

NEW FOREST DISABILITY INFORMATION SERVICES – JUST GOT HOME AND INDEPENDENCE MATTERS

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval to fund a partnership with New Forest Disability Information Services (NFDIS) for a 3-year period under a Service Level Agreement, with an additional one off set up cost of £6,000 for 2021/22.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Each year the NFDC Private Sector Housing (PSH) Team receive Better Care Funding (BCF) from Hampshire County Council (HCC) to support the provision of Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs) across the District. This fund is provided by central Government to HCC and is distributed by them to district councils as part of a joint county wide plan.
- 2.2 This funding is provided to enable vulnerable individuals to stay living independently within their own home, preventing them from becoming homeless or having to move unnecessarily into a less independent institutional setting. The objectives include:
- Facilitating timely hospital discharge
 - Reducing admissions to residential care homes
 - Reduce the cost of providing domiciliary care
 - Contributing to the wider prevention agenda of housing, social care, and health authorities by facilitating improvements in individual's wellbeing, and reducing hospital admissions.
- 2.3 In order to meet these duties the PSH Team and the Portfolio Holder have previously agreed a partnership with NFDIS to establish 2 schemes. These are:
- Just Got Home Scheme – One day a week NFDIS visit Lymington Hospital to meet with patients, soon to be discharged, who would require advice, aids, adaptations and help co-ordinating services in order to facilitate a timely discharge from hospital, and to remain safe within their property with follow up work.
 - Independence Matters Scheme – To raise the profile of the services offered under the PSH teams Financial Assistance Policy and increase awareness of how the Council can assist disabled persons within the community (for example a series of presentations to GP Surgery Staff).
- 2.4 These schemes help the Council meet the duties of the BCF, our strategic homelessness priorities and allow the PSH Team to concentrate on the technical aspects of delivering aids and adaptations to vulnerable people within the District. Without these schemes, it is unlikely that the Council would deliver the number of adaptations that we do.
- 2.5 Approval is sought to provide NFDIS with funding from the Better Care Fund as follows:
- £19,625 (£25,625 for 2021/22 to cover additional year 1 costs) for the Just Got Home Scheme and;
 - £20,000 (maximum) for the Independence Matters Scheme.

2.6 NFDIS seek additional funding for running costs and potential enhancements to the above schemes annually through the Community Grant scheme. This is separate to the funding which is the subject of this report.

3. CONCLUSIONS

3.1 If this proposal is agreed, a 3 year SLA will be drawn up between NFDIS and the PSH Team to ensure the necessary performance monitoring is in place to ensure value for money and performance targets. This will also involve quarterly meeting between both parties.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The funding is budgeted for and drawn from the Better Care Fund provided by Central Government via Hampshire County Council, and not the Council's general fund.

5. CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are none arising from this report.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are none arising from this report.

7. EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are none arising from this report.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 To seek approval to fund a partnership with New Forest Disability Information Services for a 3 year period with funding from the Better Care Fund as follows:

- £19,625 (£25,625 for 2021/22 to cover additional year 1 costs) for the Just Got Home Scheme and;
- £20,000 (maximum) for the Independence Matters Scheme.

9. PORTFOLIO HOLDER ENDORSEMENT

I have agreed to the recommendation of this report.

Sign: Cllr Jill Cleary

Date: 24 June 2021

For further information contact:

Background Papers: N/A

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Date on which notice given of this decision – 24 June 2021
Last date for call-in – 1 July 2021