

MINUTES of a meeting of the **CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES** held on 17 March 2015 at County Hall, Matlock

PRESENT

Councillor D Allen – Cabinet Member

Also in Attendance – Councillor J A Hill

30/15 **MINUTES RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Health and Communities held on 3 March 2015 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Cabinet Member.

31/15 **CREATIVE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMME IN PUBLIC LIBRARIES** The Society of Chief Librarians was working with the Creative Society to develop a programme of employment opportunities in public libraries, part-funded by the Arts Council's Creative Employment Programme. This was a £15m fund to support the creation of opportunities in England for young unemployed people aged 18-24 wishing to pursue a career in the arts and cultural sector. Derbyshire had completed an Expression of Interest form, and in January 2015 the library service had been informed that the bid had been successful. The proposal was to host two posts each for a period of six months, one based at Chesterfield Library and the other at Buxton Library.

The Creative Employment Programme would provide routes for young people to gain the experience of working in a library and provide them with a broader range of skills which could be of value in a range of settings. The role undertaken would be that of a Library Assistant (Grade 5), and the post holders would be recruited against the existing job profile and paid on the same grade. The posts would be for a period up to 26 weeks, working a minimum of 30 hours per week.

The purpose of the posts was to give the young person paid work experience and introduce them to a career that they may not have considered. It would be made clear that there was no offer of a permanent job at the end of the six month period. However, support and guidance would be offered to each young person employed to ensure that they had the best chance of securing employment beyond the programme.

Applicants had to be in receipt of Job Seeker Allowance, and it was expected that the posts would be advertised via Jobcentre Plus, although it was also possible to advertise in additional locations. The Creative Programme would provide a total of £2,500 towards the cost of each post, and the remaining salary costs of £10,664 could be covered from the existing library service budget.

RESOLVED to (1) note the successful expression of interest to the Creative Employment Programme by the library service; and

(2) agree to the recruitment of two Library Assistants.

32/15 ARTS GRANTS 2015/16 Approval was sought for the allocation of grants to nine community arts groups in Derbyshire, and a grant to Live & Local to provide a rural and community touring scheme across Derbyshire.

The funding applications and recommendations for 2015/16 were detailed. It was recommended that all of the groups received the same grant aid as the previous year. The only exception was the cost of the subscription to Orchestras Live, which was based on the county's population, so the sum had increased slightly.

The Live & Local rural and community touring scheme had been set up to deliver professional arts performances in village halls and other community venues. Live & Local had been approved to continue as a National Portfolio Organisation, which meant that it had secured Arts Council England funding through to March 2018. It was recommended that Derbyshire continued to work with Live & Local to provide rural touring in the county and supported them with a grant of £13,600 in 2015/16. District/Borough Councils in Derbyshire were also committed to continued financial support for the scheme.

The arts grants were taken from the arts budget and were allocated on a quarterly or yearly basis, and were monitored. Live & Local would continue to provide a rural touring programme, with a grant of £13,600 from the arts budget. The County Council would also act as a channel for district and borough council funding of around £17,000.

RESOLVED to approve the allocation of (1) funding to nine community arts groups in Derbyshire; and

(2) a grant of £13,600 to Live & Local as the provider of a rural and community touring scheme.

33/15 MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING Public Health held responsibility for the promotion of good mental health and wellbeing, prevention of mental health issues and early intervention. A lead for mental health had recently been appointed to drive forward the agenda, and work was ongoing with a range of partners to ensure that joint working was central of all approaches to provide the most appropriate method of prevention and support for residents who could experience a level of mental distress.

Mental Health charity MIND had reported that mental health was underfunded by local authorities, with many not having an identified budget. In Derbyshire, a recurrent budget had been specifically identified to invest in the promotion of mental health and wellbeing and the prevention of mental ill health.

The '5 Ways to Wellbeing' was an approach based on evidence that suggested that there were steps that everyone could take to improve mental wellbeing – connect, be active, keep learning, give to others and take notice. To further support and develop the existing infrastructure for people to maintain good mental health and wellbeing and therefore to prevent mental ill health, mechanisms to allow people to incorporate each of the five steps in their lives should be promoted and facilitated. Social Prescribing and Mental Health Training were two such mechanisms. Details were provided around Social Prescribing along with its outcomes.

The most appropriate mechanism to deliver a social prescribing programme in Derbyshire was to link it with the voluntary sector single point of access (vSPA). Funding of £75,000 would be proportionally allocated according to the adult population to the North Derbyshire vSPA and the South Derbyshire vSPA. The vSPA would stimulate local service providers and allocate funding on an uptake basis. Uptake would be reviewed after six months.

Mental Health Awareness Training was designed to give participants an understanding of the issues that arose for people suffering from mental distress and illness. The course was aimed at non mental health trained staff working in a variety of settings at both a management and service level. The training had been funded by CCHs and some Public Health Localities through the county over a number of years, and there was an opportunity to extend provision in a more consistent and sustainable way. It was proposed that 20 training courses were delivered to a total of 400 people in public facing organisations and roles, and approval was sought to procure a provider to deliver training.

A review and evaluation of the Social Prescribing Programme would take place, and performance would be reviewed throughout the year. Evaluation of the Mental Health training would be based on the number of people trained, number of organisations trained, feedback from attendees and the impact of the training. The costs would be met from the Public Health budget. Grant funding for Social Prescribing would be £47,723 for North Derbyshire Voluntary Action and £27,277 for South Derbyshire CVS. Funding for the procurement of a provider for the Mental Health Awareness training was £25,000.

RESOLVED to (1) approve grant funding for the social prescribing programme at a cost of £75,000;

(2) approve funding to procure mental health training at a cost of £25,000; and

(3) receive a future report evaluating the impact of social prescribing.

34/15 BUDGET MONITORING MONTH 9 2014/15 The gross budget for the Health and Communities portfolio was approximately £53m, and the budget monitoring was projecting an underspend for the year of £5.426m, £5.106m of which related to the Public Health function. At year-end, the Public Health underspend would be transferred into the Public Health Resource Fund, leaving a projected underspend for the remaining portfolio of £0.320m.

The key variances were reported, and included an underspend in Public Health and Community Safety. The Department's Earmarked Reserves totalled £2.597m, and budget reductions totalling £1.288m had been agreed by Full Council as part of the approval of the 2014-15 budget.

RESOLVED to note the position on the 2014/15 Revenue Budget.