

CABINET MEETING – 12 MARCH 2014
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET – PART I

Title of Report:

People Services – Adult Social Care Grant Assistance Process

Author(s):

Executive Director of People Services

Purpose of Report:

The purpose of the report is to:

- To inform Cabinet of the proposals for the adult social care grant assistance process from 2015/16, seeking approval for the proposals and;
- To seek approval of the award of grant assistance funding to Third Sector organisations for 2014/15 for services that support adult social care priorities

Description of Decision:

To seek approval to the proposals for the adult social care grant assistance process for 2015 onwards and the funding proposed for 2014/15.

Is the decision consistent with the Budget/Policy Framework? Yes

If not, Council approval is required to change the Budget/Policy Framework

Suggested reason(s) for Decision:

The Directorate recognises the importance of supporting voluntary sector organisations to provide preventative community based support to people, with the ambition of preventing the need for statutory care support and services, whilst enabling people to be active citizens locally.

In order to support the continued transformation within adult social care, there is a requirement to continue working with voluntary organizations' as they play a vital role in our health and care system. They offer support to people at the most vulnerable points in their lives and help to build stronger relationships between services and the local community.

Voluntary organizations' bring expertise, which allows them to design and develop innovative solutions to the big challenges we face in health, public health and social care; creating community resilience.

The current grant assistance process has been set up to support the sustainability of voluntary sector organizations' or for the delivery of specific projects/services based on meeting broad adult social care outcomes. Whilst this process has been successfully operated for a number of years; there is a requirement to review how the voluntary sector are supported as the Directorate continues to implement the transformation required within adult social care.

To ensure the timeliness of the review, in line with the changes to the directorate and the implications of the Care Bill, there is a requirement to agree funding for the existing funded voluntary sector organizations' for 2014/15.

Alternative options to be considered and recommended to be rejected:

Do not provide grant assistance funding to Third Sector organisations in 2014/15 – this option has been considered and rejected as many of the organisations and projects/services that are currently funded may not be sustainable, at a time when the Council is looking to transform the provision of adult social care through better use of community services.

Impacts analysed:

Equality NA Privacy NA Sustainability X Crime and Disorder NA

Is this a "Key Decision" as defined in the Constitution? Yes

Is it included in the 28 Notice of Decisions? Yes

Scrutiny Committee

BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF PEOPLE SERVICES

**PEOPLE SERVICES – ADULT SOCIAL CARE GRANT ASSISTANCE
PROCESS**

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 The purpose of the report is:

- To inform Cabinet of the proposals for the adult social care grant assistance process from 2015/16, seeking approval for the proposals and;
- To seek approval of the award of grant assistance funding to Third Sector organisations for 2014/15 for services that support adult social care priorities

2. DESCRIPTION OF DECISION (RECOMMENDATIONS)

2.1 To seek approval to the proposals for the adult social care grant assistance process for 2015 onwards and the funding proposed for 2014/15.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The Directorate has provided annual grant assistance funding to the Third Sector to support adult social care priorities through an annual open competitive application, evaluation and award process. The process, in the main, has been used to fund the infrastructure costs of a number of larger Third Sector organisations in the City, along with a number of important services which are also funded through the process.

3.2 Whilst there has been a shift in commissioning via contractual arrangements to ensure public monies are accounted for through an open and transparent process, the Council recognises the benefits of commissioning voluntary sector organisations through the use of grants.

3.3 Grants provide the opportunity for voluntary organisations to test out innovative solutions to meet the outcomes required, without the parameters that are set through a contracted arrangement. When outcomes are commissioned via contracts, there are expectations that the monies provided will 'buy' the delivery of the outcome. Within grants, the organisation has the ability to be flexible with the use of the monies, meeting outcomes expected.

- 3.4 Grants are forms of financial assistance, which encourage organisations to undertake social care activities that would not normally be undertaken by the Council or arranged through the care management process.
- 3.5 Over the last 3 years, the overall budget for grant assistance has reduced in line with the efficiencies required and also a shift towards the use of contracts when deemed more appropriate. Over time this has resulted in fewer organisations receiving funding and fewer new smaller organisations being successful.
- 3.6 Whilst the annual process has been widely advertised amongst voluntary sector within Sunderland, the number of organisations applying has not risen significantly over the years and smaller community based organisations often do not have the infrastructure in place to meet the requirements of receiving a grant.
- 3.4 In 2013/14, 21 organisations received funding for either infrastructure costs which contribute to the running of the organisation or a range of different projects that are delivered on a citywide basis, these were:
- Action for Blind People
 - Action on Dementia
 - Age UK Sunderland
 - Alzheimer's Society
 - Bangladeshi Community Centre
 - Blue Sky Trust
 - Headway Wearside
 - Huntingdon's Disease Society
 - No Limits Theatre
 - Shopmobility
 - Soundwaves
 - Sunderland and North Durham Royal Society for the Blind
 - Sunderland Carers Centre
 - Sunderland Community Furniture Service
 - Sunderland Counselling Service
 - Sunderland Headlight
 - Sunderland Mind
 - Washington Mind
 - The Art Studio
 - WRVS Stroke Club
 - Vitalise (who received 3 year funding in 2012/13 up until the end of 2014/15 for the total value of £810)
- 3.5 In 2013/14, the total amount allocated to organisations through the grants process totalled £746,535 (excluding Vitalise).
- 3.6 8 organisations received joint funding through the process from the Council and the Clinical Commissioning Group, which is an

arrangement which has been developed to support the meeting of joint outcomes across health and social care

