

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Decision Report

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Member for Adult Social Care
<b>Date:</b>	21 September 2016
<b>Title:</b>	Supportive Communities Grant Award
<b>Reference:</b>	7719
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Adults' Health and Care

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#### 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. The purpose of this paper is to seek approval for making two grant awards to the voluntary and community organisations outlined in this report.
- 1.2. 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.
- 1.3. This paper provides details on:
  - The background to the Adult Services grant programmes;
  - Recommendation to award a grant from the Adult Services Partnership Fund for Information and Advice to Community First;
  - Recommendation to award a Community Connectors Grant to Solent Mind.

#### 2. Background

- 2.1. 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.
- 2.2. 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.

- 2.3. The publication 'A Guide to Procuring Care and Support Services', published by the Department for Communities and Local Government, October 2006, draws a helpful distinction between grants and contracts.
- 2.4. 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.
- 2.5. 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.
- 2.6. As grants are a contribution to service or activity costs the economic benefit to the department can be significant, levering in additional funding, the benefit of volunteer time and therefore providing good value for money to the authority.
- 2.7. Organisations will not normally be eligible for grants where they hold balances in excess of one year's running costs. Those organisations receiving recurring funding which hold in excess of three months' running costs, and where they cannot demonstrate through their reserves policy that these reserves are justified, may receive a reduced grant. To establish the level of reserves, organisations are required to provide a set of their latest accounts and annual report with their application and before grant payment is made – in the case of organisations with an income of £10,000 or above, these must be independently examined or audited. If organisations have reserves in excess of three months, we will apply the newly adopted reserves policy which is in line with the Charity Commission's policy on these matters.
- 2.8. Adult Services criteria for grant applications are:
  - The grant recipient is a voluntary or community organisation;
  - The services, projects or activities are for people living in Hampshire;
  - The organisation has a clear management structure within its constitution; and
  - Where applicable, the organisation must demonstrate it holds the appropriate level of insurance and has relevant policies in place, in particular Health and Safety, Equal Opportunities and Safeguarding Adults.
- 2.9. All grant applications received are considered in relation to how well they link with current Adult Services priorities, in particular:
  - Maximising independence and inclusion;
  - Right support 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.

### **3. Supportive Communities Grants Programme 2016–17**

- 3.1. The Grant Programme Decision Report number 7183 taken to the Executive Member for Adult Social Care on 18 January 2016 outlined the overall direction of the Adult Services Grant Programme following review and engagement with stakeholders.
- 3.2. The aim of the Supportive Communities Programme is to reduce, delay and/or divert demand on Adult Services by increasing community self-sufficiency and people's independence. The Supportive Communities Programme has identified the need to support information and advice activities, and the need to support organisations that can develop a new and innovative way to support communities to become better connected. As a result the Supportive Communities Programme created the Adult Services Partnership Fund: Information and Advice Grant, and the Community Connectors Grant to help to meet the respective needs.

### **4. Adult Services Partnership Fund – Information and Advice Grant**

- 4.1. The Adult Services Partnership Grant – Information and Advice Grant is a grant stream to provide funding to holistically deliver information and advice services to people over the age of 18. The Supportive Communities Programme is in the process of researching the information needs of local people and the ability of existing organisations to respond. As part of this process a partnership of organisations is required to develop and test a new model of Information and Advice. As a result it was proposed that the Adult Services Partnership Fund – Information and Advice Grant be awarded for one year between 1 October 2016 and 30 September 2017 so that the new model can be tested.
- 4.2. The organisation recommended for grant funding from the Adult Services Partnership Fund is Community First. Community First will work with other organisations that will work together across Hampshire. Details of the other organisations involved can be found in Appendix C. This application aims to deliver a solution that will reach 28,000 people, harnessing local community action to enable people to use or develop their own skills, to help themselves and others, to access information and advice that enables people to take more control of their own wellbeing and lifestyle choices.

### **5. Community Connectors Grant**

- 5.1. The Community Connectors Grant is a grant stream to provide funding to organisations that can develop a new and innovative way to support communities to become better connected. The Supportive Communities Programme is in the process of developing new ways of working with an aim to support individuals to acknowledge their own strengths, whilst making

links within the community to identify existing or new solutions to achieve increased wellbeing. The model developed will seek to support people to become more socially active and would envisage this new model supporting people to create or maintain friendships, build networks and participate in supported volunteering. Organisations awarded this grant should nurture and increase community self sufficiency. As a result it was proposed that the Community Connectors Grant be awarded for eighteen months between 1 October 2016 and 31 March 2018 so that the new model can be tested, allowing time for community change.

- 5.2. The organisation recommended for grant funding from the Community Connectors Grant is Solent Mind. Solent Mind will work with the University of Central Lancashire in delivering the model, looking to support 900 people as part of the process. The application is new activity, as stated in Appendix D that will be in addition and compliment the activity undertaken in the Wellbeing Centres.

