

MINUTES of a meeting of the **CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES** held on 3 March 2014 at County Hall, Matlock

PRESENT

Councillor D Allen (in the Chair)

Also in attendance – Councillor P J Smith

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor C A Hart

23/14 **MINUTES RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Health and Communities held on 11 February 2014 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Cabinet Member.

24/14 **DERBYSHIRE HEALTH AND HOUSING GROUP – FUNDING GRANT** The Derbyshire Health and Housing Group had been established in 1995 to develop a partnership approach to reducing health inequalities through improved housing standards. The group administered the awarding of grants to housing related projects which addressed issues of health inequality. Public Health chaired the group, and following the transfer of the public health function to the County Council, it had been agreed by Cabinet that the Group could continue to allocate the budget via grant funding for 2013/14.

The current budget allocated from the Public Health Ring Fenced grant was £38,495, and this would be allocated to new or innovative Health and Housing projects which enhanced existing programmes, reduced inequalities or added value. Following an application and prioritisation screening procedure conducted during December 2013 and January 2014, the Group had proposed funding allocations to a range of organisations. The funding was allocated for one year only, and the award process required the organisation to provide outcomes monitoring data in an evaluation report to enable the effectiveness of the grant spend to be considered.

RESOLVED to approve the allocation of the grant budget as outlined in the report.

25/14 **NHS HEALTH CHECK PROGRAMME: POINT OF CARE TESTING:- MAINTENANCE AND QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAMME**

The NHS Health Check programme was a mandated programme provided by general practices on behalf of the County Council through a Basket of Services contract which practices had with Derbyshire CCGs. The programme was national primary prevention cardiovascular risk assessment programme aimed at people who did not have an existing cardiovascular disease and who were aged 40-74. Of the Derbyshire population, there were

237,000 people who were eligible for a NHS Health Check, and the programme ran on a five yearly cycle.

Within the Memorandum of Understanding with the CCGs for the provision of the programme within the Basket of Services contract, Public Health Derbyshire was responsible for the maintenance and quality assurance of the point of care testing equipment (POCT). This equipment had been supplied to practices, including the provision of maintenance and quality assurance of the devices, which were provided by Alere Ltd. Alere Ltd was the only company which manufactured the devices.

The Quality Assurance programme for the equipment was currently provided by Alere Ltd and Derby Royal Hospital. The Alere contract had been agreed in 2010 through an NHS procurement exercise, and Alere Ltd had provided devices to all Derbyshire County practices which had been purchased from the public health budget with the former Derbyshire County Primary Care Trust. The Quality Assurance programme provided ran throughout the year providing internal quality control, which was provided by Bolton Trust and was in addition to the contract with Alere. This involved sending reference samples to practices every two months and these tested the cholesterol readers for accuracy and reliability. The programme also provided external quality assurance, and this was provided by Welsh External Quality Assessment Scheme but administered locally from the POCT Department, Derby Royal Hospital, each quarter. The key objective was continuous quality improvement within laboratory medicine, and compared the Derbyshire programme with others nationally.

Under the renewed contract, Alere would provide a co-ordinated web based quality assurance programme whereby all internal quality control and external quality assurance results would be entered by practices onto a web based programme, AegusPOC. This would ensure that the POCT systems delivered the same high standards as laboratory testing for venous sampling. The service would strengthen quality assurance, training, accreditation, governance and information management for the NHS Health Check programme. The revised POCT support from Alere fulfilled the quality and governance management for the County Council as commissioners, and was flexible in enabling the delivery of GP based and community based NHS Health Checks. The benefits to the NHS Health Check programme governance and risk management were highlighted.

AegusPOC supported the model for a 'one stop shop' approach to look at the patients' health and wellbeing status with immediate results which allowed health providers to intervene earlier. The AegusPOC data manager provided an effective management tool that offered real-time data to support commissioning decisions. All would be outlined in a service specification which would provide a revised maintenance and support proposal for the 73

Alere Cholestech LDX readers, including the Data Management system to support the delivery of the NHS Health Check programme.

