

North Somerset Council Decision

**Decision Of: Executive Member for Adult Social Care
With Advice From: Director of Adult Social Care and
Director of Corporate Services (s151 Officer)
Directorate: Adult Social Services**



Decision No: ASC33 (2022/23 Scheme)

Subject: Adult Social Care Providers - Innovation and Sustainability Grants

Key Decision: Yes

Reason:

Total funding is in excess of £500,000

Background:

The council has secured £1.2m to support adult social care providers to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic in the form of a range of innovation and sustainability grants.

During the COVID period, care providers and care homes were placed under tremendous pressure and for long spells dramatically lower occupancy, which raised viability issues. North Somerset Council responded with a series of actions as part of the Care Home Recovery Plan. One action in this plan was the creation of an Innovation Fund open to all care homes and strategic domiciliary care providers. An initial sum of £600k was allocated from COVID-related grants which was subsequently match funded by the CCG given how well the process was welcomed.

In total 67 applications received, which included by criteria theme:

Climate Emergency:

Bids included:

- Nine providers applying for solar panels
- New boilers to improve efficiency and reduce costs; one home has quoted a 70% efficiency improvement.
- Smart heating controls – will enable residents more control over their own environment too
- Electric vehicles and charging points
- Insulation in loft
- Window replacement to improve insulation and energy efficient appliances
- Whole Home energy efficiencies projects

Technology Enabled Care:

- Tech Champions – Staff from an organisation who will be able to help combat digital isolation;
- Digital Care records – a number of providers are keen to move into the digital world of care records which links strongly to the NHSx's ambitions to ensure all providers are digitally integrated;
- Launch Pad – an end-to-end HR process for new staff, from advertising to DBS checks and references, which will give managers a quick single screen system for deploying new staff quickly;
- Acoustic Monitoring – again this is linked to the NHSx bid for funding. This will offer homes the opportunity to link with central monitoring to provide rapid response to night time calls and increase client welfare;
- Treatment pathway for UTIs – One home wants to carry out research with the University of Stirling to changing how UTI's are diagnosed and treated which may improve health outcomes for residents;
- Whzan Blue Boxes – a system that can carry out physical observations and link them to client's digital care records and identify issues earlier without the need of community nursing;
- ARMED – an early intervention device which is worn by residents and can identify a risk of falls before the client has fallen. This is also linked to the NHSx funding.

Community Asset Developments

- Technology and Equipment Hub – which will offer multidisciplinary training to carers, Social Care staff and families on how to use relevant items.
- E-bikes for staff for a Dom Care provider – whilst also climate linked, this will offer the opportunity of employment to people who don't drive and increase the health and wellbeing of staff and potentially decrease the unmet needs list for packages
- Two Care homes are looking to re-evaluate the service they offer and cater to a different cohort of clients. This will help meet the current shortfall in placements for people with dementia that NSC is currently facing.
- One Care home is looking to redevelop into a day service offering scheme for the local community with a wheelchair accessible vehicle to help the local community
- Food delivery service in the local area, this will help offer alternative to meals on wheels service and integrate the care home into the local community.
- Family education and support – One service is looking to radicalise the post diagnosis support for people with dementia. They are looking to offer support to people with a recent diagnosis to hopefully improve the outcomes and keep people at home longer
- One of our strategic Dom Care providers want to develop a community course library which will help train people to care for loved ones at home, including things like moving and handling, medication administration.
- An away day experience – providing lonely or isolated people day breaks to enjoy the views, make friends with residents of the care home, participate in activities, and enjoy meals together.

In addition to the £600k match funding from the CCG, now ICB, providers are committing to match fund projects to a value of £317k and the initiative was used as match funding to successfully bid for NHS x funding.

Executive Member decision 2022/23 ASC01 in relation to Digitising Social Care and the NHSX Grant funding, increased capital and revenue budgets by £237,850 in relation to the innovation grant matched funding of the NHSX grant. This decision increases budgets by

£722,551 and a further decision to increase budgets by £239,599 in due course will finalise the approvals for the total of £1.2m, funded by earmarked reserves.

Decision:

1. To increase the council’s capital budget by £274,504 to fund the capital elements of the innovation and sustainability grants
2. To increase the Adult Social Care revenue budget by £448,047 to fund the revenue elements of the innovation and sustainability grants

Reasons:

This decision is required in accordance with Financial Regulations, to ensure that the relevant budgets are increased in accordance with the anticipated spend and funding arrangements

Options Considered:

No significant alternative options

Financial Implications:

The grant bids consist of part capital and part revenue costs, funded by earmarked reserves £1.2m - £600k from the Adult Social Care COVID Recovery Reserve and £600k from the Healthier Together Matched Funding Grant Reserve.

So far, bids of £960,401 have been endorsed by officers, of which £487,754 has been identified as capital expenditure and £472,647 classified as revenue expenditure.

The estimated costs and proposed funding arrangements are summarised in the table below:

	Endorsed Bids as at July 2022	Approved as part of decision ASC01	The subject of this decision	To be approved later	TOTAL
Spend:					
Capital	487,754	213,250	274,504	TBA	
Revenue	472,647	24,600	448,047	TBA	
TOTAL	960,401	237,850	722,551	239,599	1,200,000
Funded by:					
ASC COVID Recovery Reserve		237,850	122,551	239,599	600,000
Healthier Together Matched Funding Grant Reserve		0	600,000		600,000
TOTAL		237,850	722,551	239,599	1,200,000

Legal Powers and Implications:

There are no specific legal issues in relation to this issue.

Climate Change and Environmental Implications:

There are significant climate change benefits detailed in the main body of the report, climate change issues were a core theme of the grant priorities.

Consultation:

There are no specific consultation issues.

Risk Management:

The Innovation and Sustainability Grant was a direct response to a key risk issue of potential care provider failure.

Equality Implications:

Have you undertaken an Equality Impact Assessment? No

There are no specific equality issues, but support to our care providers supports the effectiveness of the council to meet the needs of our communities.

Corporate Implications:

No specific issues

Appendices:

None

Background Papers:

None

Signatories:

Decision Maker(s):

Signed:

Title: Executive Member for Adult Social Care

Date:

With Advice From:

Signed:

Title: Director of Adult Social Services

Date:

Signed:

Title: Director of Corporate Services and s151 Officer

Date:

Footnote: Details of changes made and agreed by the decision taker since publication of the proposed (pre-signed) decision notice, if applicable: