

RECORD OF DECISION MADE UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT

Any interest to declare/ or conflict and any dispensation granted for the Officer or Executive Member
[NO]

Any conflict with any Member of the Panel and the bodies concerned [NO] *If yes indicate who and what below*

SERVICE DIRECTORATE: Legal and Community

1. DECISION TAKEN

The approval of Health Protect Board Funding awards to the following bodies:

- 1.1. **£14,300** to Age UK Hertfordshire to cover the cost of staff and overhead costs in order to reduce the amount funded from reserves to run services that support older, vulnerable people in North Herts as outlined in 6.1
- 1.2. **£11,594** to Resolve towards online and in-person drug and alcohol support, advice, and treatment services as outlined in 6.2
- 1.3. **£19,975** to North Herts Minority Ethnic Forum towards running costs of the Community Resource Centre as outlined 6.3

2. DECISION TAKER

The Executive Member for Community Engagement in consultation with the Service Director – Legal and Community.

3. DATE DECISION TAKEN:

15 March 2022

4. REASON FOR DECISION

- 4.1 The Policy and Community Engagement Team applied to the Health Protection Board for funding available to assist the voluntary and community sector organisations in the North Herts District to continue services within the current COVID pandemic. A business case was submitted initially requesting £100,000 for the purpose of

1. Targeted interventions for specific sections of the local community and workplaces
2. Harnessing capacity within local sectors (e.g., voluntary, academic, commercial)

The business case was accepted and NHC received £100,000 to provide grants to organisations supporting North Herts residents through the Pandemic in a variety of ways.

The requests for funding outstripped the amount of HPB funding we had applied for and therefore Members asked that officers request a further £100,000 from the HPB.

A further business case was presented to the Board and accepted.

The £200,000 needs to be utilised by North Herts Council by the end of the 2022/23 financial year.

The delay in approval has resulted from checking with the HPB to ensure that the grants detailed would meet with the original NHC application and the HPB criteria. Officers have closely liaised with the organisations to ensure that funding relating to staffing costs has not already been provided from other sources / central government funding.

5. CONSULTATION WITH MEMBERS

- 5.1 Consultation on all of grant applications for consideration took place with the Members of the Capital and Revenue Grant Panel at three separate virtual meetings on, 9 November, and 15 December 2021.

All the grant applicants provided their presentations to the Panel in support of their applications and answered any questions the Panel raised in relation to the grant funding request. The decisions outlined in this report are based on the Panel's recommendations.

- 5.2 The Panel voted on their recommendations to the Executive Member for Community Engagement at the meeting on 15 December taking the grants from each of the two meetings en-bloc.
- 5.3 The grants considered at the meeting held on 9 November:
Vote to recommend that Age UK and Resolve both receive the full amount as requested in their applications:

Result: Unanimous vote in favour.

- 5.4 The grants considered at the meeting held on 15 December:
Vote to recommend that The North Herts Minority Ethnic Forum receive the full amount as requested in their application:

Result: Unanimous vote in favour.

6. APPLICATION DETAILS

6.1 Age UK Hertfordshire

Applicant Project	Age UK Hertfordshire Covering staff and overhead costs to reduce the amount funded from reserves to run services that support older, vulnerable people in North Herts, including assisting individuals with benefits and getting online safely.
Sum requested	£14,300
Total project cost	£14,300
Match funding	£0
Previous support	2020: £4,000 from COVID Community Support Fund for provision of IT equipment to socially isolated older people. 2019: £20,000 from funding agreement for one year.
NHDC Policy met	Yes
Council objectives	Be a more welcoming and inclusive Council Build thriving and resilient communities

Age UK Hertfordshire provides support services for vulnerable and isolated older people. Services provided include befriending, social clubs, information, and advice, as well as dementia, carer, domestic and emotional support.

The impact of the pandemic has meant that the charity has suffered financially. However, the need for the support services remains and so the charity continues to

self-fund much of the support. This service helps people access their rights and entitlements, supports them to connect to activities which reduce loneliness and isolation, and enables them to live more independently for longer.

During the pandemic, this service has helped older people claim £4.7million in their benefits entitlements, with £1.1million being raised for residents of North Herts alone.

This service has been supporting with the provision of Android tablets to older members of the community living in North Herts and providing ongoing support to help individuals get online safely to reduce isolation and improve independence.

The service supports older people over the age of 65, but mainly those over 75 years of age. During the last 12 months (2020-21), this service supported 509 older, vulnerable people living in North Hertfordshire, with an array of issues. With this grant funding contribution, the service would aim to continue this level of support during the grant-funded period. Older people who are referred to the services for support can live anywhere in North Hertfordshire. No specific area will be targeted to remove any potential barriers to access.

