

BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN AND WEST NORFOLK

RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY OFFICERS UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

This is a record of a decision taken by an officer under delegated powers and where necessary taken in consultation with members and officers.

REPORT TITLE: FUNDING FOR WEST NORFOLK CARERS

Delegated Power

Specify the particular delegated power being exercised by reference to the Delegation Scheme or Cabinet minute and date.

Council Constitution, Part 3 Responsibilities for Council Functions, Section 2 Functions Delegated to Cabinet Members and Officers - Scheme of Delegation, functions:

7.12 Health improvement and promotion including public health and community care and LILY

The Chief Executive in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for People and Communities: day to day management

Decision Taken

Specify precise details of the decision taken

The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on carers in West Norfolk has been extreme. Increased social isolation and the very real fear of carers passing covid to vulnerable family members has led to significant mental health issues. For young carers this has been as extreme as suicide attempts. West Norfolk Carers has played a vital role supporting carers prior to, during and after the pandemic. WNC has seen a significant increase in referrals post pandemic, far in excess of pre-pandemic levels. In 2019 it received 84 new referrals in 2022 to date it has received 122 and is currently supporting 4261 carers of which 492 are children (6yr-18yr). A number of these carers are supporting people living with dementia. As a result of the pandemic, the number of people being supported has increased and situations are far more complex and individuals/families require support for a longer period of time.

This increase in demand has been at a time when fundraising efforts have been hampered by the pandemic and now the cost-of-living crises. Income from fundraising collapsed by 79% during the pandemic and in 21/22 was down 53% on pre pandemic levels.

As a result, and despite several funding bids being submitted WNC finds itself in a position of financial strain which threaten its ability to continue operating in the short term.

Borough Council officers have met with WNC to understand the current situation and the financial pressures. We will be meeting with WNC again in the near future and, with other partners, will look to provide support and advice to WNC to secure their future.

The immediate financial need for this financial year is £38,000. Borough Council officers have met with colleagues from the CCG and agreed additional grant joint funding support for 2022/23. The Borough council will allocate £10,000 from the Covid COMF budget provided to the council to support recovery from the pandemic. The CCG has made an offer to meet the remaining immediate funding need. Further discussions will be held with WNC to look to secure financial sustainability. A service level agreement for this interim funding will be put in place.

Reasons for the Decision

Specify all reasons for taking the decision

WNC provide specific support to a large number of carers across West Norfolk. They support the work of statutory health care providers (CAHMS, Point 1) as well as the QEH. The services provided reduce waiting list burdens on these services.

WNC also provide Dementia support in King's Lynn and West Norfolk, part of this work is supporting the QEH with the development of its dementia pathway.

The loss of WNC will have a significant and long-term impact on support for adult and young carers across Norfolk and place significant strain on already stretched statutory services.

WNC are an integral partner to the Council's LILY service.

Options considered

Without the funding support to address the immediate financial situation WNC would not be able to continue to operate.

Any declarations of interest and details of any dispensations granted in respect of interests.

List of Background papers

Authorisation

Post Held Chief Executive

Signature

Date **6 June 2022**

Consultation with members/officers

If the decision is taken following consultation with the members/officers, please give details:

Signed by Member as consulted:

Cllr S Sandell

Date

Pre-Screening Equality Impact Assessment

Borough Council of
**King's Lynn &
West Norfolk**



Name of policy/service/function		Financial Assistance				
Is this a new or existing policy/ service/function?		Existing				
Brief summary/description of the main aims of the policy/service/function being screened. Please state if this policy/service rigidly constrained by statutory obligations		Provision of funding to support the work of West Norfolk Carers				
Question		Answer				
<p>1. Is there any reason to believe that the policy/service/function could have a specific impact on people from one or more of the following groups according to their different protected characteristic, for example, because they have particular needs, experiences, issues or priorities or in terms of ability to access the service?</p> <p>Please tick the relevant box for each group.</p> <p>NB. Equality neutral means no negative impact on any group.</p>			Positive	Negative	Neutral	Unsure
		Age			X	
		Disability			X	
		Gender			X	
		Gender Re-assignment			X	
		Marriage/civil partnership			X	
		Pregnancy & maternity			X	
		Race			X	
		Religion or belief			X	
		Sexual orientation			X	
Other (e.g. low income)			X			
Question		Answer		Comments		
2. Is the proposed policy/service likely to affect relations between certain equality communities or to damage relations between the equality communities and the Council, for example because it is seen as favouring a particular community or denying opportunities to another?		No				
3. Could this policy/service be perceived as impacting on communities differently?		No				
4. Is the policy/service specifically designed to tackle evidence of disadvantage or potential discrimination?		No				
5. Are any impacts identified above minor and if so, can these be eliminated or reduced by minor actions? If yes, please agree actions with a member of the Corporate Equalities Working Group and list agreed actions in the comments section		Yes / No		Actions: Actions agreed by EWG member: Name		
Assessment completed by: Name						
Job title Chief Executive		Date 6 June 2022				
Please Note: If there are any positive or negative impacts identified in question 1, or there any 'yes' responses to questions 2 – 4 a full impact assessment will be required.						

