

Meeting	Trustee Board meeting
Date	18 June 2020
Title	Emergency small grants programme update
Agenda item	10
Paper by	Victoria Southwell

1.0 Purpose of paper

To update Trustees on the activity undertaken to date to implement and distribute emergency small grants to the unpaid carers sector.

2.0 Background

Trustees will recall that at the March 2020 Trustee Meeting a decision was made to cancel the Development Grants funding round for unpaid carers. Instead it was agreed to provide emergency small grants funding to carer organisations struggling to cope with the challenges of supporting unpaid carers during the Covid-19 lockdown.

Within weeks of this decision, programme criteria and an application process were developed and then agreed by Trustees. £300,000 was allocated to an immediate small grants programme (awards of up to £10,000) and £200,000 allocated to a second wave of support in the autumn of 2020.

The funding was launched by invitation only on 16th April 2020 to carer organisations that were either current grantees, had received a grant in the past 5 years or who had applied in the last cancelled funding round.

3.0 Current situation

The funding window for this opportunity was open for one month and applicants were asked to submit requests at any point during the month. Award decisions were made at the two week point and at the deadline. Only 50% of funding was allocated at the two week point to ensure that the money could be distributed equally.

By the end of two weeks 12 applications had been submitted requesting £91,464 of funding. By the deadline date a further 16 applications had been received requesting £135,678 of funding. The Director, in consultation with the Chair and

Vice Chair offered 27 grants totalling £213,596. Appendix 1 contains a table showing the organisations who applied, the amount of the request and the amount awarded.

The response to the funding opportunity has been extremely positive. Other than one application, the applications have all fitted the criteria that was developed after consultation with current grantees, other carer charities, national bodies such as Carers UK and other funders. Our ability to be agile, develop a simple online application process, make quick decisions and release funding in a short time frame has enabled grantee organisations to increase their support and capacity to carers.

4.0 Next Steps

Once the current pressures on organisations have eased slightly we will send round a short survey asking grantees to feedback their experience of the funding in terms of a) the application process and b) the impact of the funding on their work during this period. We will also ask them for insight into their current situation to inform our thinking about the second wave of support in the Autumn.

Hopefully the picture will be clear enough by October to share a paper with a suggested funding focus and criteria for phase 2 at the October 2020 meeting.

In the longer term we will also look at how we can pull together our learning from this to help inform our grant making in the longer term. We will also look to identify ways of sharing with other funders our experience of being a small funder and taking this kind of approach to supporting a sector in crisis.

Appendix 1

Ref Code	Name of applicant	Amount Requested £	Amount Granted £
2020-COVID-C001	Kinship Care Midlothian SCIO	10000	7454
2020-COVID-C002	More than Grandparents	7264	7264
2020-COVID-C003	Lagan's Foundation	4175	4175
2020-COVID-C004	Scarborough and Ryedale Carers Resource	9308	9308
2020-COVID-C005	Action for Family Carers	8800	8800
2020-COVID-C006	Lifted Carers Centre	9000	9000
2020-COVID-C007	Carers Forum Stirling Area t/a Stirling Carers Centre	7901	7901
2020-COVID-C008	Promas Caring for People CIC	7717	7717
2020-COVID-C009	Signpost Stockport for Carers	8900	8900
2020-COVID-C010	Gateshead Carers Association	6783	6783
2020-COVID-C011	Caring Breaks	2550	2550
2020-COVID-C012	Greenwich Carers Centre	9066	9066
2020-COVID-C013	Carefree (the trading name of Carefreebreaks)	6000	0
2020-COVID-C014	Carer's Voice Norfolk and Waveney	9990	9990
2020-COVID-C015	Hillingdon Carers	9316	9316
2020-COVID-C016	Newcastle Carers	10000	10000
2020-COVID-C017	Southend Carers Forum (SCF)	5850	5850
2020-COVID-C018	Redbridge Respite Care Association (RRCA)	9827	9827
2020-COVID-C019	Bridgend Carers Centre	9800	9800
2020-COVID-C020	North Argyll Carers Centre	7700	7700
2020-COVID-C021	Carers Together - 5	9580	9580
2020-COVID-C022	Blackburn with Darwen Carers Service	10000	5000
2020-COVID-C023	HOPElinks Ltd	9650	9650
2020-COVID-C024	Kindred Advocacy	7751	7751
2020-COVID-C025	Carers Outreach Service	9700	9700
2020-COVID-C026	Carers Link East Dunbartonshire	4190	4190
2020-COVID-C027	Solihull Carers Centre t/a Carers Trust Solihull	10000	10000
2020-COVID-C028	Carers Support Merton	6324	6324
	Total requested	£227,142	
C001-C012	Total awarded in wave 1		£88,918
C013-C028	Total awarded in wave 2		£124,678
	Total awarded		£213,596

- The application from Carefree was rejected as it was not supporting carers directly and so did not fit the criteria.
- Kinship Care Midlothian had their initial request reduced after sourcing software more cheaply.
- Blackburn with Darwen Carers Centre had their request reduced by 50% as £5,000 of the budget fell outside of the funding criteria.