



REPORT TO: Grants Advisory Committee

30/06/2023

LEAD CABINET MEMBER: Cllr John Williams

LEAD OFFICER: Gareth Bell

Care Together Seed Funding for Mobile Warden Schemes

Executive Summary

1. Grants Advisory Committee (GAC) is asked to make a recommendation to the Lead Member for Resources regarding the creation of a one-off grant fund for Mobile Warden Schemes in South Cambridgeshire. This fund is to be created using funding provided to SCDC by the County Council under grant agreement.
2. This funding, known as 'Seed Funding' is part of Cambridgeshire County Council's 'Care Together' Programme, which was approved by 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.
3. Funding is provided to SCDC on the basis that it be used specifically for:
 - activities that increase awareness of local Mobile and Community Warden 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.
 - support to the Melbourn Mobile Warden Scheme (MMWS) in taking over the management of the Harston & District Village Warden Trust (HVWT) in order to ensure the continuation of support to its clients.

Key Decision

4. 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.

Recommendations

5. It is recommended that the Grants Advisory Committee makes a recommendation to the Lead Member for Resources to approve the allocation of £28,500 of Care Together Seed Funding, in accordance with the grant funding agreement in place with Cambridgeshire County Council, as follows:

- creation of a one-off grant scheme administered by SCDC, with criteria as proposed in **Appendix A** (£21,000)
- allocation of £7,500 to the Melbourn Mobile Warden Scheme (MMWS) for the purposes of taking over the management of the Harston & District Village Warden Trust (HVWT). This parcel of funding was approved by Cambridgeshire County Council and shall be allocated directly, in accordance with the funding agreement.

Reasons for Recommendations

6. Enabling older and/or vulnerable people to have greater access to a local warden scheme is a key priority of the 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.
7. To provide this financial support would help the 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.
8. 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.
9. MMWS will face additional costs in taking over the management of the HVWT scheme. Assimilation must be agreed prior to the allocation of these funds.

Details

General

10. 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.
11. 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, such as the Melbourn scheme, provide support to multiple parishes.

12. 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.

13. Proposed Timeline for grant scheme is as follows:

- Scheme launch - 7 July 2023
- Application deadline - 5pm 28 July 2023
- Applications reviewed by officers and recommendations brought to August GAC (see draft application/criteria in Appendix 1)
- Grants paid – as soon as possible after 1 September 2023
- Schemes have from September 2023 to 31 March 2024 to spend their grant
- End of Project Reports to be received by the end of May 2024

14. 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.

Melbourn & Harston

15. Cambridgeshire County Council have allocated £7,500 to cover the additional costs to MMWS of taking over the management of the HVWT scheme, including transfer of membership data, general administration costs, temporary donor shortfall, a contingency to cover potential redundancy and/or Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) (TUPE) costs, publicising the change of management, and growing the scheme in the Harston area.

Options

16. The GAC may:

- agree to recommend to the Lead Cabinet Member for Resources, the allocation of £28,500 of Cambridgeshire County Council Care Together Seed Funding as presented:
 - a one-off grant scheme administered by SCDC, with criteria as proposed in Appendix A. (£21,000)
 - a direct grant of £7,500 to MMWS for taking over the management of the HVWT scheme
- agree to recommend to the Lead Cabinet Member for Resources, the allocation of £28,500 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

17. 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

18. An agreement is in place with Cambridgeshire County Council for the management of the total £28,500 fund. Agreements will be put in place with 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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