

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET MEMBER

16 March 2017

Report of the Strategic Director for Adult Care

PAYMENTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS 2017-18

ADULT SOCIAL CARE

1. Purpose of the Report

To seek Cabinet Member approval to extend grant funding payment to the following voluntary organisations during the 2017-19 financial year: -

- Derbyshire Autism Services
- Derbyshire Dales Careline
- High Peak Community Voluntary Service
- Derbyshire Advocacy Service
- Rethink Focusline
- Sight Support Derbyshire

2. Information and Analysis

Several voluntary organisations require grant funding approval in order to continue with their activities during 2017-18. Details of the organisations concerned and the grant funding required is as follows: -

Derbyshire Autism Services is the only service in Derbyshire that provides services to improve the opportunities and quality of life of people with Autism Spectrum Disorder through the provision of emotional and practical support, advice and information, and social and leisure services. The service primarily supports children and young people and their carers across the county. They also provide services to vulnerable adults with complex needs within the autism spectrum.

It is recommended that approval is given to make a grant funding payment of £26,084 for 2017-18 to enable Derbyshire Autism Services to continue to provide services to support vulnerable adults with autism spectrum conditions. The proposed grant is at the same level as that agreed during the 2016-17 year.

Derbyshire Dales Careline provides a telephone befriending support services to elderly, disabled and vulnerable adults living in the South Derbyshire Dales locality. The aim is to reduce loneliness and social isolation, ensure their wellbeing and provide help, information and support to people, thus enabling them to remain living independently in their own home. In order to enable Derbyshire Dales Careline to continue to provide befriending services to support elderly, disabled and vulnerable adults during 2017-18 it is recommended that approval is given to make a grant funding payment of £2,010, which if approved is at the same level as that agreed during the 2016-17 year. Further funding beyond 31 March 2018 will be subject to a review and further consultation where appropriate.

High Peak CVS supports and facilitates the development of local voluntary and community organisations through the provision of a range of services, with funding provided to assist with the provision of generic and specialist support to local groups, which includes administering a self-help fund to support local group development.

At the Cabinet meeting held on 20 September 2016 approval was given to continue to provide grant funding to High Peak CVS for 18 months with an end date of 31 March 2018. However, the report considered by Cabinet did not include grant funding required to enable High Peak CVS to continue to administer a local self-help fund to support local group development. As a result Cabinet is now being asked to retrospectively agree to the continuation of funding for 18 months from 1 October 2016 to 31 March 2018, the total grant funding required for the 18 month period being £5,302.

Derbyshire Advocacy Services are the current provider of a countywide Derby and Derbyshire Appropriate Adult Service. The aim of the service is to provide appropriate adult support in the absence of a parent, guardian or social worker to a vulnerable adult with a learning disability and / or mental ill health whilst they are in police custody.

The current service is jointly grant funded by Derbyshire County Council (£37,076 full year cost), Derbyshire Constabulary (£31,177 full year cost), Derby City Council (£10,000 full year cost) and Derbyshire Police and Crime Commissioner (£10,000 full year cost).

It is proposed that grant funding is extended for six months, with an end date of 30 September 2017 whilst the continued provision of this service is subject of a joint competitive procurement exercise led by Derbyshire Constabulary. It is recommended that the Council approves a continuation of the grant of £18,538 to cover a six months period until 30 September 2017. This will enable Derbyshire Advocacy Service to continue to provide the Derbyshire Appropriate Adult Service whilst the procurement process is completed.

Rethink are the current providers of the Derbyshire Focusline Service, which offers confidential emotional telephone support and signposting information to adults in Derbyshire who may be affected by mental illness. In addition to grant funding from the Council, the service also receives grant funding from Erewash Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), Hardwick CCG, North Derbyshire CCG and Southern Derbyshire CCG. As part of the voluntary and community service mental health thematic review held in 2016, options for the future provision of this service are being considered with the CCGs.

In order to give further consideration to the viability of the options, including any consultation exercise to be completed, it is proposed that grant funding provided to Rethink for the provision of the Focusline service is extended for six months until 30 September 2017: with grant funding totalling £31,128 required. Following discussion all four CCG's have agreed to extend the grant funding they provide until 30 September 2017. A further report will be presented to Cabinet detailing the outcome of the service review.

Sight Support Derbyshire currently receives grant funding to assist with the provision of a range of services to support individuals in Derbyshire who are visually impaired. Services provided include self-help groups, leisure groups, mobile resource centre and a home visiting support service.

Sight Support Derbyshire also has a contract with the Council for the provision of support services for blind and visually impaired people in Derbyshire. It being is proposed that work is undertaken to align the services provided via the provision of grant funding with those provided as part of the contract for the provision of rehabilitation and advice services. Whilst this work is being undertaken it is recommended that grant funding is extended for six months until 30 September 2017, with grant funding totalling £19,486 being required. Any implications to the current contract for the provision of rehabilitation and advice services as a result of this review will be the subject of a report to Cabinet.

3. Financial Considerations

If financial assistance is approved to support the activities of the organisations concerned the full cost of £102,548 will be met from the existing Adult Care budgets.

4. Human Resources Considerations

Any organisation providing services to children or vulnerable adults, approval of financial assistance is conditional on the existence within these organisations of appropriate statutory procedures assessing suitability to work with children or vulnerable adults.

5. Legal Considerations

The Council is permitted to make such a payment under the “General Power of Competence” set out in the Localism Act 2011. A grant agreement shall be used to set out the terms and conditions for which the grant is made. The recipient of the grant is not contractually obliged to deliver the services, although the Council would seek to claw back the grant in appropriate circumstances were there to be significant non-performance of any grant conditions

6. Social Value Considerations

The services provided by the voluntary organisations detailed in this paper all contribute towards promoting social value for people in Derbyshire. All of these service compliment current health and social care services ensuring that vulnerable people are able to access appropriate and timely support thus promoting their independence, reducing social isolation and maintaining their wellbeing.

7. Equal Opportunity Considerations

Payments to any organisation are dependent upon the insistence that the organisation adheres to County Council Equal Opportunity policies.

8. Other Considerations

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

9. Background Papers

None

10. Key Decision

No

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

No

12. Officer's Recommendation

That Cabinet Member approves:

- 1) Grant funding totalling £26,084 to Derbyshire Autism Services Group to assist with the provision of services to support vulnerable adults with autism spectrum conditions during 2017-18.
- 2) Grant funding totalling £2,010 to Derbyshire Dales Careline to assist with the provision of befriending services to support elderly, disabled and vulnerable adults during 2017-18.
- 3) Grant funding totalling £5,302 to High Peak CVS for 18 months with an end date of 31 March 2018 to enable them to continue to administer a local self-help fund to support local group development
- 4) Extension of grant funding totalling £18,538 to enable Derbyshire Advocacy Service to continue to provide the Derbyshire Appropriate Adult Service for six months until 30 September 2017.
- 5) Extension of grant funding totalling £31,128 to Rethink for the provision of the Derbyshire Focusline Service for six months until 30 September 2017.
- 6) Extension of grant funding totalling £19,486 for six months until 30 September 2017 to Sight Support Derbyshire.

Joy Hollister
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