The team support older people by phone, email, virtual and home visits to assist in different ways. Their staff and volunteers specialise in issues relating to health and social care, Lasting Powers of Attorney, getting your affairs in order, the rights of older people, accessing social and leisure activities, getting online and much more. Sometimes this support is more appropriate face to face in people's homes, particularly where sensory or cognitive impairment is involved.

Age UK Hertfordshire currently self-fund this support service through reserves, however, the impact of the pandemic has meant that this cannot be sustained long term and due to the high need for support, the organisation feel that it is a great risk to the health and wellbeing of older, vulnerable people living in North Herts to not have access to this service. Therefore, Age UK Hertfordshire are seeking funding from this grant to help reduce the amount funded from reserves to help keep the service going.

Further confirmation has been received by officers in February 2022 that the salaries for the Information and Advice Service, for which the funding was applied for, has not been funded by any government source or covered by the furlough scheme. During the pandemic, Age UK did use the furlough scheme for some of the staff but **not** for this service.

Amount recommended by the Capital and Revenue Grant Panel: £14,300

6.2 Resolve

Applicant Project	Resolve Online and in-person drug and alcohol support, advice, and treatment services
Sum requested	£11,594
Total project cost	£120,084
Match funding	£108,490 National Lottery grant
Previous support	£5,000 Letchworth Area Grant 16/10/2019 £1,274 Hitchin Area Grant 06/12/2016
NHDC Policy met	Yes
Council objectives	Be a more welcoming and inclusive Council Build thriving and resilient communities

Resolve delivers drug and alcohol support, advice and treatment services across Hertfordshire, with this grant application specifically to support the services provided in Letchworth. They offer abstinence-based treatment for people suffering addiction/misuse of alcohol, substances and illicit, over the counter or prescribed

drugs. Having started their provision of services in North Herts as drop-in advice sessions in 2015, they were asked to provide a more substantial service in Hitchin which evolved from a one-year part-time pilot to a full-time service. Since moving to Letchworth in 2018 client numbers have more than doubled, while there has been an increase in the number of positive outcomes for clients.

Services include:

- One-to-one CPCAB counselling, structured group therapy, one-to-one key work support and whole-body acupuncture.
- Support with debt management, benefits, housing advice/homelessness, onward referral to NHS health services, signposting to other services/agencies as appropriate.
- Family support group, counselling, and other services.
- Homeless support in partnership with other agencies including Helping Herts Homeless [Sanctuary], Haven First and social housing providers.

Over the first lockdown the team delivered Zoom sessions, counselling, and assessments, as well as telephone support. They now provide these online services as well as face-to-face services onsite and need more staff and facilities to do so. This in turn has increased running costs across the board.

Resolve has secured a multi-year grant to fund the next phase of their work over the coming three years, specifically for the district of North Hertfordshire from their site at Resolve House, Openshaw Way, Letchworth Garden City. This sees funding secured for Resolve's services for North Herts entering a fifth year, with ongoing sustainability of and for their services secure for the coming three years. The lease for the site has eight years remaining of a 10-year lease, with the option to extend.

Having secured the majority of funding required to deliver services, additional funds are needed to make up the shortfall in running costs, overheads, for the building and staffing to deliver services. Funding requested through this application equates to 8.8% of the total budget for one year.

The grant will benefit more than 50 North Herts residents who are currently accessing Resolve's provision in North Herts, as well as future clients, with Resolve receiving 16 referrals each month from agencies including the statutory drug and alcohol treatment services for Hertfordshire, Criminal Justice, NHS Mental Health Services and GPs.

Due to the way Resolve's Services are funded, the organisation was precluded from furloughing staff who were delivering Services either publicly or foundation funded. Their North Herts Service is one such project and therefore, over the of the period of the COVID restrictions no staff have been furloughed.

The funding requested is to fill a shortfall in funding arising from a combination of the increase in costs across all areas of their work

This funding requested will go directly into the budget for the North Herts Service to meet the shortfall in funding arising from the difference in funding compared to the original budget which was set using data available to them at that time and as outlined above the increase in costs they now see due to – COVID, inflation, increase in utility/energy costs, etc.

