

STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report for Cabinet Delegated Decision

24 September 2021

TITLE:	Proposal for use of Community Adaptation Grant funding for a joint Dementia Support Project in partnership with the Alzheimer's Society
EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR:	Councillor Bowen, Portfolio Holder for Communities
CONTACT OFFICER:	Alicia Patterson, Head of Environmental Health
WARDS INVOLVED:	Non specific

Appendices Attached

Appendix 1 – Dementia Support Project Business Case Report

Appendix 2 – Community Adaptation Grant Application

1. Reason for the Report

- 1.1 To seek approval for the use of the Community Adaptation Grant (CAG) funding for a joint Dementia support project in partnership with the Alzheimer's Society and North Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Dementia Support Service.
- 1.2 To determine the scope of the project and the commensurate level of funding to be approved.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That Portfolio Holder confirms approval to the project.

3. Executive Summary

- 3.1 An application for discretionary funding under the Community Adaptation Grant Scheme has been received from Dianne Beaumont – Dementia Connect Local Services Manager for North Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Dementia Support Service in partnership with the Alzheimer's Society. The

application is in respect of a joint project developed with the Council's Housing Service to offer aids assessments as part of their initial assessment process under the locally commissioned memory support service 'Dementia Connect'. Where it is identified that assistive technology aids would benefit the individual they propose to offer a bespoke pack of around five aids and ensure the service user and carers are confident using them safely.

- 3.2 In terms of dementia care, 'Assistive Technology' (AT) is the name given to any aid or device that helps people to become more independent. In the Staffordshire Moorlands, AT and aids for people with dementia are not currently funded by other means, resulting in many individuals not being able to purchase the items which could offer greater independence, dignity and safety. It has been evidenced that simple AT and home aids can not only greatly improve the independence of people diagnosed with dementia, allowing them to remain safer in their own homes for longer, but also positively affect carers and family members by reducing dependence and offering peace of mind. AT may reduce the reliance on other services, particularly in the early to mid-stages of dementia which in turn could result in a cost benefit. Research shows that the introduction of AT is best as early as possible after a diagnosis so that the individual and their carers can get used to using the aids which is why attaching this proposal to the memory support service's initial assessment is ideal.
- 3.3 The full details of the proposal, business case and costings are given in the Dementia Support Business Case Report at Appendix 1.

4. **How this report links to Corporate Priorities**

- 4.1 This report supports the Council's Corporate Priorities as follows:

To help create a safer and healthier environment for our communities to live and work:

- (i) Develop a Private Sector Housing Strategy to improve conditions for homeowners and private tenants.
- (ii) Ensuring effective health provision particularly for the elderly.
- (iii) Improving Health and Community Safety.

5. **Implications**

5.1 Community Safety - (Crime and Disorder Act 1998)

None.

5.2 Workforce

None.

5.3 Equality and Diversity/Equality Impact Assessment

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Council's

Diversity and Equality Policies.

The report makes a recommendation to use DFG funding to support those residents suffering from dementia.

5.4 Financial Considerations

The agreement to use the Better Care Fund money for discretionary purposes is established, and so the funding can be provided as long as the Council can continue to meet its obligations to clients who have a mandatory right to DFG assistance. In the event that the Council does not achieve a reasonable level of spend against the budget there is a risk that future Better Care Fund allocations will be reduced accordingly.

5.5 Legal

The Council's Housing Renewal Policy determines the grounds on which funding can be made available, and the Policy includes provision for discretionary funding.

The Annual Disabled Facilities Capital Grant (DFG) Determination 2020-21 (31/5037) issued by the Minister for Local Government and Homelessness states that any money paid under this grant determination must only be used for the specific purpose of funding adaptations for disabled people who qualify for a Disabled Facilities Grant made under the Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996 (*mandatory DFG*) or under the Regulatory Reform (Housing Assistance) Order 2002 (*Housing Renewal or Assistance Policy*) or any other social care capital projects where otherwise agreed with the relevant authority (*Report to SILIS Executive Steering Group*).

5.6 Climate Change

Provides long-term improvements to community facilities that ensure ongoing access for the wider community.

5.7 Internal and External Consultation

Member consultation regarding use of DFG funds for discretionary purposes at Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel 03/10/2018, agreement at SILIS Strategic Partnership Board on 08/11/2018 and approval at Cabinet 9th February 2021.

