

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET MEMBER

9 November 2017

Report of the Strategic Director for Adult Care

**AWARD OF GRANT TO SOUTH DERBYSHIRE COMMUNITY VOLUNTARY
SERVICES TO PROVIDE A BEFRIENDING SERVICE
ADULT CARE**

1. Purpose of the Report

To seek approval to grant aid South Derbyshire Community Voluntary Service £16,924 for a six month period from 30 September 2017 to 31 March 2018 whilst the outcome of discussions in respect of future grant funding for the Derbyshire Voluntary Community Sector are completed.

2. Information and Analysis

In July 2013, Cabinet approved the award of a two year contract with annual options to extend for two further periods of 12 months for the provision of a volunteer befriending service for all adults in South Derbyshire, known as The Connect Befriending Service.

The objectives of the Connect service are to:

- Support socially isolated people to improve their health and wellbeing and their quality of life.
- Reduce loneliness and social isolation.
- Enable clients to remain living independently in their own homes for as long as they wish or is practicable.
- Increase clients' knowledge of community activities and services to support their health and wellbeing.
- Support clients to access local activities, as appropriate, and engage with their local communities.
- Support clients to access services to support their health and wellbeing.
- Provide clients with choice and enable them to have more control over the service(s) that they receive.
- Support the prevention agenda so that vulnerable people avoid the need to prematurely access more intensive social care and health support.

- Provide opportunities for volunteering, thus improving social cohesion and the quality of life of those volunteering.
- Provide training and development opportunities for volunteer befrienders.

The service, wherever possible, supports clients to develop their own social networks and move them on from the service to access appropriate local activities and be engaged with their local communities. However, in some circumstances, longer term support is required, e.g. people with dementia. The needs of clients and the support that they are receiving, is reviewed periodically to ensure that the support is still appropriate to meet their needs. The client is involved in this review.

The Connect Befriending Service, run by South Derbyshire CVS has achieved all its required service performance targets.

The Contract has now been extended by two additional periods of 12 months and cannot be extended any further. The current Contract ends on 30 September 2017.

The background to the original concept for this service was to test out the effectiveness of volunteer befriending in South Derbyshire and this was only ever anticipated to be time limited. However, the benefits of this service are identified as significant to the local community and continuation of the service is required whilst discussion is underway about the future delivery of befriending services in Derbyshire.

As the contract is due to end on the 30 September 2017 and all extension provisions have been used, it is requested that we enter into a six month grant arrangement with South Derbyshire CVS, from 1 October 2017 to 31 March 2018, to allow time for the consideration of the future provision of befriending services.

This will also allow South Derbyshire CVS to continue to provide the service and engage with the Council about planning towards future delivery of services.

Discussion with the Service Provider (Michelle Skinner, Chief Officer South Derbyshire CVS) has confirmed that they would be happy to enter into this grant funding arrangement.

3. Financial Considerations

A grant of £16,924 would be required to support the Connect Befriending Service for a 6 month period.

This funding will be sought from one off underspends in the current 2017/18 Adult Care Prevention budget.

4. Legal and Human Rights Considerations

The Council is permitted to make such a payment under the “General Power of Competence” set out in the Localism Act 2011.

5. Social Value

The services provided by the voluntary organisation identified in this paper contribute towards adding value to the lives of people local to South Derbyshire by enhancing their independence, reducing social isolation and promoting their wellbeing.

6. Other Considerations

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

7. Background Papers

Cabinet Report – 16 July 2013

8. Key Decision

No

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 to grant aid to South Derbyshire CVS £16,924 for a six month period from 30 September 2017 to 31 March 2018 whilst the outcome of discussions in respect of future grant funding for the Derbyshire Voluntary Community Sector are completed.

**Joy Hollister
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