

MINUTES of a meeting of the **CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES** held on 12 November 2013 at County Hall, Matlock

PRESENT

Cabinet Member – Councillor D Allen

Also in Attendance – Councillors C A Hart, P J Smith and E S Wilcox

57/13 **MINUTES RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Health and Communities held on 22 October 2013 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Cabinet Member.

58/13 **FUNDING REQUEST FOR PORTABLE SPRINKLERS** Approval was sought for £20,000 to match fund a contribution from Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service (DFRS) for the purchase of domestic sprinkler systems to be installed in the homes of vulnerable people with mobility problems who were at significant risk of harm from fire.

DFRS was actively engaged in a campaign to ensure that all newly built homes were fitted with domestic sprinkler systems and had allocated funding towards retro-fitting existing vulnerable properties with sprinkler systems. Residential Social Landlords in each local authority had contributed to the scheme for their own properties. To complement the approach, DFRS was also supporting a number of portable systems for use in properties where retro-fitting was not an option.

Cabinet had previously approved funding of £20,000 from the Communities Budget to match fund DFRS, and this had been targeted at portable systems for properties for individuals at significant risk of fire within their homes. In June 2013, seventeen portable systems had been purchased and a joint protocol established for their storage, installation and maintenance. The systems could be installed with minimal impact to the property, and were used in conjunction with a range of other responses to reduce risk, and could be re-used in other properties when no longer required.

Early feedback had found that risk existed at night in the bedroom and during the day in a living room, thus requiring the installation of two systems in one property. In other cases, there was more than one immobile individual in a property occupying more than one room, and these also required more than one system to be installed. Due to current numbers of portable systems, only a small number of properties could be covered, and to add resilience to the original project and enable DFRS to install the systems in more properties, it was proposed to purchase a further batch of portable sprinkler systems.

The proposed funding of £20,000 could be met from the Communities budget to match fund £20,000 from DFRS.

RESOLVED that the sum of £20,000 be awarded from the Communities budget to support the Portable Sprinkler Programme with the Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service.

59/13 COUNTERING ADVERTISING BY PAYDAY LOAN COMPANIES Current estimates had suggested that more than one million adults in the UK were borrowing on a regular basis from payday loan companies. There had been a number of recent cases in Derbyshire of people who had taken out such loans and had sought assistance from local advice agencies and the Council's Trading Standards and Welfare Rights Services. These cases had highlighted the harmful impact of payday loans on people struggling to budget their finances.

The exact number of people taking out payday loans in Derbyshire was unknown. A number of lenders had offices or shops locally, as well as larger companies which could be accessed online, by mobile phone sites and by telephone. The Derbyshire Financial Inclusion Strategy had committed partners to taking action to promote more affordable forms of borrowing, such as Credit Unions, and the Council had recently allocated a grant of £300,000 to Derbyshire's Credit Unions for instant access loans to support people.

Nationally, a number of local authorities had taken steps to prevent people from being able to access the websites of payday loan companies on Council owned computers. To date, around twenty councils had taken or intended to take this action. Preventing access to every payday loan company's website and maintaining this would be both practically difficult and costly. It was therefore proposed to prevent access from Derbyshire County Council computers to around twenty-five websites of the main national lenders. In addition, the websites of a small number of the most active locally based lenders would also be blocked. By doing so, it was estimated that the Council could restrict access to more than 80% of the current sources of borrowing through payday loans. As a result, individuals, including employees and people accessing the internet at local libraries, would be prevented from accessing the websites of payday loan companies whilst using County Council Computers. The proposal would cost around £1,000 per annum for the Council's ICT contractor to carry out the work, and this could be met from existing budgets held by the Transformation Service.

RESOLVED that the proposal to block access to the websites of payday loan companies be approved.

60/13 DEVELOPMENT OF HEALTH AND WELLBEING ZONES IN LIBRARIES Health and Wellbeing Zones were clearly designated areas within

libraries offering a range of information on health and wellbeing. The first two Zones had been established in 2009, and provision had since extended to a further sixteen libraries. Many of the Zones were sited in libraries which served communities with significant health inequalities, but they had also been developed in some of the county's larger libraries. Those which currently had a Zone were detailed.