## **6. Supportive Communities Grants Process**

- 6.1. Applicants are required to demonstrate their ability to help people with various levels of need through a wide range of solutions, starting with the question 'what makes us healthy?', rather than the deficit-based question 'what makes us ill?' These approaches are based on creating and sustaining broadly based support in the community, outside the traditional boundaries of health and social care services, to promote good health and wellbeing and strong social connections. An asset-based approach takes account of how people live and how they can be enabled to realise their potential.
- 6.2. The Adult Services Partnership Fund – Information and Advice Grant received 8 applications, and the Community Connectors Grant received 14 applications. All grant applications have been considered in a staged process, initially by a panel consisting of County Council staff, service users and carers representatives as appropriate to the fund being considered, where applications and recommendations were evaluated within the context of the available budget. Following this stage, shortlisted applicants were invited to be interviewed by the panel.
- 6.3. Those organisations and services that fulfil the criteria and comply with mutually agreed reporting and monitoring requirements will be considered by Adult Services for grant funding, and who in addition have confirmed they are aware of their responsibilities regarding safeguarding adults. Where an application has not been successful, advice and guidance in seeking alternative funding will be offered should an organisation request it.

## **7. Performance**

- 7.1. Organisations recommended for grant funding will be able to support, alongside Adult Services priorities, the County Council's strategic aims as outlined in "Shaping Hampshire: modern, public services for the future", in particular the following key themes:

- Health and Wellbeing: Improving health and wellbeing for all.
- Promote and support healthy choices for all, reducing the difference between those with the best and worst health.
- Communities: Working with communities to enhance local services. Outcomes include working with communities to find the local solutions that work best, giving more control over local services to communities where appropriate.

## **8. Financial Implications**

- 8.1. The grants already awarded from the Supportive Communities budget for 2016/17 have led to an in year expenditure commitment of £855,400.
- 8.2. The grant proposals in this report will commit additional expenditure totalling £199,000. These grant awards span over two years, 2016/17 and 2017/18. The expenditure has been profiled between years as follows, £85,200 in 2016/17 and £113,800 in 2017/18, bringing the total commitment in 2016/17 to £940,600, which remains within the current year budgeted envelope for this service.
- 8.3. Payments to all grant awards in this report will be made in two instalments. The first payment of the award will be made on signature to the grant agreement, with payment of the remainder of the grant subject to the receipt of the organisations annual accounts for the previous financial year. All grant agreements have conditions that enable the Council to require repayment of the award or any part of it if it remains unspent at the end of the grant period, or if there is a material breach of the grant agreement.

## **9. Risk Assessment and Management**

- 9.1. The provision of grants to voluntary and community sector organisations by statutory bodies always presents a degree of risk. Specific risks that statutory bodies are required to manage include voluntary and community organisations accepting funding without providing any activity; organisations not delivering the service as expected; and there being an under spend on the expected activity. This applies to all grants; however larger grants represent a potentially higher risk to the County Council.
- 9.2. A number of mechanisms have been employed successfully over a number of years to mitigate and alleviate these risks. These include nominating a Liaison Officer from the County Council whose responsibility is to monitor how the grant is spent, specifying within the grant agreement that the grant is 'restricted' funding for the provision of the specified activity only and phasing the payment of grants over the course of the award duration.
- 9.3. Due to the developmental nature of these grants a named member of the Supportive Communities Programme will be assigned to work directly with each partnership. This will help to ensure the required developments take place and new methods of working are implemented.

- 9.4. All organisations awarded a grant sign a declaration stating they accept that grant funding can only be awarded for the given period and no commitment exists from the Council to continue funding after this time, or in subsequent years.

## **10. Equality Impact Assessment**

- 10.1. An initial Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and it was assessed that there is a low impact to these changes.
- 10.2. The Equality Impact Assessment also highlights the importance of the organisations recommended for grant funding to provide services or activities in areas of multiple deprivation as identified in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, improving access to mainstream services for marginalised groups identified in the Equality Act 2010, and people living in rural areas. This funding should have a positive impact on older people and people with disabilities, developing and improving activities and projects in local communities, promoting choice and community engagement and reducing social exclusion, isolation and loneliness.

## **11. Legal Considerations**

- 11.1. In exercising its functions an authority must have due regard to the need to: eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Equality Act and advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

## **12. Recommendations**

- 12.1. That approval be given by the Executive Member for Adult Social Care to award the following grants:
- i) To award an amount of £113,500 to Community First as part of the Adult Services Partnership Grant – Information and Advice Grant for the period of one year between 1 October 2016 and 30 September 2017.
  - ii) To award an amount of £85,515 to Solent Mind as part of the Community Connectors Grant for the period of eighteen months between 1 October 2016 and 31 March 2018.

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

<b>Hampshire safer and more secure for all:</b>	yes
<b>Maximising well-being:</b>	yes
<b>Enhancing our quality of place:</b>	yes

**Other Significant Links**

<b>Links to previous Member decisions:</b>		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Date</u>
Adult Services Grant Programme	7183	18 January 2016
Supportive Communities Programme Partnership Grants	7644	20 July 2016
<b>Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives</b>		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>	

**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.)

<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

## **IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:**

### **1. Equality Duty**

1.1. The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act;
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

**Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:**

- a) The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant characteristic connected to that characteristic;
- b) Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- c) Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

### **1.2. Equalities Impact Assessment:**

#### **Purpose for project/proposal**

The purpose of this Equality Impact Assessment is to consider whether changes to the Adult Services grant programme in 2016/17 will have an impact on the voluntary sector organisations recommended for grant funding in 2015/16.