5.8 Risk Assessment

Risk associated with reduction in future DFG funding due to significant underspend of the Council's contribution from the Better Care Fund.

Web Links and Background Papers	Location	Contact details
		Alicia Patterson Head of Environmental Health Alicia Patterson Alicia.Patterson@staffs.moorlands.gov.uk

6. Background and Detail

- 6.1 Disabled Facilities Grants are a mandatory function of the Council and provide disabled residents in non-council homes who meet certain criteria with funding to undertake adaptations that will allow them to remain in their homes.
- 6.2 Over the last 3 financial years, the level of funding provided to Staffordshire Moorlands District Council from the Better Care Fund at the County Council has increased dramatically, with some £1.2m being made available for use in the District year on year. This funding is effectively double the funding level that the Authority would previously routinely receive, and as a result there is a significant surplus of funding once the mandatory DFG applicants have been provided for.
- 6.3 During a discussion regarding DFGs at the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 3rd October 2018, the Panel considered the proposal for the Head of Environmental Health to take a report to the Strategic Partnership Board that oversees the DFG Programme across Staffordshire requesting that the surplus DFG Funding over and above the mandatory demand be used for discretionary cases as well – those that traditionally sit outside the mandatory criteria but nevertheless are deserving of assistance that, if not provided, would undoubtedly lead to isolation at home and a lack of participation in community life. The Panel agreed to support the proposal.
- 6.4 A report was subsequently presented to the Support for Independent Living in Staffordshire (SILIS) Strategic Partnership Board on 8th November 2018. The Partnership Board is made up of all the Chief Executive Officers from the participating Staffordshire Councils, and also includes representatives from the County Council and the Public Health/NHS partners that set the agenda for Better Care Fund use. The report outlined the principles under which Staffordshire Moorlands District Council would seek to utilise the non-mandatory funding stream, and sought the agreement of the Steering Group for using the Better Care Fund programme for discretionary and community-based projects in the District. The report was agreed.
- 6.5 A report seeking to formalise the DFG expansion programme was submitted to the Council's Cabinet on 9th February 2021. The report was agreed and the

Council's Private Sector Housing Assistance Policy was subsequently updated to include the suite of discretionary Adaptation funding options, including the Community Adaptation Grant which is aimed specifically at improving access and facilities to community premises for the benefit of the wider community of individuals living with disability.

- 6.6 Discretionary DFG Funding has subsequently been used for a number of projects – to provide top-up funding for DFG Applicants who do not have sufficient funds to contribute to large projects that cost more than the £35K mandatory grant maximum; to help people to move house where their existing property cannot be adapted to suit their needs; and to contribute to several community projects that have provided access to existing and purpose-built community facilities. The community projects have proved hugely successful – as a result, it has generated more interest from community groups and operators of community facilities, and the most recent applicant is North Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Dementia Support Service.
- 6.7 When considering large scale community projects, it is appropriate to consult the Portfolio Holder as the sums involved can be significant and the Council needs to be transparent in its decision-making.
- 6.8 As a general principle the proposals must:
- Relate to a capital project that adapts, upgrades or improves a premises for the local community;
 - Address either a physical disability or a defined mental health disability;
 - Be built on a sound business case;
 - Ideally complement existing fund-raising, grant applications or capital investment by the applicant; and
 - Be limited to a level of contribution commensurate with the expected local impact – i.e. a 'value for money' assessment.
- 6.9 In the Staffordshire Moorlands aids are not currently funded by other means resulting in many individuals not having the means to purchase the items which could offer greater independence and safety. The Alzheimer's Society Memory Support Service proposes to offer aids assessments as part of their community initial assessment process. Where it is identified that aids would benefit the individual, they propose to offer a bespoke pack of around five aids and ensure the service user and carers are confident using them safely. The proposed cost of this would be £300 per service user. It is projected that, of the 450 referrals the charity will receive over the next 12 months, 250 will be assessed as requiring aids, therefore, the grant requested is likely to be in the region of £75,000.
- 6.10 It should be noted that although the applicant is not investing a contribution towards the project, the Alzheimer's Society will not charge a fee for this service and will include it within the support already provided. The Aids will be procured directly from the Alzheimer's Society, as they only stock approved products that they have verified as fit for purpose.

