

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**CABINET MEMBER**

**7 January 2019**

**Report of the Strategic Director for Adult Care**

**SUPPORT FOR DERBYSHIRE 50+ FORUMS**

**ADULT CARE**

**1. Purpose of the Report**

To seek approval of grant funding of up to £7,000 for the Derbyshire 50+ Forum Network to support individual Forum annual running costs.

**2. Information and Analysis**

The Council Plan 2017-2021 – ‘Working for Derbyshire, states that part of the role of the Council is “to help people to help themselves and others in the community” and “to take control of their lives and become less dependent on council services”. The 50+ Forum Network is making an important contribution to realising this organisational aim for a significant number of older residents.

The 50+ Forum Network was established by Adult Care in 2006 and there are now twelve 50+ Forums’ spread across the county. Collectively, they create a thriving network of over 3,300 older people, providing the best sort of prevention provision, namely that which is co-produced by its members and helps to support a wide range of low level need without resorting to formal services.

50+ Forums’ give people the opportunity to:

- come together in their local area to take action on issues that are important to them;
- engage with and influence services that impact on older lives;
- get information and advice;
- socialise and connect with others and build friendships.

In March 2018, a Social Return on Investment (SROI) evaluation of the 50+ Forum Network was completed. In the current climate of an ageing population, increasing demand for social care support and shrinking public sector resources, we wanted to review our understanding of the value for money and

wider social value of Adult Care's investment in 50+ Forums'. The SROI methodology defines social value as the value that stakeholders place on the changes they experience in their lives as a result of an intervention, in this case the Forums', including non-financial impacts, such as individual wellbeing and community context.

For the 50+ Forums', the SROI evaluation has shown that every £1 spent generates a social value of £25.14 or 1:25. This ratio is calculated by dividing the value of outcomes achieved (that takes into account adjustments for deadweight, attribution, drop off and displacement) by the actual financial investment. The application of these adjustments gives us great confidence that we are not "over egging the pudding" when we calculate our final SROI return figure. This ratio evidences excellent value for money for our investment.

The evaluation highlighted a number of positive impacts that being a member of a 50+ Forum offers and how Forums' also help to build community resilience. Positive impacts include:

- Of those who had never attended any organised meeting prior to joining a 50+ Forum, 80% had become more social since becoming a member.
- 72% had never felt isolated since joining a 50+ Forum. Further, by reducing a person's sense of isolation, members are more likely to engage in wider activities and consequentially, reduce instances of poor health.
- 34% reported an increase in supporting community members.
- The number of members believing themselves to be involved with making positive changes (personal and community), saw a 44% increase.
- 54% of members stated that they had given support as a volunteer since becoming a 50+ Forum member.
- 9% more members had and were contributing to local charitable organisations within their own communities since joining a 50+ Forum.

It is clear from the SROI evaluation that the 50+ Forums' are a value for money investment, returning impressive social value for their members and local communities. Alongside, reduced social isolation and improving social wellbeing, the Forums' are also delivering added social value through information sharing, skills development, and engagement in issues that are important to the older community. Consequentially, personal and community resilience is strengthened.

In 2017-2018, the 50+ Forums' quantitatively, delivered the following outputs:

| <b>50+ Forum Network</b> | <b>2016/2017</b> | <b>2017/2018</b> |
|--------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Members                  | 3,301            | 3,331            |
| Open meetings            | 66               | 55               |
| Open meeting attendance  | 2,704            | 2,457            |

Adult Care supports the 50+ Forum Network with two Business Services members of staff (grade 4) who provide administration and technical support to the individual Forums' countywide. In addition, it funds the costs of venue hire, transport for members who are unable to make their own way to meetings due to frailty or disability, and basic refreshments, i.e. tea and biscuits. Not including staff salaries, the cost of this support is around £6,485 per annum or £1.95 per member in 2017/18.

### 3. Financial Considerations

50+ Forum costs for the 2019-2020 financial year are set out below. Costs per Forum are allocated pro rata according to the number of members of each Forum.

| <b>Forum</b> | <b>Venue</b> | <b>Refreshments</b> | <b>Transport</b> | <b>TOTAL</b> |
|--------------|--------------|---------------------|------------------|--------------|
|              | £            | £                   | £                | £            |
| Ashbourne    | 625          | 50                  | 0                | 675          |
| Belper       | 168          | 200                 | 340              | 708          |
| Bolsover     | 400          | 140                 | 760              | 1,300        |
| Clay Cross   | 140          | 296                 | 160              | 596          |
| Glossop      | 720          | 140                 | 60               | 920          |
| Heanor       | 316          | 80                  | 80               | 476          |
| Ilkeston     | 600          | 270                 | 120              | 990          |
| Long Eaton   | 400          | 120                 | 60               | 580          |
| Matlock      | 0            | 0                   | 240              | 240          |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>3,369</b> | <b>1296</b>         | <b>1,820</b>     | <b>6,485</b> |

N.B. Zero cells indicate that no costs are incurred for these areas by the named forum due to local arrangements.

Forums' are fully constituted community associations and as such, can invariably hire venues, purchase refreshments, and pay for transport at a cheaper rate than the County Council. So payment by grant to the 50+ Forums' provides better value for money than could be achieved by the County Council purchasing these items.

The total cost per annum amounts to no more than £7,000 and can be funded from the current Prevention budget, which has a specific budget to support the 50+ Forums'. If approved, this funding will be paid to the individual Forums' as a grant payment.

### 4. Human Resources Considerations

None

### 5. Legal Considerations

None

## **6. Social Value Considerations**

The SROI of the 50+ Forums produced an SROI value of £25.14 in social value for every £1 spent on the Forums. The evaluation also high-lighted how membership of a 50+ Forum can increase an individual's skill base to stimulate greater interaction with technology, reduce an individual's sense of isolation, and increase their engagement with community and civic activities. These separate themes collectively help to improve a person's individual resilience; they also support a community need to do things differently in response to the tightening availability of services/public resources, for people to be more socially responsible and more capable of resolving local issues in their own communities.

## **7. Other Considerations**

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: Human Rights, equality of opportunity, health, environmental, transport, property, and crime and disorder considerations.

## **8. Background Papers**

- Derbyshire 50+ Forum Network – Social Return on Investment Evaluation Report, March 2018

### **Key Decision**

Yes. It will impact on circa 3,300 people aged 50 years and over, countywide.

## **9. Is it required that the Call-in period be waived in respect of the decisions being proposed within this report?**

No

## **10. Officer's Recommendation**

That Cabinet Member approves grant funding of up to £7,000 for the Derbyshire 50+ Forum Network, to support individual Forum annual running costs.

**Helen Jones  
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Matlock**