services and increased demand in other aspects of the authority's services, the grants proposed for 2010/11 are to remain at the same level as for 2009/10.
- 5.2. However the specialist agencies have, and will continue to do so, provided both a changed and also an extended service in response to both the withdrawal of the specialist social work service but also in response to the continued increase in diagnosis of HIV+ in the county. This increase in diagnosis is a national issue.
- 5.3. Although services are based in particular parts of the county, the providers do reach out to people across the whole county.
- 5.4. **Groundswell - £16,000** For home-based individual support across the southern half of the county. These services are largely provided by trained volunteers and are possibly unique to Hampshire. The services are primarily, though not exclusively, delivered to members of the immigrant communities who are HIV+, and are highly responsive to individual need and circumstance. This service is expanding its geographical range across the county as demand and opportunity arise.
- 5.5. **Positive Action - £87,000** For 'drop-in' and outreach services provided from bases in Aldershot, Southampton and Portsmouth. The centres provide a range of specialist services, such as women's groups, housing and immigration advice and support, generic and specialist support groups, dietary advice and support, emergency funding, counselling and alternative therapies.
- 5.6. It should be noted that 5.5 is a consolidation of two services previously provided by the now ceased trading Ribbons Centre in Southampton, and Positive Action, who have taken over the Ribbons Centre work.
- 5.7. Between them these grants provide a range of service options for people from very diverse communities who are infected or affected by HIV.
- 5.8. The services that are supported by these recommended grants to the above agencies include services for the prevention, care and after care of people who are suffering or recovering from illness.
- 5.9. These grants represent the main services that the Adult Services Department provides for people with HIV/AIDS. The services are grant aided because of the nature of the services (people cross local authority boundaries for services because of the associated stigma). It also provides better value for money than a contract as the Department does not fund the full cost and effectively cash limits our contribution.
- 5.10. If these people were refused service by these organisations and were referred back to our care management teams, it would result in an inferior level of support at far greater cost.

**6. Recommendations**

- 6.1. That a grant for one year of £16,000 to Groundswell to provide specialist home-based well-being services for those who are infected and affected by HIV in the south, centre and southwest of the County, be approved
- 6.2. That a grant for one year of £87,000 to Positive Action to provide specialist centre based well-being services for those who are infected and affected by HIV across the County be approved.

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

<b>Hampshire safer and more secure for all:</b>	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
<b>Maximising well-being:</b>	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
<b>Enhancing our quality of place:</b>	no
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	

**Other Significant Links**

<b>Links to previous Member decisions:</b>		
<u>Title</u> Grants to Voluntary Organisations 2009/10	<u>Reference</u> 1265	<u>Date</u> 26 February 2010
<b>Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives</b>		
<u>Title</u> AIDS support grant for social care for people with HIV/AIDS LAC(DH)(2010)5		<u>Date</u> 27 July 2010

**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:**

In compiling the attached report and in working with the relevant organisations, account has been taken of the requirements of the Corporate Equalities Plan and Race Scheme. The One Compact for Hampshire has social inclusion as one of its principles and states that all partners are committed to the importance of promoting equality of opportunity for all people, regardless of race, age, disability, gender, sexual orientation and belief. The issue and needs identified with regards to specific targeted communities have been addressed by the different grants that we provide to facilitate appropriate services.

### **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?

These grants propose 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?

No implications arising from this report.