

Response from Carers Support to Health & Wellbeing Group's questions regarding the "Stay with Me" grant application

- (1) Can you provide evidence that this project is not already funded by your contract with Wiltshire Council

Our contract with Wiltshire Council does not include funding for specific volunteer programmes within the hospitals such as this one. This is a new initiative which builds on our learning from a similar scheme currently running at the RUH in Bath (likewise not funded by the local authority, but through an investment of time and resources by all partners in the project, as well as outside funding).

We have limited resources which we use to deliver our cross-county service and we seek to enhance this basic offering through additional fundraising. We are seeking additional funding from the LAB to undertake this volunteer project to build carer support and therefore resilience in the Salisbury area specifically. This scheme will encourage local volunteering, build better awareness of carer support services and understanding of carers' issues, therefore strengthening support for carers in and around Salisbury.

- (2) Can you provide evidence that this project is not something that the Hospital are not already obligated to fund, and therefore fund itself

The hospital is not under any obligation to fund this service. The hospital's obligation lies in its responsibility to identify and recognise carers through providing carer awareness training to their staff.

- (3) Will the IPAD, ipad case, headphones, vertical banners be Carers Support capital asset or SDH's

All purchased equipment shall be a capital asset of Carer Support Wiltshire, but would be for the exclusive use of programme volunteers at Salisbury District Hospital.

- (4) Whilst noting the explanation for the need to keep a level of reserves in the bank, are you able to provide further explanation as to why this project could not be funded, if only in part by Carers Support itself?

This project is being match funded through the provision of premises, managerial support, database provision, and overheads. Total project cost is expected to exceed £4,000. We are seeking funding solely for the costs set out in the application. Our reserves are at the minimum level specified in the charity's Reserves Policy. As such the reserves are not available to us for funding projects. Furthermore, since we provide a county-wide service, we require matched funding from local organisations in order to justify CSW funding of a local initiative which does not have county-wide reach.

(5) What duties will the support worker admin do? Why would this cost £490.50

In order to monitor and evaluate the project we need a member of Carer Support Wiltshire (CSW) staff to provide admin support. This will include outcomes measurement via the compilation and analysis of engagement and referral figures, the gathering of carers' success stories after engaging with the volunteer service, and using the data received to help steer and inform the Management Team. We have only requested funding for a total of 30 hours spread over the entire year. This is a very conservative estimate of the time actually needed, and does not include staff travel time or expenses, meetings, overheads, or management time. The administration of the scheme and overhead costs are expected to total approximately £2,500 over the course of the year, 80% of which will be absorbed by CSW.

(6) From the understanding of partners at the meeting of the work of Carers Support, they felt that the following costings were things which Carers Support should absorb as part of its day to day functioning:

- Support worker admin

Please see answer to question 5 above.

- Carer awareness training

We are only contracted to train health and care staff. We do not receive funding to provide carer-awareness training for volunteers. The costs involved in providing the training for this project are therefore not covered by our current funding.

(7) Are you able to clarify the proportion of carers to be supported by this project who are residents of Salisbury, or if not Salisbury, then of outlying villages. We need to deduce whether funds should simply come from the Salisbury HWG budget, or from other area board HWG budgets

This is a tricky question to answer and, unfortunately, is not something we currently have figures on. Any acute care hospital will attract patients and carers from surrounding areas, and of course they have to provide the same service to all. Depending on where the recipient lives, this support will vary from full support to signposting.

It is important to note that, although this service will undoubtedly benefit patients and carers from a wider area, all those who live in Salisbury will use the Hospital, which is why the hospital is a key location for reaching carers and vulnerable adults living in Salisbury. We could, in theory, focus our attentions on a different location in Salisbury – somewhere which would only serve residents of Salisbury – however, this would be a significantly less effective use of funds as our impact would be considerably impaired.