Health and Wellbeing Zones had been developed with the financial support of partner organisations. The development of the Zones formed part of the Adult Care Department's Prevention Strategy, and in addition to the library based provision, Zones had been developed in three Care Centres, a GP surgery and a Community Care Hospital. Provision at some Zones had been extended through computerised information kiosks, which enabled users to easily access key websites which supported health and wellbeing. In addition, the kiosks provided links to information on jobs, housing and advice services. The terminals were currently sited in fourteen of the existing eighteen Zones, and were provided with the support of North East Derbyshire Citizens Advice Bureau.

At its meeting on 30 July 2013, Cabinet had approved the Revenue Outturn 2012/13 (Council Services) report, and this had included budgetary provision to extend ipad information kiosk provision to further sites and increase the number of Health and Wellbeing Zones in libraries. It was proposed to extend computerised information kiosks to cover those libraries which already had a Health and Wellbeing Zone. It was also proposed to establish new Health and Wellbeing Zones in a further nine libraries, and these would include a full range of health and wellbeing resources and an information kiosk. Provision at two of these libraries had been funded by the Adult Care Department.

RESOLVED to note the plans to expand the provision of Health and Wellbeing Zones in libraries, as outlined.

61/13 UNIVERSITY OF DERBY RESEARCH PROJECT INTO THE MIS-SELLING OF MOBILITY AIDS The Trading Standards Division had first become aware of an increase in the number of complaints about the way in which mobility aids were being sold as early as 2007, and this had prompted a project to visit all 21 businesses in Derbyshire to advise of the requirements of trading standards law. It became apparent that a handful of local businesses were responsible for the vast majority of complaints, and one in particular had prompted the county's first action under the Enterprise Act 2002. Although successful in tackling that particular business, the growth in the mobility aids market, and the demand for products to assist people to live independently for longer in their own homes, had meant that there were significant profits to be made by salesmen willing to take advantage of older citizens. Whilst the Enterprise Act had proved helpful in exerting pressure over some businesses,

it had proved relatively ineffectual against those who were prepared to take advantage of consumers and to maximise profits by whatever means.

Two Derbyshire businesses in particular – Compass Mobility and ABM Mobility – had generated the vast majority of complaints, and whilst the people responsible for running these businesses were eventually prosecuted, it had taken several years. One of the issues had been that it had been easy for the rogue traders to set up new businesses, which had generated new complaints from the public. Details were provided around the volume of complaints received by Derbyshire Trading Standards about five businesses based in the county.

By definition, the vast majority of consumers who had suffered as a result of this type of rogue trading were already vulnerable due to their age, lack of mobility and poor health. Typical tactics employed by the rogue traders were stated, along with the type of activities complained about.

In September 2012, Derbyshire Trading Standards had approached the University of Derby to carry out research into the mis-selling of mobility aids, to assess the adequacy of the legislation and to consider the impact on the victims. The research had included interviewing both Trading Standards professionals as well as victims, and had critically assessed the legislation and powers available to local authorities to tackle this type of behaviour. The report had concluded that the Enterprise Act had not proved effective in tackling rogue traders, and that whilst the Government was proposing regulatory reform, the success of this would *“...require the skill and expertise and professionalism of those familiar with the existing regime for seamless transition. What has emerged from this research is that current powers and future changes will rely on the existing skills and expertise and the capacity of Trading Standards Services investigation teams for successful implementation”*.

A copy of the research project report was presented, and this made six recommendations. Each of these had been considered by the Departmental Management Team within Cultural and Community Services, and the action for implementation was stated.

RESOLVED to note the conclusions and recommendations of a University of Derby research project into the mis-selling of mobility aids; and to agree to the adoption of the recommendations of the report.

62/13 HEALTH AND EMPLOYMENT PROJECT Evidence suggested that, in general, being in work was good for health, and worklessness led to poorer health. Once out of work, it was likely that an individual's health would worsen, and they and their families were more likely to fall into poverty and become socially excluded. There were approximately six million people in the

UK in employment who had a long-standing health condition, and 2011 census data indicated that there were 157,033 Derbyshire residents who had a long-term limiting illness.

