

**REPORT OF THE TEMPORARY GROUP MANAGER  
SAFER AND ENGAGED COMMUNITIES****EXTENSION OF GRANT AID AGREEMENTS FOR BE-FRIENDING****Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval to extend 8 existing grant aid agreements for organisations that deliver be-friending services.

**Information and Advice**

2. The 2011-15 Corporate Grant Aid Strategy agreed by full Council on 3rd November 2011 recommended that where possible grant aid agreements should be made with organisations for a period of three years.
3. However, when awards were recommended for 2012/13 a number of groups offering befriending services were only approved for 1 year. This recommendation was made because colleagues in Adult Social Care and Health were planning a review of home based support services in 2012.
4. In September 2012, the Council took the decision to delay the planned tender for home care and other home based support services. This was in order that fuller consideration is given to the range and nature of services that will be needed in future and the best way to deliver these services.
5. Although the home based support services tender is going ahead, the prevention and befriending part was taken out and is now under further consideration, probably to go out to tender later this year.
6. In order to keep these important grant funded services in place it is proposed an extension to cover 2014/15 is approved.

**Financial Implications**

7. The groups listed in appendix 1 are currently in receipt of grant aid and an extension for 2014/15 is recommended. It is proposed that the award for 2014/15 is reduced by 10.76% - this builds in the planned reduction applied to all the three year agreements.
8. The grant will be funded from the 2014/15 grant aid budget.

## **Other Options Considered**

9. As part of the County Council's Grant Aid Strategy as outlined above it is not appropriate to consider other options at this stage.

## **Reason(s) for Recommendation(s)**

10. To allow continued delivery of a range of be-friending services across the county.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

11. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

## **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

12. That Members approve:
- the extension of the 8 befriending grant aid agreements for a further 12 months from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015
  - the amount awarded to each group is reduced by 10.76% - this is in line with the planned reduction in the Grant Aid budget for 2014/15.

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**For any enquiries about this report please contact:**

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## **Constitutional Comments (NAB 8.1.14)**

The Grant Aid Sub-Committee has authority to approve the recommendations set out in this report by virtue of its terms of reference.

## **Financial Comments (SEM 7.1.14)**

The financial implications are set out in the report.

## **Background Papers**

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Corporate Grant Aid Strategy 2011 - 15

**Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

ALL