



FOR PUBLICATION

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT CARE

12 January 2023

Report of the Executive Director - Adult Social Care and Health

Interim Grant for Social Activity
(Cabinet Member for Adult Care)

1. Divisions Affected

Bolsover, Chesterfield, Erewash, High Peak, North-East Derbyshire, South Derbyshire

2. Key Decision

- 2.1 This is a key decision because it is likely to be significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more electoral areas in the County.

3. Purpose

- 3.1 To request Cabinet Member approval to:
- Provide grant funds to the six organisations listed in paragraph 1.2 of Appendix 1 that currently provide activity preventing social isolation, for a period of up to 1 year from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 as set out in this report. The total sum being funded through these grants is £71,405.
 - Provide grant funds to the two organisations listed in paragraph 1.2 of Appendix 1 that currently provide activity preventing social isolation, for a period of up to 6 months from 1 April 2023 to 30th September 2023 as set out in this report. The total sum being funded through these grants is £5,784.

4. Information and Analysis

4.1 On 28 July 2022, Cabinet considered the findings of the consultation on the voluntary sector grants review proposals and approved recommendations as follows:

- The Council adopts the principle of no longer supporting the award of grant funding to any organisation in the future without a fixed or scheduled end date (save for in exceptional circumstances).
- The Council will commission identified activity where appropriate.
- Agree the criteria for grant reviews, to be used in assessments which will determine whether funding should be secured in the future through commissioning.

4.2 Adult Care have been paying six organisations an annual grant for several years, over which time we have seen many changes in departmental structures, which in turn has created gaps, duplication and an inequitable allocation of grant funding across the County.

As part of the Voluntary Sector Grants Review, these six organisations have been identified as delivering similar activity and will therefore be considered together to facilitate a coherent review current provision and future requirements.

4.3 According to Collins Dictionary (Harper Collins Publishers) a lunch club is:

1. *social welfare*

(in Britain) an arrangement or organisation for serving hot midday meals for a small charge to old people in clubs or daycentres

2. a society or group of people who meet regularly for an organised lunch

(<https://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/luncheon-club>)

Adult Care support the luncheon club as attendance:

- Helps improve confidence to maintain independence
- Provides companionship and support
- Provides accessible, low level support to meet social needs and reduce loneliness

4.4 Adult Care has a ringfenced grant of £18,000 for luncheon clubs, older peoples clubs and clubs for disabled people (referred to as the luncheon club grant fund). There is an annual application process and

around 90 clubs are supported with a small grant. Our contribution can be used for expenditure on rent and rates, heating and lighting, cleaning and caretaking, renewal of equipment and transport to and from club meetings. It cannot be used for club outings.

The maximum amount of the grant is dependent on how often the club is open.

The maximum amounts payable during the current financial year are:

- clubs open full time £369
- clubs open 3 days per week £219
- clubs open less than 3 days per week £110

[Grants to luncheon clubs, older peoples clubs and clubs for disabled people - Derbyshire County Council](#)

The majority of clubs receive £110 a year, three £219 and three are receiving £369. There is usually a surplus amount left in the budget and there has not been any review of the annual funding for a number of years.

- 4.5 In addition to the above, Adult Care have been paying five clubs a recurring grant for several years. These are legacies of past departmental structures and budgets. Some were given for additional transport costs and others as locality grants. This creates an unfair allocation of funds across the County.

Three of these clubs have not reopened after the pandemic lockdown and have stated that they do not intend to do so.

Two of these clubs have reopened and continue to support local residents. However, they receive significantly more than other luncheon clubs and one of them employs a cook twice a week, when other clubs are completely dependent on volunteers.

As part of the Voluntary Sector Grants Review, these organisations have been themed as delivering a similar service to facilitate a coherent review of current provision and future requirements.

- 4.6 According to the Derbyshire Observatory, 22% of the Derbyshire population is 65 years old and over, 175,000 individuals from this cohort living within Derbyshire in 2019, comprising 22% of the population. This is significantly lower than the England and Wales proportion. These estimates indicate that Amber Valley has the largest over 65+ population (28,192), followed by Erewash (23,074) and Chesterfield

(22,029). However, Derbyshire Dales locality has the largest % of residents over 65+(26%) when comparing its overall population.

- 4.7 Social isolation has been highlighted as a cause of ill health and more so since the Covid 19 pandemic, with several publications, including the Local Government Association 'Must Know-Loneliness-Is your council actively tackling loneliness' December 21 evidencing the need. 'One of the highest risk factors for experiencing loneliness is age. Around half of people aged 75 or over live alone; 17 per cent are in contact with family, friends and neighbors less than once a week, and for 11 per cent it is less than once a month. Associated risk factors in old age are low income, poor physical or mental health, and living alone in isolated rural areas or in deprived urban communities.'

5. Consultation

- 5.1 Not required

6. Alternative Options Considered

- 6.1 The Council could do nothing and allow the current grant to end on 31 March 2023. This would impact those organisations currently delivering the social activity and potentially leave some vulnerable people without support. By making an interim fixed term grant this would ensure continuity of service until alternative arrangements are put in place.

7. Implications

- 7.1 Appendix 1 sets out the relevant implications considered in the preparation of the report.

