

Information

for County Councillors

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From:	Trudi Grant, Director of Public Health
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Date:	May 2016
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To:	All County Councillors
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Member's Health and Wellbeing Budget Scheme 2015-16

The Member's Health and Wellbeing Budget Scheme for 2015-16 allocated each County Councillor a sum of £5,000 to promote and support the improvement of health and wellbeing in their local division.

As in previous years, grants supported many communities with projects and this year there was a particular focus on those which tackled isolation and health inequalities.

Applications were received for projects in the following areas: physical activity opportunities, family or community resilience, older people's independence and social inclusion, children and youth projects and health and wellbeing initiatives which mirrored the Health and Wellbeing Strategy objectives.

The scheme has now closed and the final payments have been made. This briefing is to provide members with a final report of the scheme.

In total 265 applications were received and approved from 54 councillors, with £229,342.02 of the £275,000 available budget being spent. Many grants supported local initiatives at community level and were directed to local voluntary sector organisations or Parish Councils.

Examples of some of the excellent projects that have been supported are:

- Promoting access to clubs for older more isolated members of the community
- Men's Shed projects
- Mental health projects around memory cafes and raising awareness and caring for those with Alzheimer's.

- Community transport initiatives
- Equipment for sports clubs
- Outdoor activity equipment across the county
- Projects supporting families with activities to learn cooking skills and developing gardening schemes
- School breakfast clubs and after school activities
- Projects with schools and young people's groups to develop gardening and growing food skills
- Projects supporting use of outdoor amenities and developing mental wellbeing

Although Councillors do not certify any expenditure under the Budget Scheme, they retain responsibility for ensuring any grant is spent as specified and to ensure value for money and accountability; attention was drawn to this in the Guidance Notes for the scheme.

A large number of applications were received as the Budget Scheme drew to a close – over 40% of the total applications were received in the last two days of the scheme. Unfortunately this did create issues around managing the volume of work, both in terms of signing off applications and processing the applications for payment. We apologise if this did not go as smoothly as you would have liked in some instances.

Finally, I would like to say a huge thank you for all the time and effort you have put into the scheme over the four years that we have run it. It has successfully enabled over £1million pounds worth of funding to be invested in improving the health and wellbeing of our local communities and much of the investment will continue to reap benefits for many years to come.

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