

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Cabinet

Date of Meeting:	12 th July 2016
Report of:	Sarah Smith, Corporate Commissioning Manager, Adults Commissioning
Subject/Title:	Better Care Fund (BCF) Carer Breaks 2016/17 Grant Awards
Portfolio Holder:	Cllr Janet Clowes, Adult Care and Integration

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 This report recommends that Cabinet approve the award of grants to individual organisations in respect of the Better Care Fund (BCF) Carer Breaks for 2016/17 as per Cheshire East Council's constitution.
- 1.2 The report outlines the reason for awarding grants for these purposes and the objectives of the purposes specified.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Endorse the competitive procedure to award grants for the provision of Carer Breaks for 2016/17.
- 2.2 That Cabinet approve the award of grants to individual organisations for the provision of BCF Carer Breaks for 9 months to 31st March 2017.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 The funding from the BCF available for Carer Breaks Services 2016/17 is £374,000. Cabinet approval is required to award grants. In this case the maximum amount that can be applied for in any one grant is £37,500 to deliver services over a 9 month period. Whilst the level of funding of each grant is within the authority of the Portfolio Holder to approve as per Section 1.21 (Financial and Contract Approval Limits) as organisations can apply for more than one grant and the overall funding available is £374,000 Cabinet approval is required for the approach being proposed.
- 3.2 As this funding is for a limited period with no guarantee of future funding discussions took place with Procurement who agreed that grants could be awarded via a competitive grant procedure. Carer Breaks have previously been delivered in this way and it has assisted smaller voluntary organisations to bid.

3.3 The opportunity to apply for a grant has been published on The Chest and also advertised by Community for Voluntary Services (CVS). Applications are being assessed in the following areas:-

- Funding Objectives
- Quality of the Scheme/Project
- Evidence of Need for the Project
- Sustainability and Added Value

3.4 Although awarded as a grant, the outcomes delivered by the successful bidders are still monitored to ensure the Council is receiving value for money and Carers are receiving good quality services to meet their needs.

3.5 The level of each grant is restricted to £37,500 however organisations can apply for more than one grant. This method of funding allows for a diversity of approaches to be delivered throughout Cheshire East to ensure that Carers are able to continue in their caring role and the offers are tailored to meet their individual support needs.

3.6 These grants are intended to compliment other services commissioned by Cheshire East to support Carers. Carer's wellbeing is supported in line with the Care Act 2014 and the Children and Families Act 2014.

3.7 The main objectives are to realise and release the potential of carers, supporting carers to remain mentally and physically well and to give support carers to have a family and community life. Grant applications have been invited in the following categories:-

- Carer Wellbeing
- Young Carers
- Parent Carers
- Home Based Carer Breaks & Support
- Specialist Carers Advocacy
- Specialist Support for Carers of People with Sensory Impairments
- Befriending and Carers Bereavement Support

3.8 A further update on the outcomes achieved will be provided at the end of the financial year.

4.0 Wards Affected

4.1 All Wards

5.0 Local Ward Members

5.1 All Ward Members

6.0 Policy Implications

- 6.1 Assists the delivery of the Joint Carers Strategy for Cheshire East 2016-18
- 6.2 Assists in delivering Outcome 1 (Our local communities are strong and supportive) and Outcome 5 (People live well and for longer).

7.0 Implications for Rural Communities

- 7.1 BCF Carer Breaks will have positive impacts for rural communities within Cheshire East as carer breaks will be delivered throughout Cheshire East Borough.

8.0 Financial Implications

- 8.1 The funding for the grants is made available via the BCF and the level of funding has been confirmed by both NHS South Cheshire and NHS Eastern Cheshire Clinical Commissioning Groups but is subject to the total BCF funding being signed off by the Board on 1st July 2016.
- 8.2 Although Carer Breaks are awarded as grants as opposed to contracts Cheshire East Council impose grant conditions to ensure that value for money is achieved and the quality of the delivery can be monitored.

9.0 Legal Implications

- 9.1 The Council has the power to award grants to organisations using its general power of competence in section 1 of the Localism Act 2011. In exercising the power the Council must satisfy its public law duties. In essence this means that in making the decision the Council must have taken into account only relevant considerations, followed procedural requirements, acted for proper motives and not acted unreasonably.
- 9.2 Grants which are awarded to defined organisations, following an application process, and against a set criteria assist the Council to defend any challenge to its decision making process. Grant funding organisations based on a competitive process and satisfies the Council's public law duties.
- 9.3 Direct award of grants favour individual organisations and can potentially be challenged on the basis that they exclude other organisations. A competitive grants process is an open, transparent and fair means to afford all eligible organisations the opportunity to compete for and obtain grant funding from the Council and minimise the risk of illegal state aid.
- 9.4 Grant agreements may contain conditions requiring that organisations report back to the Council upon expenditure of the grant and further appropriate conditions can be imposed.

10.0 Risk Management

- 10.1 As the grants are for a period of 9 months providers will be expected to provide exit strategies to reduce the impact on customers at the end of service.

11.0 Background and Options

- 11.1 The award of the Carer Break Grants supports the implementation of the Joint Carers Strategy.
- 11.2 The funding for the grants is via the BCF and both CCGs have confirmed the funding for 2016/17.
- 11.2 The option of tendering for the services was explored but due to the limited period of delivery and the uncertainty of future funding it was agreed with procurement that it would be preferable to award grants.

12.0 Access to Information

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

Name: Lynn Glendenning
Designation: Commissioning Manager
Tel No: 01625 383749
Email: lynn.glendenning@cheshireeast.gov.uk