- 6.11 To achieve oversight of the financial aspect of the project it is proposed that the funding is released in instalments, with a proportion of the total grant being paid each quarter. The amount paid each quarter will be monitored and adjusted where appropriate depending on circumstances, take-up etc. The Society will begin each quarter with a balance of £18,750, each subsequent contribution being sufficient to maintain this level of funding throughout the year.
- 6.12 It should be noted that this is a pilot project, to run for 1 year. The Society will record and provide data to the local authority on take-up, the nature of the aids provided and feedback on the impact in respect of personal independence, family peace of mind and customer satisfaction. The Alzheimer's Society will monitor the benefits of the project and use case studies to illustrate improvements in independence. Where possible they will also evidence cost benefit savings and forward reports to the Disabled Facilities Officer at Staffordshire Moorlands District Council. A report on the outcome of the trial will be submitted at the end of the trial period and, if successful, then a further Delegated Decision Report will be submitted requesting the continuation of the scheme.

Appendix 1 – Dementia Support Project Business Case Report

Organisation & address

North Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Dementia Support Service
Alzheimer's Society Head Office
43-44
Crutched Friars,
London,
EC3N 2AE

Contact details

Dianne Beaumont – Local Services Manager (Maternity Cover)
dianne.beaumont@alzheimers.org.uk
07540 920456

Details of the proposed project

The Alzheimer's Society operate the local commissioned memory support service covering North Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent. Referrals are received from NHS memory clinics and other health professionals, in addition to self-referrals.

The Alzheimer's Society memory support service propose to offer aids assessments as part of their initial assessment process. Where it is identified that assistive technology aids would benefit the individual, they propose to offer a bespoke pack of around five aids and ensure the service user and carers are confident using them safely.

The proposed cost of this would be £300 per service user. Alzheimer's Society do not wish to charge a fee for this service and will include it within the support already provided. It is projected that, of the 450 referrals the charity will receive over the next 12 months, 250 will be assessed as requiring aids. Therefore, the grant requested is £75,000.

It is acknowledged that this application is for a 12-month period only and any future funding would require a further application if discretionary funding is still available. The Alzheimer's Society propose to monitor benefits of the project and use case studies to illustrate improvements in independence. Where possible they will also evidence cost benefit savings and forward reports to the Disabled Facilities Officer at Staffordshire Moorlands District Council

How could this benefit the disabled community?

In terms of dementia 'Assistive Technology' (AT) is the name given to any aid or device that helps people to become more independent. In the Staffordshire Moorlands AT and aids for people with dementia are not currently funded by other means resulting in many individuals not being able to purchase the items which could offer greater independence, dignity and safety.

It has been evidenced that simple AT and home aids can not only greatly improve the independence of people diagnosed with dementia, allowing them to remain safer in their own homes for longer but also positively affect carers and family members by reducing

dependence and offering peace of mind. AT may reduce the reliance on other services, particularly in the early to mid stages of dementia which in turn could result in a cost benefit. Research shows that the introduction of AT is best as early as possible after a diagnosis so that the individual and their carers can get used to using the aids which is why attaching this proposal to the memory support service's initial assessment is ideal.

This proposal will help an estimated 250 people with dementia to maintain or improve their independence and dignity. Countless other carers and family members could regain family time and peace of mind. The evaluation of the project over the 12 month period could also allow the charity to assess and build evidence to support future funding bids, potentially supporting even more people.

Would your organisation (or another funding stream) be providing a contribution towards the cost?

The grant requested is the full amount to cover the cost of the AT aids. However it must be noted that the Alzheimer's Society do not wish to charge a fee for the delivery of this service and intend to include it within the support already provided. They will assess the needs of each referral and ensure appropriate aids are issued and demonstrated to allow safe use. They will also produce case studies to evidence improved independence and cost benefit as part of this service.

DFG Officer report

Whilst researching dementia I came across a pilot study in Worcestershire which aimed to improve independence of people with dementia by using the discretionary element of their DFG to fund home aids. I wondered if this is something we could replicate in our district. According to Staffordshire County Council's '*Staffordshire Evidence Base: Population Demographics and Adult Social Care Needs*' document Staffordshire has higher than national average concentrations of older people and this ageing population means that the total number of people aged 65 and over with dementia in Staffordshire is projected to rise from around 11,900 in 2019 to 15,600 in 2029; an increase of 32%. National research suggests that most people would like to stay in their own home with informal or formal support.