In 2016/17 there has been an increase to the programme budget, and the changes proposed ensure that grants programme follows an outcome focused approach through three grants streams:

- Longer term grant funding for Hampshire wide, umbrella and infrastructure organisations, beyond the current one year ceiling
- Developing a small grants pot administered by the voluntary sector
- Short term grants to enable innovation and time limited projects

As part of this approach grants from the Adult Service Partnership Fund – Information and Advice, and Community Connectors Grant will be awarded to identified voluntary and community organisations.

## Consultation

Has a consultation been carried out? No

In September 2015 Adult Services wrote to all organisations who received a grant award from the Adult Services Main Grant programme in 2015/16, informing them of the review of the grant programme, reminding them that their current funding was for that year only with no expectation of future funding, but also asking them to contact Adult Services if they had any concerns about the impact of these changes. Furthermore, organisations who had been awarded a grant of £10,000 or more in 2015/16 were invited to meet with Adult Services between September and November to discuss their sustainability, including exploring the likely impact of both the new approach and delay in awarding grants in 2016/17, and to be directed to alternative sources of funding. Adult Services has also held workshops to discuss the new approach to which all organisations who were awarded funding in 2015/16 were invited. The first round of these workshops were held in late September and early October 2015, with the second round of workshops being held in late November and early December 2015. A further workshop was held at the end of January 2016. In mid March 2016 and Early April 2016 organisations were invited partnership workshops

## Statutory considerations

### Impact

Age	Low
Disability	Low
Sexual orientation	Low
Race	Low
Religion and belief	None
Gender reassignment	Low
Sex	None
Marriage and civil partnership	None
Pregnancy and maternity	None
Other policy considerations	
Poverty	Low
Rurality	None
Other factors	None

If other please describe

Geographical impact All Hampshire

Have you identified any medium or high impact?\* Yes No

### Why do you consider that your project/proposal will have low or no impact?

The proposal that has been made will have a low impact for the Adult Services Grant Programme, as all applications which were agreed in the 2015-16 round will either:

- Have the opportunity to apply for funding through the Valuing Hampshire Communities fund established in April 2016;
- Will have the opportunity to apply in further Adult Services grant rounds in 2016-17;

- Have the opportunity to apply for funding through the Solent Community Grant Programme, to support any work they undertake to help individuals to move closer or into employment.
- Have identified, or have been directed towards, alternative sources of funding.

The establishment in April 2016 of the small grants pot, named Valuing Hampshire Communities, and administered by Hampshire and Isle of Wight Community Foundation, has increased the visibility to voluntary sector organisations who have not previously applied for a grant from Adult Services, whilst still enabling organisations who have applied in previous years to apply. In administering the grant pot Hampshire and Isle of Wight Community Foundation will also provide support to organisations who are unsuccessful with their application, including sign-posting to alternative sources of funding. The Solent Community Grant Programme will also provide another opportunity for organisations to be awarded funds, to support in any work they undertake to help individuals to move closer or into employment. Adult services plan to hold further grant rounds in 2016-17, that will provide further opportunity for projects to be awarded funding.

The organisations recommended for funding provide services across the whole of the county, or specifically provide access to mainstream services for marginalised groups identified in the Equality Act 2010. This funding should have a positive impact on older people and people with disabilities, developing and improving activities and projects in local communities, promoting choice and community engagement and reducing social exclusion, isolation and loneliness.

## **2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:**

The County Council has a legal obligation under Section 7 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 the proposal impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?

The Adult Services Grant Programme proposes 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?

The proposal recognises the need to adapt to climate change and issues will be addressed throughout the period of the grant award through the monitoring of outcomes.

## Adult Services Partnership Fund – Information and Advice

Lead Organisation	Other Organisations	Area Served	Project/Service	Target Client Group	Expected Number of People Supported	New/Existing Activity	Recommended award 1 October 2016 – 30 September 2017
Community First	Age Concern Hampshire; Winchester, Havant and East Hampshire Citizen Advice Bureaux; Autism Hampshire	County-wide	Wellbeing Advice Service	Long term conditions, Autism	28,000	Will Support Existing Activity, But with new activity to facilitate a common 'front door'	£113,500
<b>Amount to be awarded:</b>							<b>£113,500</b>

## Community Connectors Grant

Lead Organisation	Area Served	Project/Service	Target Client Group	Expected Number of People Supported	New/Existing Activity	Recommended award 1 October 2016 – 31 March 2018
Solent Mind	Fareham, Gosport, New Forest	Citizen Connectors for Wellbeing and Participation	Mental health, Learning Disability, Long Term Conditions, Carers	900	New	£85,515
<b>Amount to be awarded:</b>						<b>£85,515</b>