


Portfolio Holder Decision

Accelerating Reform Fund for Adult Social Care

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| Portfolio Holder | Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care & Health |
| Date of decision | 11 March 2024 |
| | Signed  |

1. Decision taken

That the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care & Health agrees to the receipt of grant funding from the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) via Coventry City Council the lead Local Authority on the basis described in this report and authorises the Executive Director for Social Care and Health to:

1. Agree to the DHSC's conditions for use of the Accelerated Reform Fund (ARF) to the value of £438,180 allocated to Warwickshire County Council;
2. Work jointly with Coventry City Council on the program of projects approved for funding; and
3. Carry out appropriate procurement processes and enter into all necessary contracts with external providers for delivery of the approved projects on terms and conditions acceptable to the Executive Director for Resources.

2. Summary

- 2.1 The Department of Health and Care (DHSC) has made available a fund of over £42.8 million for Adult Social Care to improve support for unpaid carers by embedding and scaling up provision for those with a caring responsibility. This is called the Accelerating Reform Fund (ARF).
- 2.2 Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) were invited to register interest by 12th January 2024 for funding projects that support digital access and unpaid carers.

3. Background information

- 3.1 Each ICS selected a lead local authority (LA) to drive the ARF application process and coordinate bids containing projects that aligned with the 12 ARF priority areas.

Within the Coventry and Warwickshire ICS, Coventry City Council (CCC) took this lead role. The 12 ARF priority areas are outlined below:

- Priority 1: community-based care models such as shared living arrangements
- Priority 2: supporting people to have greater control over their care options, such as by using digital tools to self-direct support or communicate needs and preferences.
- Priority 3: investment in local area networks or communities to support prevention and promote wellbeing, enabling people to age well in their communities.
- Priority 4 (focusses on unpaid carers): ways to support unpaid carers to have breaks which are tailored to their needs.
- Priority 5: digital tools to support workforce recruitment and retention, for example through referral schemes.
- Priority 6: develop and expand the impact of local volunteer-supported pathways for people drawing on care and support.
- Priority 7 (focusses on unpaid carers): ways to conduct effective carer's assessments with a focus on measuring outcomes and collaboration.
- Priority 8 (focusses on unpaid carers): services that reach out to, and involve, unpaid carers through the discharge process.
- Priority 9: digital workforce development and market shaping tools with capability to map, strengthen and grow local workforce capacity relative to system demand.
- Priority 10: social prescribing to connect people with information, advice, activities and services in the community.
- Priority 11 (focusses on unpaid carers): ways to better identify unpaid carers in local areas.
- Priority 12 (focusses on unpaid carers): ways to encourage people to recognise themselves as carers and promote access to carer services.

The approved projects submitted to the ARF are as follows:

| Bid | Priority areas | Brief overview of project | Coventry, Warks or both (ICS) |
|--------------------|-----------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Market Shaping and | 3,6, 9, 10 | An app mapping potential demand and provision, linking volunteers to individuals requiring support. The platform | ICS |

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| Support | | also allows people to develop their own community enterprise and allow individuals to source their own support. To be undertaken as a pilot in Coventry and enhance existing Warwickshire pilot. | |
| Digital carer identification and support | 7, 8, 10, 11, 12 | An online digital support tool for unpaid carers to access information, localised support and develop self-help plans. | ICS |
| Shared lives | 1, 4, 5 | A scheme offering adults the opportunity to live with approved carers in family homes, offering a viable alternative to residential or supported living provision. ARF funding to provide specific recruitment support to attract new carers. | ICS |
| Hospital Carer support Service | 7,8,10,11,12 | A Hospital Carer support will offer 1:1 guidance and advice during the hospital stay and following the discharge from hospital. | Warks only |
| Unpaid carer breaks and respite service | 3,4,11 | MyTime works with local businesses and organisations to seek donations to allow carers to take breaks, for example meals out, hotel stays, theatre tickets. These are distributed to carers via an application and screening process. | ICS |
| Personalised phone app and personalised support | 2,3,4,10 | Phone App is a personalised phone app that combines the use of technology and live professional support to enable people to access help whenever and wherever they need it. | Warks only |
| Project management / contingency fund | n/a | Additional funding will be used towards project management costs to ensure effective delivery for this programme of work. Surplus funding will also provide a contingency to reduce risk to each local authority. | ICS |

