

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET MEMBER

5 August 2015

Report of the Strategic Director for Adult Care

GRANT FUNDING TO ADDRESS RURAL ISOLATION IN HIGH PEAK AND DALES

ADULT SOCIAL CARE

1. Purpose of the Report

To approve the award of a grant of £8,000 to Peaks and Dales Advocacy for the provision of a service to reduce isolation of people with learning disabilities who live in rural locations.

2. Information and Analysis

In the terms of reference of district Learning Disability Partnership Boards there has been scope to sponsor and pay for initiatives that develop awareness of the needs of people with learning disability with the grant funds delegated to them. The High Peak and Dales Learning Disability Partnership Board identified that further work needs to be done to understand and reduce the isolation of people with learning disabilities in the small towns and villages of the Peaks and Dales.

It has been noted by Social Workers working in the area, service providers and family carers that a number of people with learning disabilities living in rural parts of Peaks and Dales are often isolated from other activities in their communities. There is a concern that this rural isolation could impact on their health and wellbeing. Following consideration of these concerns and the project the County Learning Disability Board proposed that Peaks and Dales Advocacy receive a one off grant to undertake a project to understand and address this concern. This work will include identification of individuals and to provide support to assist them to get involved in activities of their choice, local to where they live.

Because this project is for 18 months the provider will be expected to ensure that there is an exit strategy built in to their project to ensure clients of the service are supported beyond the grant funding. The provider will also be

requested to complete a review of the scheme to ensure that if there is learning that should be shared about impact and ways of organising support that is made available to commissioners.

PADA intend to employ a worker for 14 hrs a week. The worker will be managed and supported by Peaks and Dales Advocacy and will also report to the local Partnership Board on the following expected outcomes:

- Reduction of social isolation
- More independence and confidence
- Improved well-being (maintenance of good physical and mental health)
- Less stress for family carers
- Numbers of people supported

Prevention of return to, or development of, dependency on more statutory services.

PADA is a well-established voluntary organisation, which delivers Independent, individual and group advocacy, as well as facilitating social networks and projects such as Friendship First and Advocacy Aware in the High Peak and Dales. As such it is the only organisation that has the requisite experience and skills to initiate and deliver the project in the required timescales.

There is capacity for the project to commence immediately.

3. Financial Considerations

The grant funding of £8,000 will be from the Adult Care Learning Disability Development Fund budget.

4. Legal Considerations

The proposal is that the Council make a grant payment for the specific purposes as set out in this report. This grant arrangement rather than a contract following procurement means that the Council will have less ability to performance manage PADA and to enforce any conditions or performance or outcomes. As a recipient of the grant, PADA are not contractually obliged to deliver the outcomes although the Council would seek to recover the grant in appropriate circumstances were there to be significant non-performance.

5. Other Considerations

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

6. Background Papers

N/A

7. Key Decision

No

8. Is it necessary to waive the call-in period?

No

9. Officer's Recommendation

That Cabinet Member approves to award a grant of £8,000 for a period of 18 months to Peaks and Dales Advocacy for the provision of a service to reduce isolation of people with learning disabilities who live in rural locations.

**Mary McElvaney
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MATLOCK**