Amount recommended by the Capital and Revenue Grant Panel: £11,594

6.3 North Herts Minority Ethnic Forum

**Applicant
Project**

North Herts Minority Ethnic Forum

The money will be used to cover the running expenses of their Community Resource Centre which is a hub for the local BAME communities living in the district. This will include rent, rates,

	utility bills, insurance expenses, stationery and resources, PPE cost and contribution to the salary expenses of core staff.
Sum requested	£19,975
Total project cost	£75,650
Match funding	£4,050 from Herts Sports Partnership. £9,875 from Awards for All. £10,000 from Comic Relief. £5,000 from Hertfordshire Community Foundation. £19,500 from The Clothworkers Foundation. £7,239 from Rowlandson Foundation (pending).
Previous support	£23,000 in 2019/20 from MoU payments (broken down into four instalments). £12,500 in 2019 from other capital funds agreed by Cabinet. £15,750 in 2020 as part of the three-year funding agreement 2020-2023 (broken down into three instalments). Various other support dating back to 2003.
NHDC Policy met	Yes
Council objectives	Be a more welcoming and inclusive Council Build thriving and resilient communities

The North Hertfordshire Minority Ethnic Forum (the Forum) is an umbrella organisation of the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities living in the district of North Hertfordshire. The communities they support include Asian, African-Caribbean, Black, Chinese, Italian, Polish, EU nationals and refugee and asylum seekers.

They provide a range of services and activities including advocacy services, skills development training, education services for young people, and various health and recreational services for the elderly. The Forum is also used by various organisations as an access and meeting point to reach black and minority ethnic communities in North Hertfordshire.

The funding will be used to cover the running expenses of their Community Resource Centre (a hub for the local BAME communities living in the district) including rent, utility bills, insurance expenses, stationery and resources, PPE, and contribution to the salary expenses of core staff. As such the funding will contribute to improving quality of life for over 1,250 black and minority ethnic people and their families.

The staffing costs element in this application relate to a new post required to support BAME communities in the recovery both economically and emotionally following the COVID pandemic.

Amount recommended by the Capital and Revenue Grant Panel: £19,986 however they updated their application and have requested £19,975

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Chapter 1, s1-8 of the Localism Act 2011 provides a General Power of Competence which gives local authorities the powers to do anything if it is not specifically prohibited in legislation.
- 7.2 Section 137 Local Government Act 1972 provides specific authority for the Council to incur expenditure on anything which is in the interests of and will bring direct benefit to its area. This includes a charity or other body operating for public service.

7.3 The decision taker signing the Decision Notice has delegated authority to take such a decision in accordance with the North Hertfordshire District Council Constitution under section 14.6.8(b)(iii)(A) in relation to Community engagement and development, including financial assistance and grants to external organisations.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 From the allocation of £200,000 provided by the Health Protection Board £105,425 has been utilised. The current balance available in the budget to allocate is **£94,575**.

8.2 The total amount of funding requested in this report adds up to **£45,869**

8.3 The decision to agree this level of funding as outlined will leave an amount of **£48,706** to utilise by the end of the financial year in March 2023.

9. RISK IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no relevant risk entries that have been recorded on Pentana Risk, the Council's performance and risk system. Individual events should have their own risk assessments in place to mitigate any health and safety issues. Whenever a request for grant funding for equipment is received, the recipient of the funding will be advised to obtain insurance for the item to avoid a repeat request for funding in the event of the equipment being stolen or damaged. There are no pertinent risk implications for the Authority associated with any items within this report.

10. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

10.1 In line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, public bodies must, in the exercise of their functions, give due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

10.2 Grant funding is awarded to community groups that clearly demonstrate positive impact on the community and wider environment. The projects outlined in this report seek to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.

11. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS

11.1 The Social Value Act and "go local" requirements do not apply to this report.

12. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

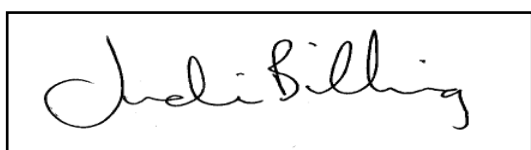
12.1. There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.

15. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

13.1 There are no pertinent Human Resource implications associated with any items within this report.

NOTIFICATION DATE

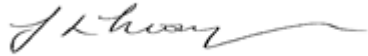
18 March 2022



Signature of Executive Member Decision taker

Date ...15 March 2022

Signature of Service Director: Legal and Community

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. L. Hwang", is written over a horizontal line. A vertical line extends downwards from the center of the signature.

Please Note: that *unless urgency provisions apply* EXECUTIVE decisions cannot be implemented until 5 clear working days have elapsed after the decision has been taken to allow for scrutiny call-in.

Call-in does not apply to NON-EXECUTIVE DECISIONS