

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET MEMBER

16 March 2017

Report of the Strategic Director for Adult Care

**REPRESENTATION AND ENGAGEMENT WITH PEOPLE WITH
LEARNING DISABILITIES**

ADULT SOCIAL CARE

1. Purpose of the Report

To seek approval from Cabinet Member for additional temporary grant funding for the MacIntyre Reps on Board project. This funding is required from 1 July 2017 until 31 March 2018. The cost for of this is £17,393. The timescale will allow sufficient time for a new model of engagement to be developed.

2. Information and Analysis

Background

The Reps on Board has been in place since 2007 when Valuing People Now was published. It was initiated to support people with a learning disability to gain the skills, confidence and experience to represent others and participate in the Learning Disability Partnership Boards and other forums.

The Derbyshire Learning Disability County Partnership Board is now well established and has been the main forum for Adult Care and health to share information and discuss the development of services with people with learning disabilities. MacIntyre was commissioned in 2007 to provide a project to support people with learning disabilities to become Reps on Board. The project was funded jointly by MacIntyre and Adult Care.

The purpose of the project was to support people with learning disabilities to be representatives at local and county Learning Disability Partnership Boards.

The Reps have contributed to the learning disability agenda in a number of ways since 2007. The Reps are active members of their local Partnership Boards. The project trains and develops the 'Reps' to be good peer advocates. The group are a good point of reference for anyone who provides a service used by people with a learning disability across Derbyshire. Some Reps run their own local social/ self advocacy groups for others with a learning disability.

Some examples of work Reps are involved with include:

- Carrying out local Leisure Centre accessibility checks
- Providing support to the development of "This is Me" support planning documentation
- Involvement in the recruitment of Community Connectors.
- Supporting people to get involved in health prevention through planning a health and wellbeing Taskforce providing and sharing information from the Partnership Boards and the Good Health group

This report is prompted by MacIntyre giving notice that they intend to withdraw their financial contribution to the Reps on Board project from July 2017. They currently contribute £23,190 (50%) towards the £46,380 annual cost of the scheme.

Funding is requested to enable the present service to continue for a further nine months until a plan for future engagement has been designed and implemented. The request is for funding to cover the amount that MacIntyre would previously have contributed to this project for that period.

Hate Crime and Staying Safe

The Hate Crime and the Staying Safe projects link to MacIntyre through Reps on Board. The Learning and Development Officer for this project is funded by Adult Care and Community Safety and employed and managed by MacIntyre.

The postholder trains the Reps on Board to become Keeping Safe Champions and then supports the delivery of the training to people with learning disabilities.

Future Engagement

A proposal to develop learning disability engagement has been agreed by the Learning Disability Programme Board. The objective of this project, which is co-produced with people with learning disabilities, is to determine how we engage people with learning disabilities in Derbyshire to have a voice and develop their skills so that they can be involved in meaningful engagement and co-production. The project group, which includes six people with learning

disabilities, is considering how we currently engage; what works and what doesn't.

This work will take place during February and March 2017. The plan is that a new model for engagement will be drafted for consideration at the beginning of April. This will require further consultation with stakeholders.

3. Financial Considerations

The additional nine months funding of £17,393 can be met from within the existing Adult Care budget.

4. Human Resources Considerations

There are no Derbyshire County Council employees employed by the current project. There are two part-time workers currently working for MacIntyre. MacIntyre may have to consider redundancy if this project ceases to be funded. The learning and development officer who supports the Reps on Board contributing to the Safe Places and Hate Crime Project may also be affected if the additional funding for the Reps on Board project is not agreed.

5. Legal Considerations

The 2014 Care Act stipulates that local authorities need to ensure that service users are involved or have appropriate representation so that they can fully engage in core aspects of their care pathway.

6. Social Value Considerations

Engagement and representation with all local people is vital to the commissioning and provision of services. The extension to this grant will enable Adult Care to further develop opportunities for people with learning disabilities to become involved in the planning, development and delivery of services. One of the outcomes of this work will be that people with learning disabilities learn new skills which could enhance opportunities in employment and volunteer roles.

7. Other considerations

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

8. Background Papers

None

9. Key Decision

No

10. Is it necessary to waive the call-in period to be waived in respect of the decisions being proposed within this report?

No

11. Officer's Recommendation

That Cabinet Member approves additional temporary grant funding for the MacIntyre Reps on Board project. This funding is required from 1 July 2017 until 31 March 2018. The cost for of this is £17,393. The timescale will allow sufficient time for a new model of engagement to be developed.

**Joy Hollister
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