

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Cabinet Member for Integrated Children’s Services

DECISION NO:

22/00109

For publication

Key decision: YES

Subject Matter / Title of Decision: Local Children’s Partnership Group Grants Programme

Decision: As Cabinet Member for Integrated Children’s Services, I propose to:

- a) Cease the funding for the Local Children’s Partnership Group (LCPG) Grants programme from the end of the 2022/23 financial year; and
- b) Delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Children, Young People and Education to take relevant actions including but not limited to entering into legal agreements as necessary to implement this decision.

Reason(s) for decision:

The current financial position of the council requires that all non-statutory funding be examined to see where potential savings could be made. The 2023/2024 round of grants has not yet commenced, it is important to take this decision prior to engaging with the VCS regarding next year’s allocation.

Background:

- Since 2016, the Local Children’s Partnership Group (LCPG) Grants Programme has been in place to allow grassroots VCS organisations funding for projects and programmes that support children, young people and families at a community level whilst tackling local priorities set out by the Partnership Board.
- The LCPG Grants Programme is a county-wide pot of £600,000, divided between the 12 districts. The 2022/2023 Grant pot has been split between 29 VCS providers over a total of 54 projects. The 2022/2023 LCPG grants range in value from £3,900 to £15,000

Financial implications

- The LCPG Grants Programme is a county-wide pot of £600,000, divided between the 12 districts, to fund projects to meet local need and support the priorities set out by each of the LCPGs.
- There are limited financial risks associated with this proposal as all existing grant provision linked to the LCPGs are due to end 31 March 2023. The 2023/2024 round of grants have not yet commenced.
- The current providers are all small to medium voluntary sector organisation. The removal of the LCPG Grants should have limited impact as this funding stream is short term and not guaranteed year to year. Therefore, it is unlikely that removal of the grants would impact on many of the organisations ongoing viability.

Legal implications

- There is no statutory requirement for the Local Authority to provide this funding stream for VCS organisations and no contractual obligations to continue funding beyond 31 March 2023.

Equalities implications

- The decision will impact each of the protected characteristics, though no one group will be disproportionately impacted. This will continue to be developed.

Data Protection implications

- None

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

The proposed decision will be discussed at the Children, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee on 29 November 2022 and the outcome included in the paperwork which the Cabinet Member will be asked to sign.

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:

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signed

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date