

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MEETING WITH CABINET MEMBER, HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES

10 February 2015

Report of the Director of Public Health

SUBSTANCE MISUSE RECOVERY COMMUNITIES- SMALL GRANTS

1. Purpose of the report:

To seek approval to extend grant funding for Substance Misuse Recovery Communities for a further six months to 30 September 2015.

To seek approval to consult on changes to the Recovery Community grant funding process in Spring 2015.

To establish a Substance Misuse Recovery Communities fund from October 2015.

2. Information and analysis:

In 2010, the government published its drug strategy 'Reducing Demand, Restricting Supply, Building Recovery: Supporting People to live a Drug Free Life'. Whilst previous drug strategies had focused primarily on reducing the harm caused by substances, this publication aimed to support people into recovery. Instead of substitute prescribing being the end goal, treatment was to help people build their "recovery capital" to achieve a substance-free, productive life. Recovery capital includes the things that many of us take for granted such as family, employment, housing, hobbies, friendships and a sense of purpose and meaning: they are the resilience-building motivators that help people stop using substances and in turn, enable people to remain substance-free long-term.

Public Health England strongly promotes this emphasis on recovery through not only the transformation of traditional treatment services, but through the encouragement of peer-led, "grass-roots" recovery communities as a cost-effective, evidence-based and positive means of achieving long-term recovery.

The Public Health Substance Misuse team has a small budget for the promotion, extension and support of recovery from substance misuse in Derbyshire. This has historically (from the time when the DAAT was located within the Primary Care Trust) been allocated to a few small, local

charities or organisations which have often grown up from “grass roots” or peer-led groups of people who themselves have been through drug and alcohol treatment. Such grants have supported those recovering from substance misuse in Derbyshire with practical activities such as education and promoting healthy lifestyles, and building recovery capital in areas such as housing or employment.

The current round of grant funding is due to end on 31 March 2015 and whilst some of the existing projects have performed well and provided excellent value for money, others have struggled to demonstrate clear outcomes. Furthermore, the projects have been primarily located in Chesterfield and Bolsover, and it is proposed to open up the funding to a wider geography to reduce the potential inequality of access that exists with the current grant-holders, and to identify other small charities or organisations that could be supported in order to extend recovery across the county.

Whilst all grant receivers have been fully aware that the grants they receive are non-recurrent, and are due to end on 31 March 2015, it is appropriate to consult with service users on any changes that may happen to these services should the incumbent providers be unsuccessful under a new grants scheme, and also to seek the views of service users in developing a robust and fit-for-purpose grants scheme that delivers recovery across Derbyshire. In order to complete this consultation in a meaningful way, and avoid disruption to the existing services, it is proposed to extend the existing grants to 30 September 2015. This would additionally allow the grant receivers who have struggled to demonstrate clear outcomes the opportunity of a further six months to deliver on their projects.

Following consultation, it is proposed to advertise a grants scheme with the objective of delivering clear recovery outcomes for substance misusers which would be awarded from 01 October 2015. Prospective applicants would be required to apply for a one year grant not exceeding £40,000 and be able to demonstrate how their proposed project would enhance recovery against the specified recovery outcomes which will be identified during the consultation exercise. A panel comprising of Public Health Substance Misuse team members would meet to consider the bids and score against agreed criteria in order to propose successful bids for approval by the Cabinet Member.

3. Financial Considerations:

There is sufficient financial support for this proposal in the existing Public Health Substance Misuse budget. The annual recurring budget for supporting recovery communities is £200,000.

The grants under the existing arrangements have been allocated as follows (amounts are per year):

- Hope Springs Recovery Centre - £12,000
- Rhubarb Farm Community Interest Company - £25,000
- Nite Lite café at Shirebrook Christian Centre - £30,000
- Action Housing - £40,000
- Recovery Is Out There (R.I.O.T.) - £31,228

In addition to this, we also purchase a SMART recovery licence for the county (current annual cost £5000, with the strong possibility of this increasing when renewed) which enables all our community providers to be trained in and facilitate SMART Recovery groups which have been well-received by service users.

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:

None

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 Recommendations:

That the Cabinet Member approves:

1. Extending existing grant funding for Substance Misuse recovery communities for a further 6 months to 30 September 2015.
2. A consultation on changes to the Recovery Community grant funding process in Spring 2015.

3. The establishment of a Substance Misuse Recovery Communities fund from October 2015 with individual grant applications to be approved by the Cabinet Member as set out in the report.

Elaine Michel
Director of Public Health