

**Report to County Councillor Erica Lewis**

**Report submitted by: Head of Service Legal, Governance and Registrars**

**Electoral Division affected:**

Heysham;  
Lancaster Central;  
Lancaster East;  
Lancaster Rural East;  
Lancaster Rural North;  
Lancaster South East;  
Morecambe Central;  
Morecambe North;  
Morecambe South;  
Wyre Rural East;

**Local Member Grants Scheme Application from:**

St John's Hospice North Lancashire and South Lakes

Contact for further information:

Local Member Grants, Tel: (01772) 530078, Legal and Democratic Services,  
[LPTLocalMemberGrants@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:LPTLocalMemberGrants@lancashire.gov.uk)

**Brief Summary**

This report presents an application from a local organisation requesting £2500.00 towards syringe drivers from the Local Member Grants Scheme.

The organisation has submitted a multi-division application requesting a total amount of £2500.00 from the Local Member Grants Scheme towards the same project. Requests have been made to each of the following county councillors and a separate report will be submitted to each councillor for their determination:

- County Councillor Lizzi Collinge - £250.00
- County Councillor Gina Dowding - £250.00
- County Councillor Charles Edwards - £250.00
- County Councillor Andrew Gardiner - £250.00
- County Councillor Erica Lewis - £250.00
- County Councillor Matthew Maxwell-Scott - £250.00
- County Councillor Stuart C Morris - £250.00
- County Councillor Margaret Pattison - £250.00
- County Councillor Shaun Turner - £250.00
- County Councillor Phillippa Williamson - £250.00



## Recommendation

That consideration be given to the request for grant funding as set out in this report.

## Detail

On 16 December 2021, Full Council approved the reintroduction of the Local Member Grants Scheme. Under the scheme, each county councillor has been given a specific budget which they can spend to enhance the economic, social, and environmental well-being of people who live in their division. Following the reintroduction, using powers in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, the Leader of the County Council has authorised individual county councillors to take formal decisions on behalf of the county council.

For the financial year 2023/24, each county councillor has a budget of £2500. Each councillor can also carry forward a maximum of £200 that was unspent in the previous financial year. County Councillor Erica Lewis's total budget is set out in the financial section of the report.

Details of the requests for grant funding are shown below:

<b>Full name of your organisation</b>	
St. John's Hospice, Lancaster	
<b>How much are you applying for? Minimum £100, Maximum £2500</b>	
£2,500	
<b>Which county councillors' electoral division(s) will your expenditure cover or benefit?</b>	
<b>Name</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Lizzi Collinge - Lancaster East	£250
Gina Dowding - Lancaster Central	£250
Andrew Gardiner - Heysham	£250
Dr Erica Lewis - Lancaster South East	£250
Matthew Maxwell-Scott - Lancaster Rural East	£250
Stuart C Morris - Morecambe North	£250
Margaret Pattinson - Morecambe Central	£250
Phillippa Williamson -Lancaster Rural North	£250
Charles Edwards - Morecambe South	£250
Shaun Turner - Wyre Rural East	£250
<b>What are you going to spend the grant on?</b>	



This year we need to purchase 10 new syringe drivers due to the decommissioning of older pieces of equipment as recommended by the manufacturer. The cost of each syringe driver is £1438 so the LCC Members Grants would make a significant contribution towards the purchase of two of these vital pieces of medical equipment. Syringe drivers are used to support the symptom management of patients accessing palliative care and support through our In-patient Unit or Hospice at Home service.

**What is a syringe driver?** A syringe driver is a small, battery-powered pump that delivers medication at a constant rate, day and night. Medicines are put in a syringe, and the syringe driver pushes them through a small plastic tube and into a patient's body.

**Why use a syringe driver?** Syringe drivers play an important role in symptom management. There are many reasons why a patient might use a syringe driver. For example, it might be helpful if:

- they find it difficult to swallow tablets or liquids
- their symptoms cannot be managed with tablets or injections
- they're vomiting or feel sick
- their body cannot absorb medicines properly.

Using a syringe driver avoids the need for a patient to have regular injections and is a more comfortable way for them to receive their medication. A syringe driver should not affect a patient's mobility; if they are active, they can carry it around with them in a special bag. Most people find that a syringe driver helps to manage their symptoms and reassures them.

