

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
MEETING WITH CABINET MEMBER, HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES

08 March 2018

Report of the Director of Public Health

SUPPORTING RECOVERY FROM SUBSTANCE MISUSE

1. Purpose of the report:

To seek Cabinet Member approval to allocate the following grants:

- £15,000 to Church on the Bus to support recovery through art in Matlock and Chesterfield
- £0.100m to Phoenix Futures to support abstinence-based recovery housing initially in Erewash, but with the aim of countywide expansion

2. Information and analysis

2.1 Improving recovery capital

Derbyshire residents in receipt of drug and alcohol treatment are more likely to recover from addiction if they can access supportive arrangements, alongside treatment, which encourage and improve employability, settled accommodation, strong relationships, self-esteem, purposeful activities and healthy diet/nutrition. Recovery grants have been developed over the last seven years to provide opportunities to improve recovery capital that reach across Derbyshire and have now become a formal annual small grants scheme. The proposed additional projects in this report add further value to the recovery community in Derbyshire.

2.2 Section 256 and capital spending funds

In 2013, a section 256 agreement was brokered between Derbyshire Primary Care Trust and Derbyshire County Council in order to carry forward a historic underspend on treatment services accumulated since 2010-11. Prioritisation was given to investment in peer-led recovery services in Derbyshire; localism and supporting the voluntary sector; outcomes which add value to mainstream treatment service provision; and identifying areas of currently unmet need and/or inequality in provision or access, including supported housing. In 2017, funding which had previously been awarded

from a national capital spend programme was returned to the Authority due to the early cessation of a local supported housing project for substance misusers in recovery. The proposed grants closely align with the aims and purposes of both of these funds.

2.3 Grant aims

2.3.1 Church on the Bus Art project

The recovery small grants scheme has supported a number of projects over the past three years but we have struggled to attract suitable bids from local organisations located in Derbyshire Dales. The proposed project would offer art classes to residents of Matlock as well as Chesterfield, offering much needed recovery opportunities to Dales residents. A similar art project has been highly successful in Erewash, and this project has a history of delivering strong outcomes for a variety of excluded, stigmatised and vulnerable individuals. There is evidence that activities based around art can be therapeutic, delivering both social inclusivity and individual benefits, and can lead to purposeful use of time, thus reducing the risk of relapse into substance misuse.

2.3.2 Recovery Housing

Delivering a healthy local recovery community is a long-held ambition for Derbyshire but it has been difficult to replicate the successes of other areas due to the large geography of the county and the lack of a local residential rehabilitation unit supplying graduates who resettle locally. However, Derbyshire has a need for abstinence-based supportive housing which assists individuals in community treatment services to achieve and sustain long-term recovery.

Phoenix Futures have jointly delivered substance misuse treatment services for adults in Derbyshire for a number of years. Recognising unmet local need, they have allocated their own funds to purchase and staff recovery houses across the county, commencing with Ilkeston which has a strong number of assets to recommend it as the first location. However, additional one-off capital funding will be required to expand on the ambition of providing solely housing, to include a workshop and/or social enterprise opportunity for residents to achieve sustainable training and employment alongside their housing provision.

Successful recovery housing would add significant value to the treatment and recovery services in Derbyshire. It complements the services already being commissioned by providing a key element of recovery capital, with suitable and safe housing being one of the major wider determinants of health.

3 Social Value considerations

Engagement in supportive groups and activities is a key element of recovery, and holds the potential to help create a lifetime plan for long-term health improvements. Appropriate activities support individuals to make positive changes to their physical and mental health alongside the benefits of maintaining their abstinence from substance misuse. The social value benefits of recovery are highlighted by a recent study 'Life in Recovery' (September, 2015) by Professor David Best from Sheffield Hallam University. This study showed that people moving into recovery were more likely to be in education or employment, to volunteer, eat healthily and take regular exercise, and cease criminal activity and anti-social behaviour, thus reducing the current and future burden on the local health and justice systems.

4. Financial considerations

The cost of the grant of £15,000 to Church on the Bus will be met by the Public Health section 256 reserve. The cost of the grant of £0.100m to Phoenix Futures to make targeted investments in non-recurrent initiatives focused on reducing substance misuse and supporting recovery will be met by the returned capital funding which is currently held in Public Health reserve.

5. Legal/ HR considerations

The Council's standard grant agreement shall be used to set out the terms and conditions for which the grants are made, which provides for clawback of funding in certain circumstances and shall also provide that the Council is not liable for any employment or housing liabilities.

6. Other considerations

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

7. Background papers

Cabinet Member, Health and Communities paper 07 September 2017
"Developing the Recovery Communities in Derbyshire"

8. Key Decision

No

9. Call-in

Is it required that call-in be waived for any decision on this report? No

10. Officer's Recommendation

That the Cabinet Member approves the following allocations:

- £15,000 as a grant from section 256 funds to allow Church on the Bus to run an art group
- £0.100m as a grant to support the development of abstinence-based recovery housing

Dean Wallace
Director of Public Health