

Mid-Year Review 2016/17 – 2020/21

Directorate: People

Service/Service Area: Commissioning Centre of Excellence – Universal and Prevention: Carers Service and Small Grant

1. Description of Service

The Council funds a number of services for Carers, including a Carers' Hub and a small Carers' Grant Scheme (which has been set up since 1992). This allows anybody who is a carer to apply for this grant every 18 months to receive £250 to support their caring roles; historically this grant has been spent by December. The grant is awarded on a first come first served basis and demand far outweighs the financial value available.

The grant supports carers to meet short term needs i.e. a short break, buy some home help, gardening/cleaning/leisure activities, so they can maintain their caring responsibilities.

2. Proposed changes

The proposal is that we consult with citizens and health partners who also separately fund carers' services to carry out a whole system redesign aligned with better integration with health and the voluntary sector. Developing a new carer's strategy that takes into account the changes in the Care Act 2014. The whole systems re-design will include looking at whether the council should continue to fund the Carers Grant. Any future funding of services for carers should be linked to clear outcomes that help maintain the carer's independence so they can maintain their caring responsibilities and support our strategic priorities within the Maximising Independence of Adults Programme.

As our Health partners also fund carers' services it is an ideal opportunity to look at integrated services that offer better support to carers.

3. Level of savings expected from the proposal

	2016/17 £000	2017/18 £000	2018/19 £000	2019/20 £000	2020/21 £000
Gross saving	200	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc
Less revenue implementation costs					
Net saving	200	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc
Less saving already shown within LTFP					
New saving generated	200	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc

4. How will these savings/budget reductions be made?

Until consultation and redesign options are explored future years savings cannot be determined, but it will be possible to achieve some in year savings. Currently, there is approx. £200,000 remaining unallocated in the carers' hub budget for 16/17. This is available to set towards the savings for 16/17.

Determination of savings for future years would need to be considered in the context of the service review in support for carers in line with an integrated service delivery approach with health partners who also separately fund carers' services. This will be subject to consultation.

5. Head Count/FTE implications

NOT APPLICABLE

	Staffing changes									
	2016/17		2017/18		2018/19		2019/20		2020/21	
	FTE	Headcount	FTE	Headcount	FTE	Headcount	FTE	Headcount	FTE	Headcount
GR1	NIL		NIL		NIL		NIL		NIL	
GR2	NIL		NIL		NIL		NIL		NIL	
GR3	NIL		NIL		NIL		NIL		NIL	
GR4	NIL		NIL		NIL		NIL		NIL	
GR5	NIL		NIL		NIL		NIL		NIL	
GR6	NIL		NIL		NIL		NIL		NIL	
GR7	NIL		NIL		NIL		NIL		NIL	
JNC	NIL		NIL		NIL		NIL		NIL	
Other	NIL		NIL		NIL		NIL		NIL	

6. Implications of the proposal on Service Users

Consultation with citizens would need to take place for future proposals to be taken forward. The Council does not provide any other non-statutory services for carers.

7. Implications of the proposal on Outcomes

This will be assessed as part of the review. The carers grant is currently awarded with no eligibility criteria attached.

8. EIA No & date of assessment

An initial equalities impact assessment is being prepared..

9. Implementation Plan

A carer's project plan has been developed jointly between BCC and Health (BCF) to look at a whole systems redesign for carers and to pool financial resources together. Any reduction in funding from BCC would require joint working from health colleagues since they are also committed to improving services for carers and are funding some carers' provision across the city.

This proposal is considered low risk.

10. Sign Off

Service Director	Comments
	Signature
	Date
Directorate Finance	Comments
	Signature
	Date