



REPORT TO: Grants Advisory Committee

27/07/2023

LEAD CABINET MEMBER: Cllr John Williams

LEAD OFFICER: Gareth Bell

Care Together Seed Funding for Mobile and Community Warden Schemes

Executive Summary

1. On 30 June 2023 the Grants Advisory Committee reviewed the Care Together Seed Funding proposal for Mobile Warden Schemes as detailed in [agenda item 6](#) of the meeting reports pack.
2. A decision was made to accept the recommendation of the Grants Advisory Committee to administer a direct grant of £7,500 to Melbourn Mobile Warden Scheme (MMWS) for taking over the management of the Harston & District Village Warden Trust (HVWT).
3. The decision to administer the remaining £21,000 through a one-off grant scheme was deferred, pending the creation of alternative options to increase awareness of the schemes and promote the services offered, the aim being to increase numbers of service users and ensure the continuation of face-to-face visits at a reasonable cost.
4. Following discussion with Cambridgeshire County Council where alternative options were explored, Grants Advisory Committee (GAC) is asked to make a recommendation to the Lead Member for Resources for the funding to be used as originally proposed at the June 2023 GAC through the administration a one-off grant fund for Mobile Warden Schemes in South Cambridgeshire.
5. The purpose behind the funding from Cambridgeshire County Council is to enable individual schemes to seek innovative ways to promote and expand their service at a very local level and the criteria for the funding has been adapted with this in mind.
6. Officers at this Council (and in the Care Together team) will continue to play a role in promoting and supporting schemes (with training opportunities, for example) and, where appropriate, will facilitate opportunities for district-wide promotion and discussion with other potential funders of the schemes.

Key Decision

7. No. This is not a key decision because it relates to external funding and does not impact on the expenditure within the 2023-2024 budget for this Council.

Recommendations

8. It is recommended that the Grants Advisory Committee makes a recommendation to the Lead Member for Resources to approve the allocation of £21,000 of Care Together Seed Funding, in accordance with the grant funding agreement in place with Cambridgeshire County Council, to create of a one-off grant scheme administered by SCDC, with adapted criteria as proposed in **Appendix A**.

Reasons for Recommendations

9. This funding, known as 'Seed Funding', is part of Cambridgeshire County Council's Care Together Programme, which was approved by the Adult Social Care Community Board on 6 April 2023. Its key objective is to support older adults to live independently in their own homes for longer.
10. Following the June meeting of Grants Advisory Committee, officers met with the lead officer for the Cambridgeshire County Council Care Together team. Alternative options for the use of the £21,000 funding were discussed, including an option to co-ordinate promotion centrally without the need to run a grant scheme. Since Cambridgeshire County Council intends this particular fund to reach individual organisations and for them to seek innovative ways to promote their schemes, it was agreed to return to Grants Advisory committee with a recommendation to run the grant scheme as proposed but with some amendments to the criteria to provide examples of alternative methods of promotion. For example, the option to fund wardens to hold a number of outreach sessions and coffee mornings to attract potential clients.
11. SCDC officers are already working to update flyers for the promotion of all Community Warden Schemes, and to increase promotion to those organisations with a direct link to elderly people. For example, the Council's Service Support Grant recipients, Community transport schemes, Social Prescribers, GP's, Primary Care Networks, the Home Improvement Agency, as well as through the Council's visiting support team, lifeline service and the sheltered housing team. An online toolkit for the setting up of new schemes is also currently being developed.
12. The Council is also currently working with an independent organisation to evaluate the social value and costs that could be avoided in other parts of the health and social care system by providing Mobile Warden Schemes. Results of this evaluation will hopefully also provide further insights on how schemes can increase numbers of service users.
13. SCDC officers will be able to attend any Warden-led sessions that are funded through the grant, as well as provide pre-application advice.

14. Enabling older and/or vulnerable people to have greater access to a local warden scheme is a key priority of this Council's Business Plan 2019-2024. This priority is aligned to the predicted high growth in the over 65-year-old population over the next 20 years. It recognises that with age comes increased risk of deteriorating physical and mental health, including feelings of loneliness and isolation, as well as a desire on the part of the majority of older people to live independently in their own homes.
15. To provide this financial support would help Cambridgeshire County Council and SCDC align to two of the priorities outlined by the Integrated Care System Health Strategy published in December 2022:
- Creating an environment to give people the opportunities to be as healthy as they can be
 - Promoting early intervention and prevention measures to improve mental health and wellbeing.
16. Almost all Mobile and Community Warden Schemes have felt an impact on client numbers following the Covid pandemic and as a result of the current cost of living crisis. This has, in many cases, adversely affected their finances. Additional funding of this nature would help to ensure the sustainability of the schemes at a reasonable cost to the client.

Details

General

17. Mobile Warden Schemes were developed in recognition that there was a need to provide a service to support and take care of older, more vulnerable members of society. Schemes within some parishes of South Cambridgeshire have been in existence for over 20 years.
18. Currently there are 19 funded schemes covering 50 parishes across the district; 13 are run by Age UK and 6 are independent community schemes (5 are charities and 1 is run by the Parish Council). Some schemes operate to support one parish whereas others provide support to multiple parishes.
19. As has been the case when SCDC has allocated its own Mobile Warden Scheme grants, it is recommended that grant awards take the following into account:
- The amount of grant funding requested.
 - The fees charged to the client.
 - The number of clients supported in the previous year.
 - Income and expenditure for the previous year.
 - The financial position of the scheme.
20. Proposed Timeline for grant scheme is as follows:
- Scheme launch and applications open - 7 August 2023
 - Application deadline - 5pm, 31 August 2023
 - Applications reviewed by officers and recommendations brought to September GAC (see draft application/criteria in Appendix A)

- Grants paid – as soon as possible after 7 October 2023
- Schemes have from October 2023 to 31 April 2024 to spend their grant
- End of Project Reports to be received by the end of June 2024

21. The proposed grant fund, as administered by SCDC, is detailed in **Appendix A**. Applicants can bid for up to £2,000 but will need to demonstrate a genuine need for funding and an intention to expand and promote.

22. Any unspent funds will be returned to Cambridgeshire County Council's Care Together team.

Options

23. The GAC may:

- agree to recommend to the Lead Cabinet Member for Resources, the allocation of £21,000 of Cambridgeshire County Council Care Together Seed Funding through a one-off grant scheme administered by SCDC, with updated criteria as proposed in **Appendix A**.
- agree to recommend to the Lead Cabinet Member for Resources, the allocation of £21,000 of Cambridgeshire County Council Care Together Seed Funding as presented, with alterations to the criteria at **Appendix A**, to be specified.
- Defer a decision if further information is required
- Reject the proposal and not recommend it to the Lead Cabinet Member for Resources, stating the reason for this.

Implications

24. In the writing of this report, taking into account financial, legal, staffing, risk, equality and diversity, climate change, and any other key issues, the following implications have been considered:-

Legal

25. An agreement is in place with Cambridgeshire County Council for the management of the total £28,500 fund (£7,500 of which was allocated at the June GAC meeting and is subject to a grant agreement). Agreements will be put in place with all grant recipients, which should be followed should a variation or discontinuation of funding be proposed and agreed.

Alignment with Council Priority Areas

A modern and caring Council

Ensure that South Cambridgeshire continues to offer an outstanding quality of life for our residents: the grant programmes promote a good quality of life for all residents, assisting directly or indirectly through voluntary organisations schemes which help overcome the challenges faced by residents imposed by age, infirmity, disability, low income or rurality.

Appendices

Appendix A: Care Together Seed Fund criteria

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