

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET MEMBER MEETING – HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES

20th August 2013

**Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Strategic Director for Health
and Community Safety**

Substance Misuse Recovery Grant

Purpose of Report

To secure approval to grant fund Hope Springs Recovery Centre, Chesterfield.

Information and analysis

Recovery underpins the outcomes from drug treatment. It provides ongoing and sustainable locality based opportunities for drug and alcohol users in recovery to gain meaningful activity or support after drug or alcohol treatment has made progress sufficient to stabilise the life of a client. Recovery initiatives in localities are an economical county-wide response to providing sustainable alternatives to traditional approaches such as Aftercare Day Centres.

During 2012-13, the Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) partnership undertook to source community based assets that supported the recovery of people within or leaving drug or alcohol treatment services. A locality based approach was taken, with areas of highest need receiving the earliest attention. The development of additional Recovery Resources will be funded via a section 256 agreement to transfer funding from the old NHS Derbyshire County substance misuse budget to Derbyshire County Council for funding initiatives with health benefits. This is in addition to a recurrent £200k for ongoing and effective Recovery initiatives already in place.

In Spring 2013, Hope Springs Recovery Centre was opened in Chesterfield. This was led by Father Terry Doherty who wanted to develop a centre for spiritual and social solstice for people struggling with addictions. He had secured the use of a second floor of a large, single-glazed, converted warehouse building in Chesterfield, which was to be rent-free for the first 6 months. Father Terry Doherty approached treatment services to raise the profile of the centre and opened the facility to service-user groups. He was supported by drug treatment service staff who assisted him in creating ground rules for his Centre and provided him with basic training and support.

The Centre became popular with service-user groups and mental health patients, and the DAAT was approached for funding to enable it to continue after September, after which no funding had been secured. The DAAT supplied the Centre with a laptop, printer and mobile phones from a previous capital initiative and utilised the service user engagement officer within DAAT to observe progress and report back periodically on how the facility was developing.

The Substance Misuse Strategic Commissioning Group (SCG) considered the proposed funding for Hope Springs in May 2013. Concerns were raised about the sustainability, business planning capacity and capability of new Recovery orientated community ventures. The SCG concluded that:

- a longer term solution to support development of recovery capacity would be to fund a business support post to help fledgling groups secure funding. The DAAT will take this forward.
- Hope Springs be considered for grant funding based on the outcome of a full cost bid the Centre submitted to the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC).

The SCG concluded that Father Terry Doherty had created a demonstrably well-used facility that, due to its physical separation from other commissioned services and availability at weekends for breakfast clubs, has become popular. The DAAT has received letters of support from patients in recovery who have found the facility useful.

It is proposed that Hope Springs is granted £10k from section 256 Public Health funds to contribute towards rent and out of pocket expenses incurred by substance misuse user group members. The conditions of the grant would include monthly payments and development of a business plan for the Centre to ensure a more sustainable position. The SCG membership gave agreement in principle to this approach, subject to approval by Cabinet.

Financial Considerations

The cost of the proposal totals £10k and can be met from within existing resources as described above. The PCC office confirmed they would also be prepared to consider a grant to Hope Springs conditional on the DAAT service-user engagement maintaining a liaison role to assure service delivery and in partnership with the DAAT. These combined grants whilst not completely meeting all Hope Springs rent and on-costs, would leave only a marginal predicted shortfall that could be met by additional fundraising.

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; and environmental, health, human resources, property and transport considerations.

Call-in

Is it required that call-in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in the report?

No.

Background Papers

Minutes of Substance Misuse Strategic Commissioning Group Meeting 29th May 2013.

Officer's Recommendation

For Cabinet Member to approve the proposal to grant fund Hope Springs £10,000 from Public Health section 256 funding as set out in this report.

Elaine Michel
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Health and Community Safety