

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**MEETING WITH CABINET MEMBER, HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES**

**03 November 2015**

**Report of the Strategic Director, Health and Communities**

**LIBRARIES DIGITAL INCLUSION PROJECT**

**1. Purpose of the report:**

To inform the Cabinet Member, Health and Communities about the award of a grant of £10,000 by the Tinder Foundation to deliver the 'Libraries Digital Inclusion' project and to seek permission to second a member of library staff, on a part time basis, to deliver the project.

**2. Information and analysis:**

2.1 The library service currently delivers regular work and benefits sessions which involve the provision of ICT help sessions in libraries to people seeking work and those on low incomes. This work has identified a significant skills gap amongst the participants who often lack basic ICT skills, such as how to use a mouse and keyboard and how to set up an email account. These are essential skills necessary for accessing Universal Jobmatch, Universal Credit and other national and local government services.

2.2 It is proposed to use part of the grant of £10,000 for the 'Libraries Digital Inclusion' project to second a Chartered Librarian, Grade 10, on a part time basis until the end of March 2016 to manage the project. (The grant must be spent by this date.) The post will be advertised on a ringfenced basis to existing Chartered Librarian's within the Library Service and this will then be followed by a competitive interview process. In view of the significant budget pressures facing the service there are no plans to back fill any resulting vacancy that arises. The project will deliver 200 basic ICT help sessions to people seeking work and those on low incomes in areas of high unemployment across the whole of Derbyshire.

2.3 Library staff will utilise the UK Online Learn My Way, Digital Unite and BBC Webwise online tutorials to improve customer confidence and develop their basic ICT skills. Alongside this staff will also try to address health inequalities, which are often a

consequence of low income levels, by highlighting the online tool Staying Healthy with NHS Choices and recommending authoritative websites for people to access health information.

- 2.4 The library service will produce help sheets to give to individual participants, to support them in their use of ICT in libraries or at home. It will also provide free memory sticks to enable participants to have the means of saving work for future use e.g. CV's.
- 2.5 The library service will market the project with dedicated publicity through local community venues including JobCentre Plus, Citizens Advice and via existing Derbyshire Libraries social media platforms which have been very successful in reaching new audiences.
- 2.6 Outcomes of the project for participants will be that they:
  - Are able to access basic ICT help from the library service to support the Work and Benefits sessions being delivered by library staff.
  - Are able to make fuller use of the ICT facilities available in all Derbyshire libraries
  - Are better equipped to find work.
  - Are better equipped to access information about benefits.
  - Can make a contribution to the local economy
  - Are aware of online sources of information in relation to their own health.

**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, 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 recommendations:**

That the Cabinet Member, Health and Communities:

- a) Notes the award of a grant of £10,000 from the Tinder Foundation to deliver the Libraries Digital Inclusion project.
- b) Approves the temporary secondment of Chartered Librarian, Grade 10, on a part time basis until the end of March 2016, to undertake the work associated with the project.

**David Lowe**  
**Strategic Director**  
**Health and Communities**