

REPORT TO: Grants Advisory Committee 24 August 2023

LEAD CABINET MEMBER: Councillor John Williams, Lead Cabinet Member for Resources

LEAD OFFICER: Jeff Membery, Head of Transformation, HR and Corporate Services

Grant applications for voluntary sector and specialist groups to offer physical activity programmes for people with chronic long-term conditions

Executive Summary

1. The purpose of this paper is to present grant applications from the Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise Sector (VCSE) and Leisure Centre groups offering physical activity programmes to support people living with chronic long-term conditions (LTCs). This is following a report to Grant Advisory Committee (GAC) in May 2023. Officers have outlined their recommendations for GAC to consider in making their own recommendations regarding grant awards to the Lead Member for Resources.

Key Decision

2. Is this a Key Decision? – No.

Recommendations

3. It is recommended that the Grants Advisory Committee considers all applications for funding that are set out in Appendix A to this report and makes a recommendation to the Lead Cabinet Member. The Committee could defer a decision if further information is required. Alternatively, they could reject an application if it doesn't comply with the scheme criteria.

Reasons for Recommendations

4. The Grants Advisory Committee's role is to consider and make recommendations to the Lead Cabinet Member responsible for Resources, or Cabinet as appropriate, including, but not limited to:
 - a) Reviewing the Council's grant schemes to ensure they reflect Council priorities.
 - b) Designing any new or revised grant schemes, including consideration of criteria and guidance applicable in respect of each scheme.
 - c) Considering applications made under the Council's grant schemes.

Details

5. The LTC grant scheme was created to support the ongoing delivery of physical activity programmes for those living with chronic, long-term conditions e.g. Parkinson's, Cardiac, Stroke, Cancer pre/rehabilitation and Type 2 Diabetes.
6. These programmes offer condition-specific activity to help people manage their condition on a day-to-day basis and provide peer support for individuals and carers to help improve quality of life, through better management of the condition and their mental health.
7. VCSEs, specialist groups and leisure centres were invited to apply for sums up to £2,000 with the objective that their proposal or project must deliver one or more of the following:
 - i. Re-start/establish any classes/session/activity that stopped because of the covid pandemic.
 - ii. Start a new class/session/activity.
 - iii. Maintain an existing programme of class/session/activities where the need for additional funding can be demonstrated.
 - iv. Train existing and new staff to deliver classes/sessions/activities as per aim i, ii or iii above.
8. A full list of applications and their proposals can be found in the table in Appendix A.
9. Guidance notes and eligibility criteria can be found in Appendix B.
10. The total amount of funding available is £13,000
11. Thirteen applications were received, totalling **£20,157.10**
12. 10 applications were considered eligible and suitable to receive funding from this scheme, totalling £13,000. Officers have scored the applications against each of the objectives. A summary of the proposal together with officer comments and summaries can be found in Appendix A.
13. The panel was made up of 3 council officers, using a tried and tested scoring matrix to assess the application against the aims and objectives of the fund. Weightings were applied as follows:

- 40% weighting applied to how well the proposal met the objectives of the scheme
- 35% weighting applied to how well applications described the benefits to participants of their scheme
- 25% weighting applied to the outline proposals to promote their activities.

Options

14. The Grants Advisory Committee should consider each application for funding as set out in Appendix A to this report. The Committee could then make a recommendation to the Lead Cabinet Member for Resources to award funding in line with officer recommendations, or different amounts (including zero funding) giving reasons. The Committee could also defer a decision, if further information is required from the applicant.

Implications

15. There are no significant implications.

Risks/Opportunities

16. Applicants are required to provide supporting documents including copies of their constitution, financial accounts and quotes where applicable. Applicants must agree to the grant conditions before funds are released.

Consultation responses

17. There has been engagement with Council officers and voluntary community and social enterprise organisations and leisure centres as appropriate.

Effect on Council Priority Areas

18. The proposal supports the investment and growth in local voluntary sector organisations, specialist groups and leisure providers; providing volunteering opportunities, job security and growth in an area of the economy which has taken longer to recover since the covid pandemic, and which is susceptible to further negative impacts resulting from increased energy costs incurred by the leisure sector and the cost-of-living squeeze on personal budgets.

Background Papers

Grants Advisory Committee Meeting on 26/05/2023. [LTC Grant Proposal May 2023.pdf \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

Appendices

Appendix A: Officer panel scores

Appendix B: Application criteria and scoring matrix

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