

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MEETING WITH CABINET MEMBER, HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES

01 November 2016

Report of the Director of Public Health

**DERBYSHIRE UNEMPLOYED WORKERS' CENTRE AND THE TRADE
UNION SAFETY TEAM – GRANTS**

1. Purpose of the report:

To seek Cabinet Member approval to provide grant funding to support the work of the Derbyshire Unemployed Workers' Centre (DUWC) and the Trade Union Safety Team (TRUST).

2. Information and analysis:

Derbyshire Unemployed Workers' Centre was established in 1983 as part of a larger network of Trade Union Council (TUC) Unemployed Workers' Centres. The Centre's objectives include offering welfare rights advice and representation to unemployed, under-employed and unwaged workers; to relieve poverty in unemployed and disadvantaged people in Derbyshire; and to recruit and train volunteers from local communities to assist in their work.

The work of DUWC has expanded to include the provision of welfare benefit appeals referred from local Citizens Advice Bureaux (CAB) as a result of the CAB service in GP surgeries. This increased further when the CAB service was extended to all Derbyshire's children's centres in April 2014. On 3 March 2015, CABCO approved grant funding of £50,000 for April 2015 to March 2018 to cover the cost of these appeals.

The Trade Union Safety Team (TRUST) provides help and support to anyone diagnosed with an industrial disease throughout Derbyshire. They undertake diagnostic testing for industrial deafness and vibration white finger to underpin benefits and civil compensation claims. TRUST works closely with DUWC and refer clients for benefits advice when necessary. Successful claims increase clients' incomes which is likely to improve their physical and mental health and reduce health inequalities.

On 10 February 2015, the Cabinet Member for Health and Communities approved a grant of £40,950 to DUWC and £5,821 to TRUST to cover their core costs for 2015/16. Demand for services provided by both

DUWC and TRUST has increased significantly over recent years and this is anticipated to continue due to the impacts of the Welfare Reform Act.

In line with other grants to Voluntary and Community Sector organisations the grant is subject to a Service Level Agreement (SLA) which sets out expectations and requirements on both DUWC and TRUST and the county council in relation to the grant award. Six monthly monitoring ensures both the quality of the service and accountability for the funding.

DUWC has assured the Council that any grant funding provided will be used solely for the purposes of supporting the advice function of the centre and not for political activities. This is reflected in the Service Level Agreement.

3. Financial Considerations

Given the increased pressure on communities and the increasing demand for advice services resulting from further benefit cuts, the County Council continued to provide grant funding for the core costs of both organisations. It is proposed that retrospective authorisation is given for the award of a grant of £41,769 for DUWC and £5,821 for TRUST in 2016/17 and, in 2017-18, authorisation of a further grant of £41,769 for DUWC and a grant of £5,821 for TRUST. These grants can be met from the existing Public Health Budget.

4. Social Value considerations:

The work undertaken by DUWC and TRUST supports the Council's priorities to tackle poverty, support communities during hard times and support community-based advice services.

5. Other considerations:

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

6. Background papers:

Cabinet Member report of 3 March 2015: Welfare Rights Service and Derbyshire Unemployed Workers' centre - Grants

Cabinet Member report of 10 February 2015: Derbyshire Unemployed Workers' Centre and the Trade Union Safety Team - Grants

7. Key Decision: No

8. Call-in:

Is it required that call-in be waived for any decision on this report? No

9. Officer's Recommendation:

That the Cabinet Member:

1. Approves retrospective grant funding of £41,769 for 2016/17 and £41,769 for 2017/18 to the Derbyshire Unemployed Workers' Centre to cover the core costs associated with the delivery of services.
2. Approves retrospective grant funding of £5,821 for 2016/17 and £5,821 for 2017/18 to the Trade Union Safety Team to cover the core costs associated with the delivery of services.

Dean Wallace
Director of Public Health