The costs were outlined, and were £14,599.91 per year for two years for maintenance and support. The delivery costs were approximately £1,000. The current maintenance and quality assurance was £13,000, and in addition the EQA programme with Derby Royal Hospital was £12,000 per annum. It was the aim to budget for all GP practices undertaking the NHS Health Check to come under the new contract – a further 27 practices. A number of other programmes within the East Midlands used the same device, and it was suggested that if this remained the best device on the market, it could be worth considering with Public Health England and local councils a joint procurement exercise in the near future.

Regulation 4 of the Local Authorities (Public Health Functions and Entry to Premises by Local HealthWatch Representatives) Regulations 2013 required local authorities to provide, or secure the provision of, health checks for all eligible people in their area aged between 40-74. It was also requested that standing orders in relation to contracts be waived.

RESOLVED that (1) approval be given to waive standing orders in relation to contracts; and

(2) approval be given to the proposal to extend the contract with Alere Ltd for two years.

26/14 DERBYSHIRE UNEMPLOYED WORKERS' CENTRE AND THE TRADE UNION SAFETY TEAM – GRANTS Derbyshire Unemployed Workers' Centre had been established as part of a larger network of Trade Union Council Unemployed Workers' Centres, and its objectives included offering welfare rights advice and representation to unemployed, under-employed and unwaged workers, to relieve poverty in unemployed and disadvantaged people, and to recruit and train volunteers from local communities to assist in its work. The work of the DUWC had expanded to include the provision of welfare benefit appeals referred from local Citizens Advice Bureaux. This was set to increase further once the Citizens Advice Bureau service was extended to all Derbyshire's Children's Centres from April 2014. Cabinet had previously approved a grant of £25,000 for 2013/14 and £50,000 for 2014/15 to DUWC to cover the cost of 325 of the appeals.

The Trade Union Safety Team (TRUST) provided help and support to anyone diagnosed with an industrial disease throughout Derbyshire. TRUST worked closely with DUWC and referred clients for benefits advice when necessary. Cabinet had previously approved a grant of £39,750 to DUWC and £5,763 to TRUST to cover the core costs for 2013/14. Demand for

services provided by both organisations had increased and this was anticipated to continue due to the impacts of the Welfare Reform Act.

The work undertaken by both organisations supported the Council's priorities to tackle poverty, support communities during hard times and support community based advice services. In line with other grants to Voluntary and Community Sector organisations, it was recommended that the grant be subject to a Service Level Agreement which would set out expectations and requirements on both DUWC and TRUST and the County Council in relation to the grant award. Six monthly monitoring would ensure both the quality of the service and accountability for the funding.

At its meeting, Cabinet had been made aware that DUWC had taken the decision to concentrate on advice and representation services. Any campaigning in relation to political policies, and the organisation of protest, was being taken on by a new body. Assurance had been given that any grant funding provided would be used solely for the purposes of supporting the advice function of the of the centre – this would be reflected in the Service Level Agreement.

Given the increased pressure on communities and the increasing demand for advice services, it was recommended that the County Council continued to provide grant funding for the core costs of both organisations. The requested grants for 2014/15 were £40,148 for DUWC and £5,821 for TRUST. It was proposed that the cost of the grants would be met from the Public Health budget.

RESOLVED that (1) grant funding of £40,148 be provided to the Derbyshire Unemployed Workers' Centre to cover the core costs associated with the delivery of services for 2014/15; and

(2) grant funding of £5,821 be provided to the Trade Union Safety Team to cover the core costs associated with the delivery of services for 2014/15.

27/14 **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC** **RESOLVED** to exclude the public from the meeting during the consideration of the remaining items on the agenda to avoid the disclosure of the kind of information detailed in the following summary of proceedings:-

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS CONDUCTED AFTER THE PUBLIC HAD BEEN EXCLUDED FROM THE MEETING

1. To confirm the exempt minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Health and Communities held on 11 February 2014

28/14 **EXEMPT MINUTES RESOLVED** that the exempt minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Health and Communities held on 11 February 2014 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Cabinet Member.