

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Adult Social Care
Date:	23 September 2011
Title:	Learning Disability Grants 2011/12
Reference:	3201
Report From:	Director of Adult Services

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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. The purpose of this paper is to seek approval for making Learning Disability grant awards to the total value of £280,230 to the voluntary and community organisations outlined in this report .
- 1.2. The grants comprise two elements. The first is for funding to Choices Advocacy to meet increased demand for advocacy and person centred Planning due to the campus reprovision projects which amounts to £161370. The campus reprovision projects have enabled people with learning disabilities who were living in NHS accommodation (Campuses) to move to community based non NHS accommodation. The second element comprises general grants of £5,000 and over to provider organisations to a total of £118,860.
- 1.3. This paper seeks to
 - Offer background details of the Learning Disability Grants Programme and process.
 - Provide details of the organisations to be supported including recommended funding allocations and details of proposed activities
 - Offer information regarding the Grant Programme's Criteria.
 - Provide details of the monitoring and evaluation processes.

2. Contextual information

- 2.1. Hampshire County Council Adult Services Department has, since the granting of LDDF (Learning Disability Development Fund) in April 2002 made annual grants to voluntary and community organisations providing

services and activities to people with learning disabilities and their carers in Hampshire.

- 2.2. Until the current funding round, a panel process has decided the allocation of LDDF grants, following the submission of bids. This has ensured the involvement of key stakeholders, and members of the Hampshire Learning Disability Partnership Board (LDPB)
- 2.3. However, the Valuing People support programme run from Department of Health, and the ring fenced LDDF, ceased to exist from the end of 2010/11. Grants previously received have now been integrated within the formula grant funding allocation to the County Council
- 2.4. Funding for advocacy and person centred planning services (PCP) of £161,370 supports the work of the Department related to major learning disability projects, for example the consultation processes for Learning Disability Transformation and moving people with learning disabilities into community based accommodation . We do not have a statutory duty to provide these services and the majority of people who access the services do not meet adult services eligibility criteria. We make a contribution to the funding but do not fund the entire service. As such, these services provide a preventative network across the county that enable all people with a learning disability to live more independently.
- 2.5. Advocacy and person centred planning services enable people with learning disabilities to express their views about how they wish to lead their lives and support them to speak up and achieve their goals through the use of trained facilitators and advocates
- 2.6. 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. Grants are given 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. The grants referred to in this paper are aimed at developing and sustaining services to people with Learning Disabilities and their carers.
- 2.7. 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.
- 2.8. The LDPB and LIGs (Local Implementation Groups) are longstanding and successful stakeholder groups which enable all partners to be involved in the development of services and provide an infrastructure for communication and consultation with people with learning disabilities and their carers, statutory and voluntary sector organisations. It was decided therefore to involve, as has happened in previous years, a panel drawn from LDPB and LIG membership and Adult Services staff, to examine the bids and agree which should go forward for Executive Member approval. This panel was held on July 6 2011 and chaired by the Deputy Director of Adult Services

- 2.9. The panel also agreed a total of 4 grants of under £5,000 which were approved by Adult Services Departmental Management Team on 18 August 2011. For information these are detailed in Appendix 2 and amount to £16,882
- 2.10. The 10 organisations relevant to the grants proposed in this report (see Appendix 1) provide valuable locally based services that are rooted in the communities which they serve. Significant benefit is produced through their 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
- 2.11. The grants are a contribution to costs and enable an economic benefit to the Department which is significant, leveraging in additional funding, the benefit of volunteer time and therefore providing good value for money to the authority.

3. Finance

- 3.1. In line with the County Council's requirement to ensure efficiencies in the provision of services the recommendations for grant allocations reduced by £75,000 from 2010/11 levels.
- 3.2. A total of £297,112 grant funding has been recommended through the panel process. £280,230 is for grants of £5,000 and over for which Executive Member approval is sought (Appendix 1) £16,882 is for grants of under £5,000 which have been approved by Departmental Management Team on 18 August 2011 (Appendix 2).
- 3.3. The balance of funding, £14,257 has been set aside to enable the roll out of the Safer Places scheme to parts of the County not currently covered or included in the recommended grants. Bids are being sought from provider organisations.

