

Derbyshire County Council

Meeting with the Cabinet Member, Health and Communities

02 April 2014

Report of the Director of Public Health

GRANT FUNDING FOR THE PROVISION OF RESEARCH SERVICES

1. Purpose of the Report:

To consider approving a grant to Derbyshire Community Health Service for the continued provision of a Public Health Research Service for 12 months from April 2014.

2. Information and Analysis:

At the Cabinet Member meeting on 21 January 2014 approval was given to re-procure the Public Health Research Service. The Research Service ensures new and innovative ideas are researched appropriately and effectively in terms of their effectiveness and cost, when there is little or no existing research evidence to support their commissioning within Public Health. The service also provides a project evaluation function and forms part of the core offer to the NHS in relation to research in Primary Care.

The Service was part of Public Health until April 2010 when the team, which currently comprises 3 members of staff (1.93 whole time equivalent) was transferred to Derbyshire Community Health Services in preparation for the re-configuration of Health Services locally. The service has been provided to Public Health since that time through an SLA.

The current value of the Service is £38,000 which allows Public Health access to around 30% of the current Research capacity within the Derbyshire Community Health Service. Following a recent review of procurement arrangements, it is considered that this Service could be funded by a grant to Derbyshire Community Health Service, rather than entering into a full re-procurement thus allowing continuity of service from April 2014. This is on the basis that, at this point in time, the more rigorous control of outcomes possible in a contractual relationship is not necessary. It is proposed to reduce the value to £32,300 for 2014/15 and undertake a review during the year, which review will include further consideration of the best method of commissioning for the future.

The grant would fund direct involvement in project work by the Research Team staff and provide advice to Public Health and CCG Clinical Leads on research management issues. It would also ensure representation on research bodies such as Trent Comprehensive Local Research network and the East Midlands and South Yorkshire Primary Care Research network. Links to Sheffield University are particularly useful in the analysis of computer based research data and the support from their staff.

3. Financial Considerations

Funding is available from the Public Health grant.

4. Other Considerations

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

5. Key Decision

No

6. Call-in

Is it required that call-in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in the report? No

7. Background Papers

File held in Public Health

8. OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That a grant of £32,300 be awarded to the Derbyshire Community Health Services for 12 months from April 2014 to the end of March 2015 for the provision of a Research Service as set out in the report.

Elaine Michel
Director of Public Health