I became aware that SMDC has formally agreed to support the Dementia Friendly Communities initiative with the ambition that Staffordshire Moorlands becomes a Dementia Friendly Community therefore this proposal would support this aim. In 2019 a working group was set up to look into dementia support provision in the Moorlands. In order to find out more about the findings of the working group I approached Sally Hampton (Member and Community Support Services Officer) who was able to put me in touch with external contributors to the group. Sally was interested in the proposal to provide aids packages and I agreed to keep her, and the other working group members, updated on progress.

I contacted the NHS Memory Clinic and discussed the proposal with an Occupational Therapist and Manager to assess the appropriateness and feasibility. My discussions were met with great enthusiasm and interest. I considered two charities for the delivery of the project, Approach and the Alzheimer's Society, but the Memory Clinic suggested that, as the Alzheimer's Society are currently commissioned to deliver memory support services in the area, they would be in the best position. The Memory Clinic already work closely with them and refer their patients to them for ongoing support.

Myself, the OT from the Memory Clinic and the Manager of the local Alzheimer's Society memory support service had a number of meetings to help formulate this proposal. Support workers offered their expertise by identifying the most popular and most useful aids, an example of two packs can be seen below. (Please note, each pack will be bespoke to the individual, these packs are to give an idea of just a few products and cost only. Items can be viewed at <https://shop.alzheimers.org.uk/>)

Example bundle 1

- *Rosebud reminder clock - £83.99*
- *Reusable Signage sticker book – £38.34*
- *Amplidect Combi 295 phone - £89.99*
- *Medelet Mark 2 Dispenser - £70.00*
- *TV -5 Remote - £10.99*

Total cost = £293.31

Example bundle 2

- *Coloured Cutlery set - £25.62*
- *Easy Grip Utilities set - £45.96*
- *Safer Walker GPS locator – £99. 00 (£14.99 monthly subscription to paid by the service user)*
- *Amplidect 265 Photo Compact phone- £74.99*
- *Dual display digital clock - £44.99*

Total cost = £290.56

In summary, this proposal supports SMDC's involvement in the Dementia Friendly Communities initiative and also contributes towards Aim 1 of the Corporate Plan 2019-23 'to help create a safer and healthier environment for our communities to live and work'. I fully support the proposal, I believe it offers value for money and is a fantastic opportunity to assist a large number of people by using DFG funding in an innovative way

Research guidance: I have included in the funding application pack;
Staffordshire Evidence Base: Population Demographics and Adult Social Care Need (for demographic data)
Making Homes More Dementia-Friendly Through the Use of Aids and Adaptations (as a precedent for using DFG funding)
Carers' experience of using assistive technology for dementia care at home: a qualitative study (for family/carer perspectives)

Sarah Blore
DFG Officer
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council

Appendix 2 – Community Adaptation Grant Application



Application For Discretionary Funding Disabled Facilities Grant (Community Facilities)

To make an application for discretionary funding you need to provide:

- A minimum of 2 estimates for the work identified as necessary and appropriate
- Copies of the plans, schedule of works, quotations
- Copies of Planning Consent and Building Control Consent (if applicable)
- Proof of ownership of the property or proof of contractual arrangement

Applicant(s) name	Dianne Beaumont – Dementia Connect Local Services Manager (Maternity Cover)		
Name of Organisation / Community Group	Alzheimer's Society		
Name of Premises	North Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Dementia Support Service		
Address of premises	Alzheimer's Society Head Office 43-44 Crutched Friars, London, EC3N 2AE		
Email (Applicant)	dianne.beaumont@alzheimers.org.uk		
Contact Number (Applicant)	07540 920456		
About the property	No	Yes	
Does the organisation, alone or jointly with others, own the property that will be adapted?	N/A		
Does the organisation, alone or jointly with others, rent, lease or manage the property that will be adapted?	N/A		
If the property is rented, leased or managed has the owner given permission for the work to be carried out?	N/A		
Type of Property (or nature of use)	N/A		

