

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MEETING WITH CABINET MEMBER, HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES

03 November 2015

Report of the Director of Public Health

HOPE SPRINGS RECOVERY CENTRE

1. Purpose of the report:

To consider a request to grant fund Hope Springs Recovery Centre £12,000 to cover their rental costs for one year.

2. Information and analysis:

Hope Springs Recovery Centre is based in Chesterfield and offers a safe place for recovering drug and alcohol users to engage with like-minded people in a structured way which supports their continued recovery. It is the only open-access facility of its kind in Derbyshire and provides a positive environment with a variety of groups and activities to meet the needs of its diverse participants.

The Authority has supported Hope Springs Recovery Centre from its inception in spring 2013, and agreed to grant-fund premises rental costs to the value of £10,000 from August 2013, and a further £12,000 in August 2014. Unfortunately there have been significant changes in leadership since the early days, including the founder no longer being part of the project, considerable changes to the individuals who volunteer there, and subsequent changes to the leadership of the Trustee Board in 2015. Despite all of these destabilising changes, a successful application for charitable status has been achieved, and there now needs to be a period of stabilisation whilst the leadership team re-group and become able to deliver their ambitious but realistic plans for the development of Hope Springs. Key to this stability is the need for Hope Springs to diversify their income streams to include applications for charitable trust funding (including a Big Lottery bid), seeking local corporate support, and the development of a sustainable social enterprise. In order to support this, they were further granted £25,000 by the Authority in 2014 to develop sustainability, but this has not yet had the outcomes that all had hoped for due to strategic and personnel issues, although work continues under this funding.

Possibly due to the uncertainty around staffing and volunteers, and a resulting lack of clear strategic direction, Hope Springs were

unsuccessful in their bid for funding under the Authority's Recovery Communities Small Grant Scheme. However, in recognising the support that the Authority has given them in the past, and also that their structures have once again changed and their plans have therefore been disrupted, it is proposed that they be given one further year of support with rental costs for the centre to the value of £12,000 to enable them towards independence and sustainability.

3. Financial considerations:

There is sufficient funding from within the S256 budget to fund this as a one-off grant. It is not proposed that funding of this nature and value will be further offered to Hope Springs after this allocation, as their programme needs to become self-supporting through alternative sources of funding and support.

4. Other considerations:

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

5. Background papers:

Report to the Cabinet Member July 2013 - Public Health Projects
Report to the Cabinet Member 05 August 2014 - Hope Springs

6. Key Decision:

No

7. Call-in:

Is it required that call-in be waived for any decision on this report? No

8. Officer's recommendation:

To approve a £12,000 grant to Hope Springs Recovery Centre to be used for rental of premises for 12 months from December 2015.

Elaine Michel
Director of Public Health