

<b>Report to:</b>	Grants Advisory Committee	26 May 2023
<b>Lead Cabinet Member:</b>	Cllr Bill Handley	
<b>Lead Officer:</b>	Jeff Membery	

## Grant Funding for Health Condition Specific Activity Programmes

### Executive Summary

1. Grants Advisory Committee is asked to make a recommendation to the Lead Member for Resources regarding the creation of a grant fund to the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector (VCSE), and Leisure Centres offering physical activity programmes to support people living with chronic long-term conditions, using £13,000 from available funding held by the Council's Physical Activity Coordinator (Helen Stepney).
2. Such a grant scheme would 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.
3. To provide this financial support would help the Council 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 well-being

### Key Decision

4. No

### Recommendations

1. It is recommended that the Grants Advisory Committee makes a recommendation to the Lead Member for Resources to approve the allocation of £13,000 of available funding to this scheme, with criteria as proposed

below. From 2024/25 an ongoing allocation for this grant scheme has been set aside to the value of £6,500.

## **Reasons for Recommendations**

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

## **Details**

3. The District Council plays a key role in helping improve population health by creating opportunities to promote physical and mental health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities.
4. Specific health condition physical activity programmes offer condition-specific activity to individuals to help manage their condition on a day-to-day basis, to provide peer support for individuals and carers, and to improve quality of life and better management of their physical condition and mental health.
5. It is often the only activity they may do each week, which gives something to look forward to, provides goals to aim for and some temporary relief for themselves and their carers.
6. It is recognised that such organisations require ongoing financial support to sustain these programmes due to fluctuating attendance figures resulting from changes in an individual's condition on a day-by-day basis or sadly due to premature death.
7. The importance of physical activity in ill-health prevention and improved quality of life is well documented. Please refer to Appendix A for further supporting information.
8. Applications will be sought from VCSE sector organisations, specialist groups or Leisure Centre providers.
9. The aim of the funding will be for the organisation to
  - i. Re-start/establish any classes/session/activity that ceased due to the covid pandemic
  - ii. Start a new class/session/activity

- iii. Maintain an existing programme of class/session/activity's that can demonstrate it requires annual funding support
  - iv. Train existing and new staff to deliver class/session/activity as per aim i, ii or iii above.
10. The grant scheme would use already allocated and available funds and be made up of £6,500 of unspent funds from 2022-23 (rolled over) and £6,500 from the 2023-24 budget. From 2024-25 onwards, the £6,500 in this budget could be allocated to the same grant scheme if appropriate, or an alternative that would align the Council's work to the ICS objectives and priorities at that time, and in accordance with the Council's Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
11. The £6,500 within each financial year had previously been allocated to Physical Activity already, as follows:
- a) £2,000 for new communities work (now funded by S106 instead)
  - b) £2,000 general start up costs for activities (now funded by the Let's Get Physically Active contract instead)
  - c) £2,500 for Dual Use Centre activity start-up costs (this proposal builds on the original purpose for this element of the funding and pulls in elements a. and b. to bolster the sum available per annum).

## 12. Proposed Criteria

- Applicant must be a voluntary sector organisation, specialist group or leisure centre.
- The maximum amount of funding that can be applied per applicant is £2,000
- Activity must be specific for a health condition.
- Funds to be used for hall hire, training of staff and other revenue costs.
- Organisation's rationale for application must be included in their application.
- Evidence of benefit to participants of proposed class/session/activity.
- Evidence for the total amount required annually.
- Include details of expenditure in last financial year for the class/session/activity, including other sources of income.
- Demonstrate how participants are made aware of the class/session/activity.

## 13. Proposed Timeline

- Scheme launch June 2023.
- Applications reviewed by officers and recommendations brought to August GAC
- Centres have from September 2023-31 March 2024 to spend their grant.
- End of Project Reports to GAC by end May 2024, to include proposals for the use of the £6,500 allocated to 2024-25 financial year.

## **Options**

14. The Grants Advisory Committee may consider to
  - a. Agree to recommend the new grant proposal and proposed criteria to the Lead Cabinet Member for Resources
  - b. Agree to recommend the new grant proposal to the Lead Cabinet Member for Resources, with suggestion to alter the proposed amount and/or criteria
  - c. Defer a decision if further information is required
  - d. Not recommend the proposal to the Lead Cabinet member for Resources, stating the reason for this

## **Implications**

15. 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:-

## **Consultation responses**

16. Internal with officers and with voluntary sector organisations.

## **Alignment with Council Priority Areas**

### **Growing local businesses and economies**

17. 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.

### **A modern and caring Council**

18. Increasing access to community support programmes to help people living with chronic long term health conditions, offering improved access to support, ongoing management of condition and positively impacting on quality of life.

## **Appendices**

Appendix A: supporting information and data

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