

Leicester
City Council

WARDS AFFECTED
All (Corporate issue)

FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND MEETINGS:

Leader's Briefing
Cabinet

18th February 2002
11th March 2002

**NON-RECURRENT PARTNERSHIP GRANTS AND SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT
SMALL GRANTS SCHEME**

Report of Director of Social Services

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is as follows:

- (i) To inform Members of the proposal put forward to the Leicestershire Health and Social Care Modernisation Executive on 3rd December 2001 to merge;
 - a. the Leicester Social Services, Leicestershire County Social Services and Rutland County Social Services Small Grant Schemes; with
 - b. some of the functions of the Non-Recurrent Partnership Grant Scheme led by Leicestershire Health Authority under the Health Act Flexibility Regulations.
- (ii) To inform Members of the purpose and similarities of both grants.
- (iii) To seek Members' agreement to the proposal to transfer part of the Social Services Small Grant to the Non-Recurrent Partnership Grant Scheme pooled budget.

2. Summary

2.1 The Non-Recurrent Partnership Grant Scheme is administered and led by Leicestershire Health in partnership with the Social Services Departments of Leicester City, Leicestershire County and Rutland County Councils and representatives of the Voluntary Sector. It makes available £150,000 per year for one off grants up to a maximum of £5,000 per application to voluntary organisations to support community health and social care projects.

2.2 Applications for this non-recurrent scheme used to be invited annually from the voluntary sector. However, since April 2001 they are accepted on a quarterly basis. A multi agency grant panel comprising representatives from Leicestershire Health, the

respective Social Services Departments and the Voluntary Sector meet quarterly to consider applications and make grant allocation recommendations in accordance with the grant criteria. At the last annual round 44 grants were approved.

2.3 The Small Grants Schemes are led by individual local authorities in partnership with the Health Authority and the voluntary sector. The grant gives up to a maximum of £500 (£300 in Rutland) to voluntary organisations also providing health & social care services under the headings of :

- Starter grants
- Equipment and furniture
- Training/conferences
- Under fives activity sessions
- Holiday transport for disabled people
- Carers support groups

2.4 Funding for the Small Grants Scheme comes partly from the Health Authority, £40,000 in total, apportioned between each of the three Local Authorities, and partly from each Social Services Department's budget, Leicester City £17,000 Leicestershire County £48,000 and Rutland County £1,350. Applications are considered quarterly by a separate multi agency grant panel. Collectively nearly 200 grants were approved in 2000/1. In Leicester City 59 grants were approved out of a total of 64 applications.

2.5 There is now a considerable overlap in the type of expenditure requested by the two schemes and now that they both operate on a quarterly basis there is good reason to consider a simplification of the two processes. In addition, Leicestershire Health Authority is to be abolished from 1 April 2002.

3. Recommendations

3.1 That Cabinet approve the transferring of a contribution of £9,000 from the existing Small Grants Scheme Budget to a pooled budget under Health Act Flexibilities, subject to completion of necessary financial and legal agreements.

3.2 That Cabinet approve the continuation of the Small Grants Scheme process at its reduced capacity.

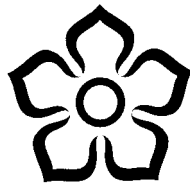
4. Headline Financial and legal Implications

4.1 It is proposed that a pooled budget arrangement is made under Health Act Flexibilities. Financial assistance by local authorities to the voluntary sector is provided under section 65 of the Health Services and Public Health Act 1968.

8. Report Authors

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SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1. Report

1.1 With the exception of under 5's children (who are covered only through the Small Grants Schemes) the core groups eligible for the Non-Recurrent Scheme and Small Grants Schemes are now identical, as follows:

- Older people
- People with physical disabilities and/or sensory impairment
- People with learning disabilities
- People experiencing mental ill health
- Self help activities concerned with health issues
- People with HIV/AIDS
- People who misuse substances
- People with palliative care needs
- Carers of elderly people or children/adults with a disability or long-term health problems.

