

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MEETING WITH CABINET MEMBER, HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES

02 December 2014

Report of the Strategic Director, Health and Communities

DERBYSHIRE INTEGRATED OFFENDER MANAGEMENT SCHEME

1. Purpose of the report:

To seek approval for £10,000 to fund four Buddi Tracker systems to support the Derbyshire Integrated Management (IOM) Scheme to continue to its work to reduce re-offending.

2. Information

Derbyshire established its multi-agency IOM scheme in 2011 following on from, and extending, the previously successful Prolific and Priority Offender Scheme. The scheme brings together multi-agency partners to manage those offenders who are at the highest risk of re-offending. In Derbyshire the IOM cohort is approximately 300 offenders at any one time, some of whom may be in custody. These are managed via four panels in Chesterfield, Buxton, Erewash and South Derbyshire (Derby City has its own IOM Scheme).

The IOM approach is a combination of support and enforcement. This group of offenders often has complex needs such as substance misuse, accommodation, finding employment, relationship and family issues as well as issues around debt. For those who express a desire to change and to stop re-offending support is given to address all of the issues highlighted above. Those identified as suitable for IOM, but considered likely to continue to re-offend are subject to targeted monitoring and enforcement action.

A number of tools are used to assist offenders to stop re-offending. In February 2014 Derbyshire Constabulary commenced a pilot in C Division utilising location monitoring devices supplied by Buddi Systems. Prior to the pilot, research had been carried out with other police forces who were already trialling the use of location monitoring technology. The monitoring devices utilise GPS satellite data to monitor the whereabouts of an offender 24/7 with the device secured around the ankle of the wearer. Power is provided by a rechargeable battery.

Recent evaluation of the pilot has shown that it has proved successful in a number of ways. Between February and July 2014 11 offenders volunteered for the tracker for on average 3-4 months. During the time that they were wearing the tracker there was a significant reduction in offending with six not re-offending at all. The tracker has also proved useful to both offenders and police

in terms of being able to prove that they were not at the scene of some crimes. Since July 2014 the scheme has rolled out further across the force area with partners being asked to contribute to funding. A growing number of offenders are responding positively to the idea of the tracker as their motivation to stop offending is high and they wish to take up all available options to assist them to do so. However, there is currently no funding available to supply trackers in the Erewash/South Derbyshire area.

Derbyshire County Council is therefore being asked to fund trackers for these areas which will then complete cover for the whole county and the IOM scheme. £10,000 will cover the purchase of four trackers and the associated monitoring costs of approximately £200 per tracker per average use for the next 12 months. Once the tracking devices have been purchased on-going monitoring costs are not significant. Derbyshire Constabulary will purchase the trackers as part of its wider commitment to the scheme.

3. Other considerations:

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

4. Background papers:

None

5. Key Decision:

No

6. Call-in:

Is it required that call-in be waived for any decision on this report?

No

7. Officer's recommendation:

That the sum of £10,000 be awarded from the Communities Budget to fund four Buddi Tracker systems to support the County's Integrated Offender Management Scheme.

David Lowe
Strategic Director
Health and Communities