

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MEETING WITH CABINET MEMBER, HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES

03 March 2015

Report of the Strategic Director, Health and Communities

DERBYSHIRE LIVES THROUGH THE FIRST WORLD WAR

1 Purpose of the report:

To inform the Cabinet Member: Health & Communities of the progress of the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) supported, Derbyshire Lives through the First World War project.

2 Information and analysis:

2.1. In 2013, Derbyshire Record Office secured £84,600 of HLF funding for a two year project to support Derbyshire communities to commemorate the centenary of the First World War. The project funding principally covers the salary of a Project Officer, who came into post in March 2014. Over the past year, Derbyshire Lives has been:

- Helping groups to develop projects that reflect the role played by Derbyshire communities during the First World War.
- Encouraging groups to produce resources such as guides, web pages and education packs to explain Derbyshire's First World War heritage and to engage a variety of audiences, including Derbyshire schools.
- Working with Libraries & Heritage staff to promote the use of the Record Office, libraries, Buxton Museum & Art Gallery and the Arts Team as both a resource and as venues for community projects and activities.
- Developing lasting skills within communities to enable them to successfully bid for funding and deliver heritage projects.

2.2 Derbyshire's involvement with the First World War was significant. For example the Derwent Valley Mills produced underwear for the troops and camouflage netting; lead was supplied for the production of ammunition; stoneware jars for the supply of rum rations; stone from Middleton quarries was used for over 120,000 headstones by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Men from all walks of life signed up to fight, at the same time some followed their conscience and refused to take up

arms. The First World War had a fundamental impact on the people of Derbyshire and it is clear that all communities have a story to tell.

- 2.3 To date, over 50 community groups (see full list attached as appendix 1) have been supported to develop projects for the commemoration. Derbyshire Lives has engaged with charities supporting those with visual impairment, mental health problems, dementia and physical disability, youth groups, Over 50s groups, LGBT groups, parish, town and city councils, history and heritage groups, the Mercian Regiment, minority and religious groups, museums, schools, higher education bodies, charities supporting service men and their families, poets, artists, theatre groups and musicians.
- 2.4 The Derbyshire Lives project is based at the Derbyshire Record Office, but operates across the whole of the Libraries & Heritage division, with a steering group made up of officers from all Libraries & Heritage services. It has received a great deal of cross-sector support from libraries, museums and arts through the provision of venues, expertise, promotion and group contacts. Significant support has also been provided by Libraries & Heritage services directly to community groups.
- 2.5 The project is also working across the council, and has developed strong links with the Intergenerational Practice Officer (Adult Care) and the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site (Economy, Transport and Environment).
- 2.6 On a national level, the project is part of the Imperial War Museum First World War partnership. The project is also working in partnership with an Arts & Humanities Research Council (AHRC) funded scheme within the UK-wide university sector to support communities to commemorate the war. This scheme offers academic support and funding for First World War projects; the Derbyshire Lives Project Officer works closely with the Community Liaison Officer at the University of Nottingham Centre for Hidden Histories to broker links between Derbyshire groups and the academic community.
- 2.7 Over £50,000 of HLF funding has been so far obtained by community groups for projects supported by the Derbyshire Lives project. A number of community projects are currently in the process of applying for funding. This is a potentially lengthy undertaking due to the time taken to prepare a bid and HLF's decision making processes. Experience so far has indicated that preparing and assessing some applications may take a year or more.
- 2.8 Although there is great commitment to project ideas within community groups, there is very often an understandable lack of confidence to come forward to apply for funding. Very few groups have ever applied for

funding previously and feel that they lack the skills needed. Derbyshire Lives has been able to offer reassurance and advice on how to complete the application process and structure projects and funding bids to place less pressure upon volunteers in the groups. Without the support of the Libraries & Heritage staff many community groups would not have secured funding.