**Which medicines are put in syringe drivers?** Syringe drivers are often used to give medicines to treat:

- pain
- feeling sick and vomiting
- seizures (fits)
- agitation
- having too much fluid in the lungs or throat (excess respiratory secretions)
- being short of breath (breathlessness).

**When do you use a syringe driver?** Syringe drivers can be used for managing symptoms at any stage in a person's illness. Some people use them for a short time to manage their symptoms. For example, syringe drivers can be very useful for taking anti-sickness medicines if you're having chemotherapy.

Although syringe drivers can be useful at different times, they are largely used in the last few days and weeks of a person's life. When someone is close to death, they often stop being able to swallow medicines, or their body stops being able to absorb them properly. A syringe driver is often the best way to give them medicines to help them feel more comfortable.



<b>Date of your project / event or the purchase of goods</b>
The hospice will purchase the items as soon as we have secured funding, this will be during the 2023-24 financial year.
<b>How will the money benefit people in the councillor(s) division(s)?</b>
<p>This grant and the purchase of two syringe drivers will bring benefit and comfort to our patients and their families across the councillors' divisions.</p> <p>St John's Hospice provides palliative care and support to adults with life-limiting conditions from across North Lancashire. In 2022-23 we supported 955 patients with 85% of the hospice's service provision being in the Members' divisions.</p> <p>Our services in these areas included our In-patient Unit, Hospice at Home, Clinical Nurse Specialists, complementary therapies, home respite, night sits, social work and bereavement support.</p> <p>Our work last year supported patients in the Carnforth area to the North (130 patients), Morecambe and Heysham areas to the West (326 patients), centrally in Lancaster &amp; Galgate (264 patients) and to the south, patients from Garstang &amp; Wyre (96 patients).</p> <p>The money granted to the hospice will support the costs of purchasing specialist equipment which in turn will make the lives of individuals, from across North Lancashire, more comfortable as they approach the end of their life. It will help ensure that the hospice can provide the right care, in the right place, at the right time.</p>
<b>Please give a detailed breakdown of your expenditure for your activity / equipment.</b>
<p>The hospice needs to replace 10 syringe drivers, an essential piece of equipment used for symptom management of patients receiving palliative care, at a cost of £1438 per item with the total cost being £14,380.</p> <p>We are asking if the Councillors would kindly donate £250 each towards this overall total.</p>
<b>If you are not asking for the full amount of the cost of your activity / equipment, please give us details of where the rest of the funding is coming from. Please also explain what you will do if we give you the grant, but you do not get the other funding.</b>
<p>We plan to apply to the following organisations in addition to the Local Members Grants Scheme to support the costs of Syringe Drivers at the hospice:</p> <p>Gamble Charitable Foundation Trust Medicash Foundation</p>
<b>If the councillor offers a grant of less than you have asked for, please explain below how that will affect your proposal – for example, will you still be able to complete your project or purchase, will you scale the project back, or seek funding elsewhere?</b>
<p>If a councillor offers a grant of less than we have asked for we will seek funding elsewhere as the Syringe Drivers are essential items of equipment to support the package of palliative care that the hospice provides to people from across North Lancashire.</p>



**Will the activity involve members of your organisation having significant contact with children or vulnerable adults?**

- Yes  
 No

**Implications:**

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

**Risk management**

No significant risks have been identified in relation to the proposals contained within this report.

**Finance**

It should be noted that the outstanding amount being requested by organisations for grant applications comes to a combined total of £330.00. The total amount of funding available in County Councillor Erica Lewis's budget is £2500.00.

Therefore, the maximum amount of funds that can be approved for outstanding grant requests is £2500.00.

An up-date of spend in 2023/24 is shown below:

Budget for 2023/24		£2,500.00
C/F from 2022/23		£200.00
Refunds		£0.00
<b>Total Grant Available in 2023/24</b>		<b>£2,700.00</b>
Grant Allocations Already Approved	Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions	£200.00
		£200.00
<b>Grant Remaining to be Allocated in 2023/24</b>		<b>£2,500.00</b>
Grants Requests Submitted but not yet Approved or Rejected	The Bay International Film Festival Limited	£80.00
		£80.00
NEW REQUESTS	St. John's Hospice	£250.00
		£250.00
<b>Total Grant Requests in Progress</b>		<b>£330.00</b>
<b>Value of Grant Remaining to be allocated in 2023/24 if all outstanding requests are approved</b>		<b>£2,170.00</b>



## List of Background Papers

Paper

Date

Contact

None

