

**MINUTES** of a meeting of the **CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES** held on 2 December 2014 at County Hall, Matlock

**PRESENT**

Councillor D Allen – Cabinet Member

Also in Attendance – Councillors C A Hart and J A Hill

**119/14** **MINUTES RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Health and Communities held on 11 November 2014 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Cabinet Member.

**120/14** **DERBYSHIRE INDEPENDENT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ADVISOR SERVICE** The County Council currently commissioned an Independent Domestic Abuse Advisor (IDVA) service for the whole county in support of Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs). The standard IDVA service was jointly funded by the County Council, Derbyshire Constabulary, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and a small Home Office grant. The annual cost of the current contract was £165,000, which provided 4.5 FTE IDVAs and a 0.5 FTE Administrator. The service was provided by Derbyshire Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse Service and was contracted until March 2016.

There had been increasing numbers of victims being referred into MARACs during 2014, and the joint City and County Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Governance Board had recently sought an independent review of MARACs. The findings of the review had now been received, and highlighted a higher than recommended caseload for each IDVA in the county. The proposal was to employ one additional FTE IDVA for the period January 2015 – March 2016. The total cost for the period was £38,326, which could be met from the Communities budget.

The County Council was moving to a new, more integrated way of commissioning domestic abuse services, with a pooled budget and a single lead in the Community Safety Team. The aim was to start the re-commissioning process in January 2015, with new contracts being awarded to start on 1 April 2016. As part of the process, an IDVA service would be re-commissioned.

Funding for the temporary post would be transferred to the current service provider, who would employ the worker. Any future redundancy costs associated with the cessation of the temporary post would be attributable jointly to the partnership and the service provider.

**RESOLVED** that the sum of £38,326 be awarded from the Communities budget to fund a temporary Independent Domestic Abuse Advisor as part of the current contract with Derbyshire Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse Service.

**121/14      DERBYSHIRE INTEGRATED OFFENDER MANAGEMENT SCHEME** Derbyshire had established its multi-agency Integrated Offender Management (IOM) scheme in 2011, and this brought together multi-agency partners to manage offenders who were at the highest risk of re-offending. The IOM cohort was approximately 300 offenders at any one time.

A number of tools were used to assist offenders to stop re-offending. In February 2014, Derbyshire Constabulary had commenced a pilot utilising location monitoring devices supplied by Buddi Systems. The devices used GPS satellite data to monitor the whereabouts of an offender with the device secured around the ankle of the wearer. Recent evaluation of the pilot had shown that it had proved successful in a number of ways. Between February – July 2014, 11 offenders had volunteered for the tracker for on average 3-4 months, and during the time that they were wearing the tracker, there had been a significant reduction in offending, with six not re-offending at all. Since July, the scheme had rolled out further across the force area with partners being asked to contribute to funding. A growing number of offenders were responding positively to the idea of the tracker. However, there was currently no funding available to supply trackers in the Erewash/South Derbyshire area.

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

**RESOLVED** 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.

**122/14      SUPPORTING GRANTS TO FOOD BANKS 2014/15** Approval had previously been given for a small grants scheme to support the growing number of food banks in Derbyshire, and an initial fund of £108,000 had been established and the criteria for allocation agreed. Nineteen of the twenty-two food banks operating in Derbyshire had made an application for a small grant, and all had been successful.

The County Council had asked food banks to provide a minimum set of data so the use of food banks could be monitored at a county level. Data

collection had begun on 1 April 2014, and sixteen food banks had submitted data for quarter 1, with the others being reminded to provide it. The first set of data had shown that 1469 families had used a food bank during the first three months of 2014/15, and of these 3644 had been adults and 2452 children. The total number of people receiving food had been 6096 (excluding the food banks still to report).

It was clear that the need for emergency food was not decreasing. Earlier in the year, a gap analysis had been undertaken to map need and deprivation against existing food banks and the areas they served. This had highlighted that some areas of relative deprivation in Derbyshire did not have good access to a food bank. This remained a public health issue.

Cabinet had approved £55,000 from the Public Health Resource Fund to continue support for local food banks. Demand was expected to continue throughout 2014/15, so it was considered appropriate to increase the sum by a further £70,000 to be met from the Public Health budget. It was important that the grant scheme was made operational as urgently as possible and a press release had been issued inviting applications.

Rural Action Derbyshire had offered to host the Food Bank Forum meetings and to administer the grant scheme on behalf of the County Council for an administrative fee of £10,000. This would support the tradition of food banks remaining in the voluntary sector and would facilitate any development support that food banks needed to become eligible to apply for grants.

Applications from food banks would be considered by a small group, and recommendations for grant funding would be made to the Director of Public Health in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Health and Communities.

By awarding grant payments, the recipient organisations would not be contractually obliged to deliver any particular services, although the Council may be able to claw back grant which had not been spent or was misapplied.

**RESOLVED** to (1) approve an additional £70,000 to the grant scheme to support food banks;

(2) agree that the administration of the Food Bank Forum and the grant scheme be managed by Rural Action Derbyshire for a management fee of £10,000; and

(3) delegate decisions on the allocation of the grant scheme to the Director of Public Health in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Health and Communities.