

Derbyshire County Council

Cabinet Member Meeting, Health and Communities

25 January 2018

Report of the Director of Public Health

SUPPORTING FINANCIAL INCLUSION WORK IN DERBYSHIRE - GRANT

1. Purpose of the Report:

To seek approval to provide a grant of £30,000 to the Financial Action and Advice Partnership for the three years from April 2018 to March 2021.

2. Information and Analysis:

Financial Action and Advice Derbyshire (FAAD) is a partnership of 50 local organisations from the public, voluntary and private sectors who work together to tackle financial exclusion in Derbyshire. The Partnership is the only one of its kind in the East Midlands. It is widely recognised in the field of financial inclusion work and recognised for its achievements. FAAD was established in September 2013 from the merger of two previous partnerships, Advice Derbyshire and Financial Inclusion Derbyshire. FAAD is hosted by Rural Action Derbyshire and employs a full time project co-ordinator and part-time project assistant.

Derbyshire County Council has provided funding for the partnership since 2013 and agreed to continue to provide funding from 2016 to carry out work to improve financial inclusion across Derbyshire and to address financial capability amongst vulnerable groups. The project has received funding from the Big Lottery Fund (until October 2017) and from the Nat West Bank Skills & Opportunities Fund. Further funding opportunities are being explored including crowd funding and looking for opportunities to raise additional income by charging for some services.

Outcomes since April 2016 include:

FAAD delivered 22 financial capability sessions to 655 young people with 85% reporting increased confidence. Working with partners at Derby College, FAAD supported delivery of the National Citizenship Service 'life skills' programme, and realised how many young people did not have a basic understanding of the cost of independent living which led to the development of a new programme, The Money House. The Money House is a 5 day

accredited 'tenancy ready' programme for young people aged 17 to 24 planning a transition to independent living, whether from foster care, residential care or supported accommodation. FAAD aims to ensure that young people are better able to budget and manage their money effectively, improve their financial resilience and reduce the risk of rent arrears, eviction and subsequent homelessness.

In 2017 FAAD delivered four Money House Pilot Programmes to test delivery methods and establish working relationships with partners in housing, advice and community banking.

"I've learned so much from this week, I'm much more confident getting on my own two feet 'cos I know what's coming" Katie, MH Chesterfield

"I wish I'd learnt this stuff from school, so I'd had all this information before I moved out. I would've been in a much better position" Chloe, MH Swadlincote

Additional funding from Nat West Skills & Opportunities Fund has enabled this project to continue until October 2018.

Financial Inclusion Awareness Training has been in high demand. As the roll out of Universal Credit (UC) continues, FAAD have seen an increase in frontline workers concerned about the effect on their clients and the potential that it will plunge them into financial chaos. FAAD has provided a combination of 14 events and training sessions to 310 frontline workers in health and social care housing to increase their understanding of the UC system, how they can support their service users and raise awareness about Basic Bank Accounts, Credit Unions, Personal Budgeting Support, debt and benefits advice, foodbanks, digital access locally. These sessions have been very well received and have helped to build FAAD's profile across the county, increasing their mailing list to 600 newsletter contacts.

FAAD also supports the work of food banks, recognising that they play a vital role in helping people in crisis. FAAD's work has focused on supporting food banks to network and develop new services which can help deliver preventive sustainable food solutions. FAAD is evaluating the Food Bank Plus grant programme and providing learning opportunities for food banks to share their experiences.

FAAD's work is consistent with and complements the work of the Council in addressing financial exclusion and health inequalities through effective partnership working. It is recommended that the County Council continues to provide grant funding towards FAAD for a further three years from April 2018 to March 2021. The proposed grant is £30,000 a year which FAAD will seek to match from other sources.

3. Financial considerations:

The cost of this grant of £30,000 per year for 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21 can be met from the ring-fenced Public Health grant.

4. Social value

There are eight measures of 'financial inclusion' in a respected social valuation tool (*Measuring the Social Impact of Community Investment: A Guide to using the Wellbeing Valuation Approach HACT 2016*). The work done by FAAD directly addresses six of these and indirectly addresses the remaining two. For example, the tool values a person being able to save regularly at £2,155 and a person becoming debt-free at £1,593. Using this tool it is clear that the work that this grant is contributing to provides good social and economic value.

4. Other considerations:

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

5. Key Decision No

6. Call-in

Is it required that call-in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in the report? No

7. Background Papers

1. Cabco report of 10 September 2013
2. Cabco report of 3 May 2016

8. OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That grant funding of £30,000 a year be provided to Rural Action Derbyshire to support the work of FAAD from April 2018 to March 2021.

Dean Wallace
Director of Public Health