8. Background Papers

- 8.1 Report to Cabinet - Voluntary and Community Sector Review 30 July 2020
- 8.2 Report to Cabinet – Voluntary and Community Sector Review 29 July 2021
- 8.3 Report to Cabinet – Voluntary and Community Sector Review 6 December 2021
- 8.4 Report to Cabinet – Voluntary and Community Sector Review 28 July 2022
- 8.5 Report to Corporate Management Team – Voluntary and Community Sector Grants Review and Infrastructure Provision Update 15 November 2022

9. Appendices

9.1 Appendix 1 – Implications

10. Recommendation(s)

That the Cabinet Member approves

- a) the provision of grants totalling £71,405 to the six organisations listed in paragraph 1.2 of Appendix 1 that currently provide social activity for a period of up to 1 year from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 as set out in this report.
- b) the provision of grants totalling £5,784 to the two organisations listed in paragraph 1.2 of Appendix 1 that currently provide social activity for a period of up to 6 months from 1 April 2023 to 30 September 2023 as set out in this report.

11. Reasons for Recommendation(s)

- 11.1 The assessments completed for the social activity, determined that future funding should be secured through a commissioning process. The commissioning process will not be in place by 1 April 2023. The interim grants proposed in this report align to agreed grant policies and processes and will bridge any gap between the current provision and future commissioning pathways to ensure continuity of service whilst commissioning plans are executed. In addition, the continued award of these grants will allow time for a fair and robust competitive application process to be put in place by no later than 31 December 2023, for funding to be made available from 1 April 2024.

12. Is it necessary to waive the call in period?

- 12.1 No

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Implications**Financial**

1.1 The revenue budget for 22/23 and 23/34 covers the annual grant funding set out in the Table below at Paragraph 1.2. However, the budget is expected to vire from Adult Care to Public Health for future funding. As commissioning plans are executed there is likely to be a resource saving on commissioning staff time.

1.2 Grant funding table

Social Activity to prevent Isolation	Reason for interim grant	6 months	12 months
African Caribbean Community Association	Social activity, befriending and lunchclubs. Is there an identified need for a specific BME service? Support until alternative funding streams in place.		20,282
Borrowbrook Homelink	Social activity, befriending and lunchclubs. Support until alternative funding streams in place.		2,800
Mencap Swadlincote Gateway Club	Social activity for adults with LD. Support until alternative funding streams in place.		2,675
The Bureau (Volunteer Centre Glossop)	Social activity with an opportunity for chaperoned shopping. Support until alternative funding stream in place.		21,936
Connex Community Support	Car scheme. Transport department working through procurement of Active Travel, continue to support until outcome known		16,306
South Derbyshire CVS	Car scheme. Transport department working through procurement of Active Travel, continue to support until outcome known		7,406
Barlborough Darby and Joan Luncheon Club	Grant fund for 6 months to allow revised 'luncheon club' grant funding to be established. The remaining 6 months to be added to the 'luncheon clubs fund'	784	
Stanley Common Lunch Club	Grant fund for 6 months to allow revised 'luncheon club' grant funding to be established. The	5,000	

	remaining 6 months to be added to the 'luncheon clubs fund'		
Total Amount		5,784	71,405
Grand Total			77,189

Legal

- 2.1 The Council has power to provide grants to voluntary and community sector organisations under the general power of competence set out in section 1 of the Localism Act 2011.
- 2.2 The Council's Financial Regulations state that grants below £0.100m require Cabinet Member authorisation.
- 2.3 The Council's standard grant agreement shall be used to set out the terms and conditions for which the grant is made. This includes conditions for clawback of funding in certain circumstances and states that the Council is not liable for any employment liabilities.

Human Resources

- 3.1 The voluntary and community sector organisations currently funded by the Council as part of this report are independent of the County Council and therefore there are no human resources considerations.

As funding is redesigned or withdrawn, then there could be a specific HR impact on the individual organisations which were fully ascertained through the review process. There may also be structural and resourcing implications for internal services which will be fully scoped as commissioning plans progress.

Information Technology

- 4.1 There are no Information Technology considerations associated with this report.

Equalities Impact

- 5.1 An EIA has been completed from formal consultation feedback.

The analysis indicates that the majority of grants under review are within the Adult Social Care department, and therefore, are related to activities which involve older people or those with a disability.

Funding relates to this protected characteristic in three different ways:

- Funding provides activities specifically to fulfil duties regarding this protected characteristic
- Funding provides activities which target people older people or those with a disability
- Funding provides activities which appeal to a particular age group or those with a disability.

Where grants are commissioned, the Council believes that this would have a positive effect through providing a more stable funding platform by which organisations can grow and enhance their offer.

Where funding is proposed to be thematically redesigned, it is anticipated that this would have an overall beneficial impact on Derbyshire residents as it would put in place a longer term funding approach and emphasis on better outcomes with the funding provided.

The consultation confirmed that many organisations would have to stop this activity if funding was withdrawn. Therefore, as commissioning plans are executed, individual exit plans for the organisations affected to manage the potential loss of grant funding or for the preparation of commissioning arrangements. This would also ensure individual beneficiaries impacted are supported through any transition.

With any change, it is anticipated that regardless of the outcome, there will be a level of anxiety in respect of the recommissioning of funding, especially as some of these groups have been long standing and provide activities to vulnerable groups. The Council will work closely with organisations ensure that plans and timeframes are clear and any transitions can be managed as effectively as possible.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 6.1 By making an interim grant this will assist those organisations to retain staff, who otherwise may begin to look for alternative employment. This would ensure continuity of service for those people supported which in turn would reduce dependency on other services. As it is expected to have longer term funding arrangements in place in the new process, this will assist with staff retention for those providers who might be successful with obtaining funds via the new process.

Other (for example, Health and Safety, Environmental Sustainability, Property and Asset Management, Risk Management and Safeguarding)

- 7.1 In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: human resources, health, environmental, transport, and crime and disorder considerations.