

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL****Cabinet Member Meeting, Health and Communities****11th February 2014****Report of the Director of Public Health****2014/15 Small Grants to Voluntary Sector Sexual Health Service Providers****1. Purpose of the Report**

To seek approval from Cabinet to allocate one off grant funding for 2014/2015 of £10,000 to existing providers (Derbyshire Friend and Derbyshire Positive Support) for providing support to groups in Derbyshire at greater risk of poor sexual health.

**2. Information and Analysis****2.1 New Commissioning Responsibilities**

From April 2013, local authorities are responsible for commissioning most sexual health services as part of their wider public health responsibilities, supported through the ring-fenced public health grant. For the Council, responsibilities include commissioning and ensuring provision of open access sexual health services including:

- contraception
- testing and treatment of sexually transmitted infections (STIs)
- sexual health aspects of psychosexual counselling and
- sexual health specialist services including young people's services, outreach, HIV prevention and sexual health promotion.

**2.2 HIV Prevention and Sexual Health Promotion**

Sexual health is an important part of both physical and mental health and is essential to general well-being. Good sexual health is aided by access to information and services that help avoid the risks of late diagnosis of HIV, onward transmission, sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and of harmful relationships.

The Public Health Outcomes Framework 2009 – 2011 identifies that 59.4% of HIV diagnosis are presented at a late stage within Derbyshire (similar to the 50% England average). The focus therefore has to be on prevention and promotion to increase early diagnosis.

Tackling late diagnosis by ensuring people are identified sooner is essential as the majority of people living with HIV that are diagnosed early can expect a near normal life expectancy. Early diagnosis is also an important priority to prevent onward transmission to uninfected partners.

Some groups are at higher risk of poor sexual health, living with barriers that hinder their access to sexual health services. Groups most vulnerable to poor sexual health include people living with HIV, gay and bisexual men and men who have sex with men.

### **2.3 Voluntary Sector Engagement**

Derbyshire Friend (DF) and Derbyshire Positive Support (DPS) are two local voluntary sector organisations that work directly with Derbyshire Residents from these most vulnerable groups. The allocation of this funding should help to:

- engage voluntary sector organisations (that are not currently commissioned by DCC) who are delivering sexual health support to Derbyshire residents
- ensure voluntary sector organisations remain in contact with the new commissioning landscape at this time of review
- improve integration of sexual health services across Derbyshire
- promote and support access to the use of mainstream health and social care services for vulnerable groups experiencing sexual health inequalities
- increase uptake of STI testing and condom use in vulnerable groups
- improve sexual health outcomes for those considered at higher risk of poor sexual health.

## **3. Financial Considerations**

The allocation of the 2014/2015 small grants will not incur additional financial considerations. The allocation will be £20,000.

## **4. Legal Considerations**

By awarding the proposed grant funding, neither Derbyshire Friend (DF) nor Derbyshire Positive Support (DPS) will be contractually obliged to deliver any particular services although the Council may be able to claw back grant if it is unspent or misapplied.

## **5. Equality and Diversity Considerations**

Significant inequalities exist across the area of Sexual Health. Some people are more at risk of poor sexual health outcomes compared to the wider population. They include men who have sex with men (MSM) and people living with HIV.

## **6. Other Considerations**

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: health, environment, transport, property, human resources and prevention of crime and disorder considerations.

**7. Background Papers**

Ref 1: DH 2013 Commissioning Sexual Health Services and Interventions *Best practice guidance for local authorities*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/commissioning-sexual-health-services-and-interventions-best-practice-guidance-for-local-authorities>

Ref 2: Derby and Derbyshire Sexual Health Needs Assessment 2013

[http://observatory.derbyshire.gov.uk/IAS/Custom/resources/HealthandWellbeing/Health\\_Needs\\_Assessments/SHNA\\_public\\_document.pdf#view=Fit](http://observatory.derbyshire.gov.uk/IAS/Custom/resources/HealthandWellbeing/Health_Needs_Assessments/SHNA_public_document.pdf#view=Fit)

**8. Key Decision**

No.

**9. Is it necessary to waive the call-in period?**

No.

**10. Officer's Recommendation**

That funding of the provision of grants of £10,000 for 2014/15 is supported for each of the two organisations named: Derbyshire Friend and Derbyshire Positive Support.

**Elaine Michel**  
**Director of Public Health**