4. Performance

- 4.1 The organisations receiving grant funding will be able to support the Adult Services Department in delivering services to people with learning disabilities in Hampshire and their carers
- 4.2 Guidance was issued to the organisations wishing to bid for funding, referring to the need to link to current Adult Services outcomes:
 - Maximising independence and inclusion
 - Right care 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

- Meeting the performance outcomes identified by the Care Quality Commission, in particular Improved Health and Wellbeing, Improved Quality of Life and Making a Positive Contribution.

The Government has recently removed the CQC performance assessment framework. It is putting more focus on local accountability, while looking for national assurance that outcomes are being achieved for vulnerable people. Outcomes will continue to be reported on opportunities for people with learning disabilities to live in the community and at their employment opportunities. Feelings of safety for vulnerable groups will also be measured. These issues feature strongly in the projects being put forward for grant support, as well as projects to support health and wellbeing, which are emerging corporate priorities for the County Council.

- 4.3 In addition the organisations funded will support the aims of Valuing People Now and the Learning Disability Strategy for Hampshire, 'Ordinary People Leading Ordinary Lives'. The Department and the organisations being recommended for grant funding are also 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).

5. Legal Considerations

- 5.1. . Where the powers are not provided under Section 65 of the Health Services and Public Health Act 1968, the Local Government Act 2000 under Part 1, Section 2 (Promotion of Wellbeing) enables local authorities to do anything which they consider likely to achieve the promotion of the social and economic wellbeing of their area, which includes a power to give financial assistance to any person.
- 5.2. . In exercising its powers, the Authority must have regard to its Community Strategy. These grants will meet the long term ambition of the Hampshire Sustainable Community Strategy in terms of promoting wellbeing as it aims to reduce social isolation and improve access to support. The grants will promote social wellbeing by supporting early intervention and prevention services to be delivered, supporting people with learning disabilities to be independent, to be supported in their local communities and reduce the need for crisis services. The Grants will also improve cohesion and inclusivity among local communities by empowering or supporting local communities and groups to develop services and support to fill the gaps.

6. Other key issues

- 6.1 Organisations were advised that Adult Services would welcome bids to enable the rollout of Safer Places projects across the County following the successful pilot in Basingstoke. Hate crime against people with learning disabilities has a high profile and is one of the barriers to people accessing their communities. 4 Safer Places projects have been recommended for funding

- 6.2 Monitoring of the services delivered will be done by activity reporting. A steering group will coordinate the countywide delivery of the Safer Places schemes. In addition there will be reports to the LDPB and LIGs from individual projects. The Safer Places projects will make links to the County Safeguarding Service Users forum.

7. Recommendations

- 7.1. That approval be given for grant funding of £161,370 to Choices Advocacy to support advocacy and person centred planning services to support people with learning disabilities through consultation and transformation of services

- 7.2. That approval be given for grant funding to the following organisations for other projects (See Appendix 1)

HARG £30,000

Carers Together £30,000

First Steps New Forest £8,000

Kingsley Organisation £6,000

Eastleigh and Romsey Mencap £5,000

The Café Project Basingstoke £14,560

Eastleigh and Romsey Mencap (Safer Places) £5,000

Connect Advocacy £5,000

East Hants Advocacy £10,300

Winchester and District Mencap £5,000

- 7.3 That the Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Adult Services Departmental Management Team receive reports back on the outcomes achieved through the above grant funding as part of the overall monitoring of the transformation plan.

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:	no
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.)

Document

Location

None

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equalities Impact Assessment:

- 1.1 The recommended grant funding will improve access to support and universal services for vulnerable groups identified in the report. People with learning disabilities often require additional support to express their needs, to access their community or make informed decisions regarding certain aspects of their lives. In order that they are not disadvantaged, the organisations recommended for grant funding provide opportunities for them to access additional support.
- 1.2 The funding aims to address barriers to access and offer a personalised service to meet identified needs.
- 1.3 The organisations have been recommended as they contribute to the priorities of Hampshire County Council Adult Services Department. In making these recommendations due regard has been given to the Equality Act 2010.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

- 2.1. 4 organisations are recommended to receive grant funding to support the rollout of the Safer Places project as successfully piloted in Basingstoke.
- 2.2. People with learning disabilities often experience harassment which acts as a barrier to them accessing their community. The Safer Places projects will enable people to feel more confident in their communities leading to greater social inclusion .
- 2.3. Safer Places projects are enabled locally by partnerships with the Police and local businesses and raise the profile around the rights of people with learning disabilities to lead socially inclusive lives

3. Climate Change:

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

N/A

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

N/A