Landlords Name & Address	N/A		
Landlords Contact Details	N/A		
About the works		No	Yes
Does the work for which you are applying for assistance include an adaptation as the central or only element of the work?			Yes, (aids)
If the adaptation work is ancillary to the main work, can you identify the specific costings for the element of the work that applies to an adaptation?		N/A	N/A
Are you providing any financial contribution towards the cost of the work (either the organisation itself or other funding that has been successfully applied for)?		No **	
<i>** Please note, the charity are not charging a fee for the provision of the service. The grant is for the purchase of the equipment only.</i>			
Is the organisation a community group, charitable or not-for-profit organisation?			Yes
Do you consent for the Council to pay the grant monies direct to the contractor on satisfactory completion of the work?		N/A	N/A
Details of the Works being carried out	<p>The Alzheimer's Society operate the local commissioned memory support service, 'Dementia Connect'. Referrals are received from NHS memory clinics and other health professionals, in addition to self-referrals. It has been evidenced that simple home aids can greatly improve the independence of people diagnosed with dementia, allowing them to remain safer in their own homes for longer. These aids often also have a positive effect for carers and family members by reducing dependence and offering peace of mind.</p> <p>In the Staffordshire Moorlands aids are not currently funded by other means resulting in many individuals not having the means to purchase the items which could offer greater independence and safety. The Alzheimer's Society Memory support service propose to offer aids assessments as part of their community initial assessment process. Where it is identified that aids would benefit the individual, they propose to offer a bespoke pack of around five aids and ensure the service user and carers are confident using them safely. The proposed cost of this would be £300 per service user. Alzheimer's Society do not wish to charge a fee for this service and will include it within the support already</p>		

	<p>provided. It is projected that, of the 450 referrals the charity will receive over the next 12 months, 250 will be assessed as requiring aids. Therefore, the grant requested is £75,000. It is acknowledged that this application is for a 12-month period only and any future funding would require a further application if discretionary funding is still available. The Alzheimer's Society will monitor benefits of the project and use case studies to illustrate improvements in independence. Where possible they will also evidence cost benefit savings and forward reports to the Disabled Facilities Officer at Staffordshire Moorlands District Council.</p>		
Costings	<p>Total cost of the adaptation works; £75,000</p> <p>Total contribution by your organisation (if any): £ N/A</p> <p>Cost of the adaptation element (if ancillary to the overall work) £ N/A</p> <p>Costs of any fees and charges to be included (e.g. planning or building control fees, architects fees etc) £ N/A</p>		
Contractors Name	Alzheimer's Society		
If you have someone handling the application on your behalf, please give details	N/A		
Land Charges		No	Yes
<p>If you are an owner and your grant is over £5000 a ten year land charge will be put on your property. Please indicate whether you agree to this term.</p> <p>Please note the charge may be incurred or may increase while works are in progress if unforeseen additional works are identified.</p>		N/A	N/A

Declaration	Yes
I declare that the information I have given is correct and complete, to the best of my knowledge and belief.	Yes
I understand that if I give false information, or knowingly leave out information I may be prosecuted.	Yes
I authorise the Council to make enquiries to check the information I have given. This may include external agencies..	Yes

The Council is under a duty to protect public funds it administers, therefore it may use the information provided by you in this form for the prevention and detection of fraud. It may also share this information with other bodies administering public funds.

The Council may require you to provide additional information following receipt of the application. Failure to provide any relevant information on request may compromise your application.

Applicant(s) name	Dianne Beaumont
Signature	<i>Dianne M. Beaumont</i>
Date	27/7/21

DATA PROTECTION

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council is the data controller for the purposes of the Data Protection Act, 1998. Any personal information you give us is held securely in accordance with the Act. Information that was collected for one purpose may be used for other Council purposes and we may also share information where appropriate with our partner High Peak Borough Council or other organisations, unless there are any legal restrictions preventing this. The use of your information in this way allows us to deliver more efficient services that can be tailored to your individual needs and preferences.

For further information, please see our website link:
<https://www.staffs Moorlands.gov.uk/YourData>

This authority is under a duty to protect the public funds it administers, and to this end may use the information you have provided on this form for the prevention and detection of fraud. It may also share this information with other bodies responsible for auditing or administering public funds for these purposes.

For further information, please see our website link:
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