

**Record of decision taken under delegated powers
by a council officer**



Title:	Surrey County Council Response to Covid: Hardship payment to VCF sector organisations
Divisions Affected:	All divisions
Key Decision:	Yes
Reason Key:	Affects two or more Divisions
Decision taken under delegation by virtue of:	Cabinet decision 31 March 2020 Min ref: 41/20

Summary

Applications for financial support for Voluntary, Community & Faith sector organisations are being received by the Council. These requests for support are a direct result of financial hardship felt as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak, due to either additional costs being incurred by these organisations to meet increased demand for their services or enable remote working, or as a result of reductions in their usual funding sources (eg donations and fund raising events).

Applications are submitted on a standard request from and are being considered initially by a panel made up of Strategy and Finance colleagues. The panel is assessing requests against the following criteria:

- Small and medium sized organisation with an annual income of less than £1million during the financial year 2018/19
- Are not in receipt of any outstanding, adverse judgements from relevant regulatory bodies e.g. Charities Commission, CQC
- Operate within and provide services to meet needs in the county of Surrey
- Provision of services to support vulnerable residents during the COVID-19 pandemic, and/or later in the recovery phase
- Have provided SCC commissioned and/or funded services between 2015-2020, including organisations funded via grant, contracts and/or one-off commissioning
- Provision of broader, strategic services to Surrey residents that SCC considers vital to maintain
- Have evidenced and substantiated the additional financial pressures caused to the organisation as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic
- Will remain viable and able to assist Surrey during the post COVID-19 recovery phase, taking account of financial pressures already incurred and those that are forecast
- Where funding will support the long term, future sustainability of the organisation.

In addition, applications must also demonstrate that:

- Funding is actively being sought from alternative, relevant sources e.g. central government and Community Foundation for Surrey. SCC hardship funding will particularly favour residual pressures that cannot be met from other available means.
- Organisations can remain viable between the receipt of staged payments from the SCC COVID-19 Hardship Fund which may be paid in several tranches

The following applications were recommended by the Panel and approved by the Executive Director for Transformation, Partnership & Prosperity & the Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Fire & Resilience.

Name	Amount awarded	Reason
Oakleaf Enterprise.	£50,000 Status: Panel is satisfied by the further information provided by the organisation and recommends that full funding is awarded.	<p>The applicant has met the criteria for the Surrey Hardship Fund including providing evidence of the negative impact Covid-19 has had on the organisation. This includes the loss of income and an increase of demand on critical mental health services and work-related training.</p> <p>The amount of funding requested is higher than previous requests from the VCF sector therefore additional more detailed information from Oakleaf Enterprise was sought. The organisation has been able to clearly demonstrate a 50% increase of demand from residents to access critical mental health services, the loss of income due to customers being unable to pay for gardening work and upholstery services, decreased rents from paying tenants and the inability to fundraise and rely on corporate donors as they step away for the foreseeable future has led to considerable hardship.</p> <p>The panel are satisfied that reasonable efforts have been made by the organisation to adapt their model of service delivery to remote service provision to ensure they provide a good standard of vocational training for adults with mental illness in Surrey. The organisation is a large organisation, supporting over 750 users and the level of impact has been considerable. The panel is satisfied level of hardship fund requested is proportionate to the amount of</p>

		actual hardship faced.
Maggie's at the Royal Marsden	£14,403.00	It is recommended the application for funding is approved and whilst the organisation is not based in Surrey following requesting additional information the panel is assured that over two thirds of those who visit the centre to access cancer support services live in Surrey, approximately 1000 residents a month. The application overall meets the criteria of the Surrey Hardship Fund, ie, lost income due to the inability to fundraise as the result of Covid-19 and funding requested is proportionate to the amount of hardship expressed.

Decision made

Decision made:

It was AGREED that:

The following applications met the agreed criteria for financial support during the COVID-19 pandemic:

Oakleaf	£50,000.00
Maggie's at Royal Marsden	£14,403.00

A one-off payment of £64,403.00 will be made to support the above organisations.

Reasons for Decision:

To ensure the sustainability of the organisations and the continued provision of their services to the residents of Surrey during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

Decision taken by:	Michael Coughlin – Executive Director for TPP Denise Turner Stewart – Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Fire and Resilience
Decision taken on:	27 th May 2020
To be implemented on:	Payment to be made following CLT and Cabinet confirmation of this decision. This is due to take place on 28 th May 2020.

Alternative options considered

The alternative is to not provide financial support and leave the organisations to try to find alternative means of financing additional costs incurred and loss of income due to COVID-19. This could put the continued delivery of the services they provide to residents of Surrey at risk.

Summary of any financial implications

The cost to SCC will be £64,403.00.
It is anticipated that this will be funded out of the COVID-19 funding SCC is receiving from central government.

Declarations of conflicts of interest

None

Consultation/Process Followed

Decision taken in consultation with the Head of Strategy, the Strategic Lead for Partnerships, Policy & Commissioning, the Strategic Finance Business Partner for TPP & Resources, the Executive Director for Transformation, Partnerships & Prosperity and the Cabinet Members for Member for Community Safety, Fire and Resilience.

Background Documents

Exempt:

Cabinet report 31 st March 2020 setting out the council's response to Covid-19.	
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