- 2.9 At a recent First World War workshop, run by the Imperial War Museum, it was clear that in comparison with other projects in the Midlands, the Derbyshire Lives project is providing appropriate support, pitched at the right level for local communities. Over the coming year, the Project Officer will be integrating feedback from Derbyshire groups and the Imperial War Museum First World War partnership, to continue to build on the existing good practice.
- 2.10 The commemorative period lasts for five years, and there has naturally been a large amount of interest at the beginning of the commemoration. Although there will be key dates to be commemorated over the next few years, it is anticipated that future projects will focus on the end of the war in 2018. These projects are not likely to start until 2017, as the HLF 'First World War: Then and Now' funding stream funds projects for a maximum of two years.
- 2.11 During 2014, the Derbyshire Lives project has been supporting groups inspired by the beginning of the commemoration. Over 2015, the project will be consolidating this work and encouraging groups to develop plans and projects for the intervening period and the commemoration of the armistice in 2018. A training programme for community groups to increase skills and confidence will shortly be publicised.
- 2.12 The HLF funding for the Derbyshire Lives project will cease in early 2016. Once the project finishes, it is intended that a continuing programme of support and training for community groups will be mainstreamed and provided by services within the Libraries & Heritage division. An exhibition will also travel around the county to keep up the profile of the Derbyshire First World War commemoration. Options for securing funding for a further county-wide First World War project are being explored.
- 2.13 The benefits of the Derbyshire Lives project to Derbyshire are:
- A local Derbyshire
- As of March 2015, more than 50 local community groups have engaged with the Derbyshire Lives project. Most of these groups have developed, or intend to develop, projects within their communities to commemorate the war. By the end of the project this figure will have risen to approximately 75 community groups.

- A safer Derbyshire – sustainable communities

The project has introduced external funding to communities and developed skills that will lead to stronger local economies. As of March 2015 over £50k of external funding has been accessed by Derbyshire communities and this figure is likely to rise to around £100k by the end of the project.

Community projects have been, or are being, developed that raise awareness of a variety of issues, including mental health and physical disability. The project is also building a greater understanding between the ages through encouraging and supporting intergenerational projects.

3. Human Resources considerations:

When the Derbyshire Lives project ceases in 2016, the fixed term contract of the Project Officer will come to an end. The appropriate Council policies will be implemented in connection with this.

4. Other considerations:

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

5. Background papers:

None

6. Key Decision:

No

7. Call-in:

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

8. Officer's Recommendation:

That the Cabinet Member, Health and Communities notes the report.

David Lowe
Strategic Director
Health and Communities

Appendix 1

List of community groups directly supported by the project so far

Those so far successfully assisted to gain HLF funding are marked with an asterisk (*).

Alice Page (artist) Enemy Aliens	Hayfield Heritage Group
Amber Valley Borough Council	Horsley Woodhouse Parish Council
Belper, Arts Festival, George Gunby	Hulland, Christ Church
Belper, the Drop-in Centre	Kidology (artist) Dazzle Ships
Belper Firing Range Wall	Kilburn Junior School
Belper First War Group	Killamarsh Heritage Group
Belper, Fleet Arts	Matlock Bath Heritage Group *
Bolsover Heritage	Matlock Town Council
Bradbourne	Melbourne Heritage Research Group
Buxton, Discover Buxton	Mercian Regiment
Clay Cross Over 50s	Moira Heritage Partnership Group
Creswell Heritage Group	National Sikh Heritage Centre, Derby
Crich Church, Peace Walk	National Tramway Museum, Crich
Darley Dale, Memory Lane Group	Newholme Hospital, Bakewell
Darley Dale, Youth Club	Parwich Heritage Group
Derby City Council	Pinxton Parish Council
Derby College	Propeace, Chesterfield *
Derby University, Buxton Dome	Ripley, The Long Song
Derbyshire Coalition for Inclusive Living	Royal British Legion, Derbyshire HQ
Derbyshire Friend, Derby	Sharpe's Pottery, Swadlincote
Derbyshire Voice, Ripley	Sight Support Derbyshire *
Disability Derbyshire	South Wingfield Heritage Group
Elvaston History Group *	Staveley Town Council
Farming Life Centre	St Barnabas Centre, Clay Cross
Flamsteed Centre, Ilkeston	Whitworth Centre, Darley Dale
Glossop Heritage Trust	Wirksworth Heritage Group *
Glossop, WellFit, Walking Football	Youlgreave Heritage Group