

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET MEMBER

20 July 2016

Report of the Strategic Director for Adult Care

DERBYSHIRE AUTISM SERVICES GROUP

ADULT SOCIAL CARE

1. Purpose of the Report

To seek Cabinet Member approval to make a payment of £26,084 to Derbyshire Autism Services Group to assist with the provision of services to support vulnerable adults with autism spectrum conditions during 2016/17.

2. Information and Analysis

The main aim of Derbyshire Autism Services Group is to provide 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, which includes a range of leisure and social activities. Services provided by Derbyshire Autism Services Group enhance and compliment the range of specialist care and support services provided and commissioned by Adult Care.

Derbyshire Autism Services Group covers the whole of the county of Derbyshire, primarily working with children and young people. They also provide services to vulnerable adults with a learning disability within the autism spectrum. The most recent reported annual figures indicated that during 2014/15 a total of 34 adults accessed the service, 18 of whom received support on a one to one basis and 16 accessed monthly adult support groups.

This service falls outside the remit of the review of grants made by Adult Care to the voluntary sector because Adult Care and NHS commissioners have jointly identified this as a priority service that is required to continue to meet the Transforming Care Programme (TCP) priorities and is funded from the Better Care Fund. It was agreed that the on-going provision of a grant to this service for 12 months is required whilst the TCP planning is completed and signed off by NHS England. The future of this support will be considered

before the end of this financial year, as part of the wider re-shaping of support for people with autism spectrum conditions.

This one-off payment rather than a contractual arrangement means that the Council will have less ability to performance manage this organisation and to enforce conditions of performance or outcomes. To some extent this will be mitigated by asking this service to continue to complete the annual Grant Funding Survey that is undertaken by Adult Care and the allocation of a contract officer from Adult Care to undertake at least one monitoring visit.

3. Financial Considerations

If financial assistance is approved to support the activities of the Derbyshire Autism Services Group during 2016/17, the full cost of £26,084 will be met from the Better Care Fund.

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.

6. Equal Opportunity Considerations

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

7. Other Considerations

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

8. Background Papers

None

9. Key Decision

No

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

No

11. Officer's Recommendation

That Cabinet Member approval is given to make a payment of £26,084 to Derbyshire Autism Services Group to assist with the provision of services to support vulnerable adults with autism spectrum conditions during 2016/17.

Joy Hollister
Strategic Director – Adult Care