

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MEETING WITH CABINET MEMBER, HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES

25 April 2017

Report of the Director of Public Health

AWARD OF GRANT TO HOPE SPRINGS RECOVERY CENTRE

1. Purpose of the Report

To request approval from the Cabinet Member, Health and Communities to award £18,000 to Hope Springs Recovery Centre in the form of a one-year grant.

2. Information and Analysis

Hope Springs Recovery Centre is based in Chesterfield and offers a safe place for recovering drug and alcohol users to engage with like-minded people in a structured way which supports their continued recovery. It provides a positive environment with a variety of groups and activities to meet the needs of its diverse participants.

The Authority has supported Hope Springs Recovery Centre from its inception in spring 2013, and has agreed to grant-fund premises rental costs to the value of £34,000 over that time. A further £25,000 was awarded in 2014 to develop sustainability but unfortunately this has not yet been achieved. The project has suffered from considerable change over four years, including considerable changes to the leadership of the centre and the individuals who volunteer there, and changes to the leadership of the Trustee Board in 2015, and again in 2017.

Key to the future stability of the project is the need for Hope Springs to become sustainable, and a six point plan has been produced to demonstrate the direction of the project in the next 12 months which includes:

- clearly identified responsibilities and an accountability structure including both strategic (Board members) and operational (Board members and/or volunteers)
- a funding strategy to achieve alternative sources of funding, identifying who will undertake these, which funds/organisations to apply to and associated timescales
- a volunteer structure and associated plan for achieving key delivery milestones in training, supporting and developing volunteers

- an approach for engaging with other stakeholders, including treatment providers and other recovery organisations, including timescales
- a methodology and framework for robust data collection to evidence outputs and outcomes
- a plan for closure which ensures the opportunity for existing volunteers to move on safely and positively should Hope Springs Recovery Centre become unsustainable at the end of the 12 month period

3. Financial considerations

The grant will be met from the Section 256 reserve, which was generated in April 2013 by agreement between NHS Derbyshire County Primary Care Trust (PCT) and the Council. The agreement allowed accumulated underspends on the PCT substance misuse budget to be carried forward to make targeted investments in non-recurrent initiatives. It is not proposed that funding of this nature and value will be offered again to Hope Springs following this allocation, as it is agreed that the organisation needs to become self-supporting through alternative sources of funding and support.

4. Legal considerations

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

5. Social Value considerations

Hope Springs provides a local response to individuals recovering from substance misuse. As part of their programme, people are encouraged to volunteer, develop skills and undertake training which improves life-skills and creates opportunities for future employment.

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. Key Decision:

No

8. Call-in:

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

9. Officer's Recommendation:

That the Cabinet Member, Health and Communities approves an £18,000 grant to Hope Springs Recovery Centre.

Dean Wallace
Director of Public Health