There was a strong link between employment and enhanced quality of life. Supporting someone with their employment aspirations was a key part of the recovery process, as employment was a wider determinant of health and social inequalities. In Derbyshire in 2010/11, only 1.1% of adults with learning disabilities were in employment, and 20.9% of adults in contact with secondary mental health services were in employment.

The Disability Employment Project (DEP) was a well-established countywide service that had a proven record of supporting disabled people into work. Public Health was proposing to commission the DEP to deliver a pilot project, targeting individuals with mild to moderate health conditions, to overcome the social and occupational barriers preventing them from returning to work or moving closer to employment or training. Referrals to the service would be from the advice services based in primary care, Welfare Rights, GPs and Occupational Therapists based in primary care, and the pilot project would be focused on GP surgeries in Chesterfield. The aims of the pilot service were detailed. Monitoring data would be utilised to evaluate the service and to make recommendations for the possible continuation of the service.

A budget of £14,000 for 2013/14 and £27,000 for 2014/15 had been allocated from Public Health for the pilot.

RESOLVED to approve the proposed pilot.

63/13 NHS HEALTH CHECK PROGRAMME – PROGRAMME RECOVERY GRANT TO HARDWICK CCG The NHS Health Check programme was a mandated programme, provided by GPs on behalf of the County Council, and was a national primary prevention cardiovascular risk assessment programme. It was targeted at people who did not have an existing cardiovascular disease and who were aged 40-74. In Derbyshire, there were 237,000 people who were eligible for a health check. The programme ran on a five yearly cycle, and one fifth of the eligible population (47,000 people) were invited each year. It was expected that 60% of the people invited would accept the offer of a Health Check, and an objective of the programme was to increase this to 75% uptake. It was noted that Derbyshire performed well in terms of uptake but not well for invitations sent.

As of September 2013, 19,700 invitations had been sent out from practices and 12,100 health checks had been performed. This was not meeting targeted levels of performance. It was felt that the reasons for under-performance related to practice specific administration issues, uncertainty as

practice staff may not have been involved with the programme for a while, and point of care testing. It was recognised that support may be required for some practices. Performance varied from practice to practice, as detailed by Hardwick CCG, and this was similar in other CCGs. Under Fairer Funding rules, it was not possible to put in additional support to practices which involved someone doing Health Checks on behalf of the practice. This showed the difficulty in improving performance in practices.

Hardwick CCG had put forward a proposal to use a 'third party' provider to support practices. The independent organisation, Quintiles', had a record of supporting practices elsewhere with similar practice specific issues, and notable increases in performance had been achieved following input over a three month period. The input was designed to get practices to undertake the programme independently and without external support. Within Hardwick CCG, there were three practices that were not doing so well and five that were struggling, and the CCG wanted to offer appropriate support to each of these, up to a maximum of five days (a maximum of £20,000 plus VAT). It was felt that this support did not breach the Fairer Funding rules, and following the initiative, it would be expected that all Hardwick CCG practices would send out 100% invitations to all eligible people and there would be an uptake of 60%.

Details were provided of the NHS Health Check budget, which totalled £510,500. The proposed grant funding would come from the Public Health budget.

RESOLVED to approve the proposal to grant fund Hardwick CCG up to a maximum of £20,000 plus VAT from the Public Health budget for the purpose set out in the report.

64/13 BUDGET MONITORING MONTH 5 2013/14 The gross budget for the Health and Communities portfolio was approximately £58m, and the budget monitoring was projecting an underspend for the year of £4.3m, £3.5m of which related to the new Public Health function. This would be transferred into a ring fenced reserve at the end of the financial year, which meant that the true forecast currently was an underspend of £0.8m.

The key variances were reported, and included an underspend in Public Health, Youth Offending Service, and Libraries, Museums, Art and Heritage.

RESOLVED to note the position on the 2013/14 Revenue Budget.

65/13 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 22 October 2013

66/13 **EXEMPT MINUTES RESOLVED** that the exempt minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Health and Communities held on 22 October 2013 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Cabinet Member.