1.2 The application forms for both grants are very similar and the timescales for application and allocation are likewise. The majority of applications from the Non-Recurrent Scheme are for building and refurbishment, equipment, furniture and vehicles with a smaller number of applications for conferences and literature. Equipment, furniture, training/conferences are items of overlap with Small Grants. Partially merging the two schemes will allow greater opportunity for voluntary organisations, by lifting the maximum grant available from small grants for those items from £500 to £5,000.

- 1.3 Although both schemes operate through multi-agency groups there is no pooled fund arrangement or “lead commissioning”. The joint work in supporting the voluntary sector is thus not recognised by the NHS Executive Regional Office or SSI. This proposal will draw a clearer distinction between the voluntary sector grant schemes that are specific to local social care and those that support wider partnership work.
- 1.4 Under the proposal to partially merge the two grant schemes:
- All equipment, furniture, training and conference applications previously to small grants will be processed through the Non-Recurrent Partnership Grant, available through a pooled budget, thus making available a one off grant up to a maximum of £5,000. (This is already under the Small Grants Scheme restricted to £500).
 - The Eastern Leicester Primary Care Trust will manage the Non-Recurring Partnership Grant pooled budget under a Health Act Flexibility Agreement. The same multi-agency grant panel will continue to accept applications and make allocation recommendations as before.
 - Under 5s grants, starter grants, activity grants, holiday transport grants for disabled people, and carer group grants will remain within the small grants process of each of the local authority’s Social Services Departments.
 - There will be no change in the management of the remaining Small Grants Scheme i.e. each authority will continue to receive and allocate grants as before.
- 1.5 In order to maximise the benefits of this proposed partial merger of the two grant schemes there will be close monitoring of the number and type of applications and an annual review of the scheme.

2. FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS

2.1 Financial Implications

It is proposed that a pooled budget arrangement is made under Health Act Flexibilities as follows:

The first year (2002/2003) contributions to the pooled budget are suggested as:

- Primary care Trusts £190,000 (combined Non-Recurrent Partnership and Small Grant Allocation)
- Leicester City Council £9,000
- Leicestershire County Council £15,000
- Rutland County Council £750

This will leave £8,000 (out of the current total of £17,000) remaining in the Small Grants Scheme budget. This will continue to be allocated in the City in the same way as before.

The Small Grants Scheme budgets have been calculated and apportioned by means of population. The validity of this will be determined in the monitoring of applications and allocations and reviewed annually. Any changes felt necessary to the financial contributions will be reported and recommendations made accordingly.

2.2 Legal Implications

Financial assistance by local authorities to the voluntary sector is provided under section 65 of the Health Services and Public Health Act 1968. This provision is included within the definition of health-related functions of local authorities set out in the NHS Bodies and Local Authorities Partnership Arrangements Regulations 2000. Therefore, the Council is permitted to enter into a pooled fund arrangement for the discharge of this function under Section 31 of the Health Act 1999 subject to the formalities set out in the Regulations (Guy Goodman, Assistant Head of Legal Services – Tel. 252 7054).

2.3 Other Implications

| OTHER IMPLICATIONS | YES/NO | Paragraph References Within Supporting Information |
|-------------------------------|--------|--|
| Equal Opportunities | Yes | The proposals will be responsive to the needs of all organisations/ groups in the community supporting health and social care. |
| Policy | Yes | All Paragraphs |
| Sustainable and Environmental | No | |
| Crime and Disorder | Yes | The grant schemes may reduce crime and disorder depending on the source and type of application |
| Human Rights Act | Yes | The grant schemes support the principles of respecting the rights of individuals and the community at large |
| Elderly/People on Low Income | Yes | Both grants schemes address the needs of older vulnerable people, those who are disadvantaged and most in need living in the community |

3. Background Papers

Modernisation Executive Report 3rd December 2001
Non-Recurrent Partnership Grants and Social Services Department Small Grants Schemes

4. Consultations

Consultation has taken place between the Health Authority, Voluntary Sector and Leicester City, Leicestershire County and Rutland County Councils.

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