4. CURRENT POSITION AND WAY FORWARD

- 4.1 The Directorate recognises the importance of supporting voluntary sector organisations to provide preventative community based support to people, with the ambition of preventing the need for statutory care support and services, whilst enabling people to be active citizens locally.
- 4.2 In order to support the continued transformation within adult social care, there is a requirement to continue working with voluntary organizations' as they play a vital role in our health and care system. They offer support to people at the most vulnerable points in their lives and help to build stronger relationships between services and the local community.
- 4.3 Voluntary organizations' bring expertise, which allows them to design and develop innovative solutions to the big challenges we face in health, public health and social care; creating community resilience.
- 4.4 The annual grant assistance process in its current format needs to be reviewed, in order that it is fit for purpose in relation to supporting the voluntary organizations' and preventative community based support to ensure the ambition of the transformed adult social care journey becomes a reality.
- 4.5 Over the next 6 months, the review will look at how funding can be streamlined to ensure that it represents value for money and to avoid any unnecessary duplication of services. The Directorate will also identify the key support requirements for community based preventative services, in order that clarity is achieved on what is actually needed within Sunderland to meet the needs of communities to prevent requirements for ongoing social care services.
- 4.6 In order to implement the changes of the review of grant assistance in 2015/16, there is a requirement to fund existing organisations for 2014/15, as this will see the end of the annual grant assistance process in its current format. Without funding, a number of projects and organisations would not be sustainable, which would destabilise the voluntary sector market at a time when we are looking to utilise the organisations in a more targeted and coordinated manner. It is also worth noting that grant funding is often successfully used as a lever to bring in additional funds to the sector
- 4.7 Therefore, it is recommended that the organisations outlined in Appendix 1 are funded within 2014/15. It is proposed that the organisations are funded on a quarterly basis, with a grant monitoring meeting held at the end of each quarter, which would allow for changes

to be made throughout the review. This is particularly applicable to the Direct Payment Support Service, which will only be grant funded for 3 months as a competitive procurement exercise commenced in February 2014. Each grant award also involves clear targets and contributions expected towards achieving the desired outcomes for adult social care.

5. REASONS FOR THE DECISION

- 5.1 The current grant assistance process has been set up to support the sustainability of voluntary sector organizations' or for the delivery of specific projects/services based on meeting broad adult social care outcomes. Whilst this process has been successfully operated for a number of years; there is a requirement to review how the voluntary sector are supported as the Directorate continues to implement the transformation required within adult social care.
- 5.2 To ensure the timeliness of the review, in line with the changes to the directorate and the implications of the Care Bill, there is a requirement to agree funding for the existing funded voluntary sector organizations' for 2014/15.

6. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 6.1 Do not provide grant assistance funding to Third Sector organisations in 2014/15 and do not change the grant assistance process – this option has been considered and rejected as many of the organisations and projects/services that are currently funded may not be sustainable, at a time when the Council is looking to transform the provision of adult social care through better use of community services.

7. IMPACT ANALYSIS

Financial Implications/Sunderland Way of Working

The Principle Accountant for People's Service Directorate has been consulted on the decision to award grant assistance in 2014/15 and has confirmed that the funding is available within the Directorate's baseline budget.

Sustainability

A Sustainability Impact Analysis has been undertaken and no issues were identified.

8. OTHER RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS / CONSULTATIONS

None

9. LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Proposed Funding to Voluntary Sector Organisations

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

Appendix 1

Organisation	Project	Proposed Annual Allocation
Action for Blind	Eye Clinic Liaison Service	£ 5,844.00
Action on Dementia	Memory Café	£ 15,552.00
Age UK	Preventative Services - Lunch Clubs, Telephone Companionship Service, Core Costs, Friendly Faces	£ 131,485.00
Age UK	50+ Forums	£ 9,175.00
Age UK	Hospital Discharge	£ 50,895.00
Alzheimer's Society	Befriending Service	£ 25,394.00
Alzheimer's Society	Dementia Support	£ 25,394.00
Bangladeshi Centre	For all your needs	£ 15,660.00
Blue Sky Trust	Peer Support Service	£ 3,535.20
Headway Wearside	Core Costs	£ 21,142.00
Huntington's Disease Association	Regional Care Advisory Service	£ 3,535.20
No Limits	Core Costs	£ 45,000.00
Shopmobility	Core Costs	£ 19,396.00
Soundwaves	Core Costs	£ 4,698.00
Sunderland and North Royal Society for the Blind	Core Costs	£ 5,233.00
Sunderland Carers Centre	Core Costs	£ 103,000.00
Sunderland Community Furniture Service	Day Care Service	£ 6,300.00
Sunderland Counselling Service	Core Costs	£ 32,625.00
Sunderland Headlight	Core Costs	£ 15,660.00
Sunderland Mind	Core Costs	£ 27,400.00
The Art Studio	Core Costs	£ 29,685.00
Washington Mind	Core Costs	£ 33,670.00
WRVS	Stroke Club	£ 4,500.00
Age UK	Go Direct, Direct Payments Support Service	£ 30,312.51 3 months only
		£ 665,090.91