3.2 £779,604 has been allocated as part of the ARF to the Coventry and Warwickshire ICS. £438,180 has been allocated to Warwickshire County Council. The funding allocated to each project is outlined in the table below alongside the authorities undertaking the project(s). There is a slight underspend of £21,924 that will be used to manage project contingency.

| Project | Target Group | Authority | 2024/25 cost £'000's | 2025/26 cost £'000's | Total Cost £' 000 |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|-----------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Early Identification and Support | Carers | CCC | 67.5 | 60 | 127.5 |
| | | WCC | 67.5 | 60 | 127.5 |
| Respite Care | Service users and | CCC | 67 | 62 | 129 |
| | | WCC | | 62 | 62 |

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|--|--------------------------|--|------------|------------|---------|
| | Carers | | | | |
| Market Shaping and Capacity | Service Users | CCC WCC | 25 25 | 25 25 | 100 |
| Shared Lives | Service users and Carers | CCC WCC | 6.5 6.5 | 6.5 6.5 | 26 |
| Personalised Phone APP with and professional support | Service users and Carers | WCC only | 85.680 | | 85.680 |
| Hospital carers support service | Service users and Carers | WCC only | 100 | | 100 |
| Project Management/Administration (underspend) | | CCC & WCC Split to depend on procurement activity | | 21.924 | 21.924 |
| TOTAL | | | 450.680 | 328,924 | 779.604 |

- 3.3 The next stage of the ARF application process is to agree project plans and identify roles and responsibilities to take forward these projects. Discussions are taking place with CCC to ensure that appropriate governance and procurement processes are followed to support each project and that any necessary legal agreements are in place, including acceptance by the Council of the grant conditions imposed by DHSC.
- 3.4 A joint Coventry and Warwickshire project plan will be shared with DHSC to approve release of funding from March 2024.
- 3.5 Procurement and mobilisation of projects will take place from March 2024 to October 2024. The final release of funding is expected in October 2024 upon approval of project progress with an interim mid-grant report to DHSC.
- 3.6 Project monitoring and implementation will include engagement with stakeholders and unpaid carers.
- 3.7 Sustainability and exit planning will be considered for the projects which are due to end in March 2025.
- 3.8 Project key milestones as follows:

| Date | Item |
|-------------|----------------|
| 12 Jan 2024 | EOIs submitted |

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| 16 Feb 2024 | EOIs approved by DHSC. Coventry to agree Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of ICS |
| Mar 2024 | First grant allocation released by DHSC, Local Governance arrangements to include Finance and Procurement |
| Feb – Jun 2024 | Engagement/Coproduction with partners and project teams set up, Project planning |
| Apr – Sept 2024 | Projects mobilisation and sustainability/exit planning |
| Oct 2024 | Mid grant report due |
| Oct – Nov 2024 | Second grant allocation released |
| Sept 2024 – Mar 2025 | Projects Implementation Sustainability Planning |
| April 2025 | End of Grant report due to include sustainability or Exit plan |
| April 2025 – Mar 2026 | Project continuation or Exit |

3.9 The end of grant report is due in April 2025.

4. Financial Implications

4.1 On 9th February 2024 the DHSC approved a total funding allocation of £779,604 to the Coventry and Warwickshire ICS: £418,302 for 2023/24 and £361,302 for 2024/25 for the proposals put forward by Coventry City Council on behalf of the ICS. Receipt of funding does not require any funding to be contributed by the Council.

5. Environmental Implications

5.1 There are no environmental implications arising directly from this report. Providers will be required to demonstrate consideration of climate change issues and environmental implications in their delivery models.

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| Urgent matter? | Yes |
| Confidential or exempt? | No |
| Is the decision contrary to the budget and policy framework? | No |

Appendices

Appendix 1 - MoU Between Coventry City Council and Department of Health and Social Care

Members and officers consulted and informed

Portfolio Holder – Councillor Butlin and Councillor Bell

Corporate Board – Becky Hale

Legal – Nic Vine

Finance – Andrew Harper

Equality – Delroy Madden

Democratic Services – Helen Barnsley, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Councillors – n/a

Local Member(s): n/a

Councillor Adrain Warwick – in relation to consent for urgency, Chair & Spokes of Resources and Fire & Rescue OSC