



FOR PUBLICATION

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

Thursday, 25 July 2024

Report of the Executive Director - Adult Social Care and Health

Administration of the Central Government Accelerating Reform Fund Grant

(Cabinet Member for Adult Care)

1. Divisions Affected

1.1 County-wide

2. Key Decision

2.1 This is not a Key Decision

3. Purpose

3.1 To seek Cabinet approval to pay a grant of £546,000 from the Accelerating Reform Fund grant to Derbyshire Carers Association.

4. Information and Analysis

4.1 The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) announced the Accelerating Reform Fund (ARF) in October 2023, to support innovation and boost the quality and accessibility of adult social care, with a focus on unpaid carers.

4.2 To receive ARF funding, Local Authorities (LAs) were asked to form a consortium with the other LAs in their Integrated Care System (ICS) geography and register by 12 January 2024. Following a successful expression of interest, Derbyshire County Council accepted the ARF on

behalf of both ICS Councils, to disburse the grant as per the DHSC Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) appended to this report.

4.3 Derbyshire County Council will work jointly with Derby City Council, the NHS, voluntary/system partners and unpaid carers, on the projects approved for funding. The Derbyshire consortium is leading on:

- ARF Priority 7: ways to conduct effective carer's assessments with a focus on measuring outcomes and collaboration.
- ARF Priority 8: services that reach out to, and involve, unpaid carers through the hospital discharge process.

4.4 The outline funding allocation is detailed below

ARF grant distribution	Value (£M)
Derbyshire County Council lead authority management fee and project delivery costs	0.144
Derbyshire consortium projects	0.546
Derby City consortium projects	0.215
Total	0.905

4.5 Proposed distribution mechanism

4.6 The next stage is to co-produce and finalise project management, with discussions having taken place with Derby City Council to ensure that appropriate governance processes are followed to support each project, all of which will be shared with DHSC.

4.7 Mobilisation of projects will take place following release of ARF monies, and it is proposed that Derbyshire Carers Association, who are currently contracted to support unpaid carers, lead the Derbyshire consortium projects and administer further monies to ICS partners (to be determined with Council approval) that support the project proposals.

4.8 It is therefore recommended that the sum of £546,000 is paid to Derbyshire Carers Association from Derbyshire County Council's share of the ARF grant funding. This option would make the most of existing processes and systems to effectively deliver both projects and would add benefits in terms of minimising the administration costs incurred as part of the ARF distribution to the ICS.

4.9 The use of the ARF will be kept under close review to enable the Council to take a flexible and pragmatic approach to administering the

funds and taking into consideration any other factors revealed through the projects.

5. Consultation

5.1 Not required.

6. Alternative Options Considered

- 6.1 Option 1: Vary the current contract held with Derbyshire Carers Association. This is not a viable option under UK Procurement regulations.
- 6.2 Option 2: Carry out a competitive tendering exercise. This would require additional time and Council resource to administer, limit flexibility to adjust budgets and activity across the life of the projects and could result in loss of activity and expertise. There would also be insufficient time for the Council to carry out the necessary steps to meet the DHSC mid-point reporting timescale to release the second tranche of funding.
- 6.3 Option 3: The Council administer the grant. The ARF is designed to be disseminated across the ICS Health and Wellbeing Alliance, which would be a more costly, administrative exercise for the Council to set up and maintain and distract from core organisational aims.

7. Implications

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

8. Background Papers

- 8.1 Memorandum of Understanding between the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care and Derbyshire County Council, for the Provision of Adult Social Care Accelerating Reform Fund 23 February 2024

9. Appendices

9.1 Appendix 1 – Implications

10. Recommendation(s)

That Cabinet:

Approves the proposal to pay a grant of £546,000, from the Accelerating Reform Fund grant to Derbyshire Carers Association.

11. Reasons for Recommendation(s)

11.1 Derbyshire Carers Association are the current Provider of the Derbyshire all age carer support service and will therefore utilise the grant to interconnect and add value to other carer related programmes of work. This will reduce duplication, expedite and create efficiency/savings opportunities that will deliver greater return on the ARF investment.

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

12.1 No

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Implications

Financial

- 1.1 ARF brings a total of £0.905M to the ICS footprint made up of £0.215M for Derby City Council and £0.546M for Derbyshire County Council projects, as well as lead authority management and project delivery costs of £0.144M. There will be no call on existing or future funding, as all projects are expected to be sustainable beyond the lifetime of ARF funding.
- 1.2 On behalf of the ICS, Derbyshire County Council received £0.449M in March 2024, with a further £0.456M expected in August 2024. Whilst the funding is available in 2023/24 and 2024/25, it has been issued as a non-ringfenced grant and therefore there is flexibility to roll over funding into 2025/26. The ARF has been paid under section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003.
- 1.3 The proposed grant payment to the Derbyshire Carers Association will be covered by a grant agreement setting out the need for an agreed financial plan for each of the priorities and appropriate monitoring and reporting of the financial and non-financial benefits of any associated projects. This will also cover the need to maintain separate internal financial reporting on the use of the grant to allow for its final certification by the Chief Executive.

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 in excess of £100,000 require Cabinet authorisation.
- 2.3 The Council's standard grant agreement shall be used to set out the terms and conditions for which the grants are made, which provides for clawback of funding in certain circumstances and shall also provide that the Council is not liable for any employment liabilities.

Human Resources

- 3.1 There are no direct HR implications arising from the contents of the report.

Information Technology

4.1 No additional ICT implications arising from the contents of the report.

Equalities Impact

5.1 No implications on equalities

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

6.1 The recommendation supports the Council Plan measure of increasing the number of carers accessing support services.

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

7.1 No other specific implications are present, but the delivery of the project work will be managed in accordance with normal procedures where risks and mitigations will be catalogued and applied as the projects progress.