

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**MEETING WITH CABINET MEMBER, HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES**

**25 April 2017**

**Report of the Director of Public Health**

**SUPPORTING PREVENTION ACTIVITY (SUBSTANCE MISUSE)**

**1. Purpose of the report:**

To seek approval from the Cabinet Member, Health and Communities to award a series of grants to support activity and interventions with the aim of preventing alcohol and substance misuse across various Derbyshire communities.

**2. Information and analysis:**

In July 2016, Cabinet approved a package of measures for plans for new, non-recurrent investment in a variety of prevention interventions utilising Public Health underspends on contracted activity carried forward under the terms of the public health grant conditions.

The key priority areas for investment were ageing well to support independence and quality of life, promoting mental and emotional wellbeing in both adults and children, and tackling the wider determinants of health with a specific focus on housing, food poverty and healthy eating, and employment and workplace health. In order to further improve health and reduce inequalities, the following interventions have been identified that focus on the prevention of alcohol and substance misuse:

**Expansion of Identification and Brief Advice into Thriving Communities areas - £20,955**

Identification and Brief Advice (IBA) is a tool that enables front-line workers to identify and support people to make an informed choice about their drinking. IBA typically involves:

- Identification: using a validated screening tool to identify 'risky' drinking, such as the AUDIT (Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test) tool; and
- Brief Advice: the delivery of short, structured 'brief advice' aimed at encouraging a risky drinker to reduce their consumption to lower risk levels

An estimated one in four adults in England drinks at a level that could be harmful to their health. IBA is a short intervention that can be used to motivate at-risk drinkers to reduce their alcohol use. Those 'identified' as

possibly alcohol dependent should also be offered referral to treatment services.

Derbyshire Alcohol Advisory Service (DAAS) deliver IBA training across Derbyshire as part of the Derbyshire Recovery Partnership. A recent report published in 2016 states that there is sufficient evidence for IBA to be delivered in a range of health and non-health settings. With this in mind, the proposal is for DAAS to deliver additional IBA training to health and non-health professionals within the five Thriving Communities localities of Cotmanhay, Gamesley, Danemoor, Shirebrook and Newhall.

### **Improved pathways for alcohol and Novel Psychoactive Substances pathways for discharged prisoners - £24,521**

Alcohol misuse has a high correlation with offending behaviour: public and domestic violence, antisocial behaviour, public disorder and drink drive offences all have associations with excessive alcohol use. The British Crime Survey (2015) identified that victims perceived the offender to be under the influence of alcohol in 53% of violent incidents and that 70% of the violent incidents occurring in the evening or at night, were alcohol related. Despite this, between December 2015 and 2016 there were just seven referrals from HM Prison Nottingham (the prison containing the largest number of male residents from Derbyshire) into Derbyshire alcohol services.

New Psychoactive Substances (NPS, and previously termed “Legal Highs”) have become a serious concern for prisons. In a recent report, the Chief Inspector of Prisons stated that “new psychoactive substances such as ‘Spice’ and ‘Mamba’ are now the most serious threat to the safety and security of jails”. The health consequences of synthetic cannabis use have been particularly severe because of its inconsistent composition and unknown effects and some prisons have required so many ambulance attendances that community resources have been depleted. Despite this, very few NPS users access treatment services in custody or when discharged.

The proposed project is for DAAS as part of the Derbyshire Recovery Partnership to work with HMP Nottingham focusing on harm reduction for an under-represented in treatment group of high-risk male offenders. The project will increase prison worker awareness of alcohol and NPS, train them in IBA, review referral paperwork and improve referrals among those released from HMP Nottingham to Derbyshire into community alcohol and drug treatment services.

### **Improved package to address alcohol use in the workplace - £22,185**

Lost productivity due to alcohol in the UK is estimated to cost about £7.3bn per year. Many absences and poor performance at work can be attributed to heavy alcohol use. This may not always be evident to

managers who may be struggling to deal with performance and attendance issues, and who may find it very difficult to raise with an employee the issue of their alcohol use.

Derbyshire County Council Public Health facilitates alcohol support to organisations within Healthy Workplaces Derbyshire. Training is offered to equip managers with the skills to raise the issue with employees and to gain an improved understanding of alcohol dependency. However, although the training has been well received and evaluated as very positive, take-up has been low with relatively few employers in Derbyshire requesting the training.

It is proposed that development work is undertaken by DAAS with employers in order to fully understand the blockages for workplaces in accessing support around managing employees' alcohol issues. A product which is acceptable and adaptable to smaller, medium and large employers will be developed for future roll-out across Healthy Workplaces Derbyshire.

#### **Revised young people's schools intervention packages - £15,025**

The development of three new products is being proposed to reduce the likelihood and increase awareness of the risks of substance misuse in young people, including:

- a training support package for teachers to fully utilise a product being developed in Erewash plus the development of a peer mentoring model to further develop the reach of this teaching resource
- a local social marketing campaign to improve young people's awareness of the increasing national and local use of MDMA (ecstasy) use. This will be developed by local art, media and design students and in addition to adding value to the students' course portfolios, peer-led approaches to substance misuse education are often more effective in getting across a relevant message
- a teacher training package for children and young people with Special and Education Needs and Disabilities who have specific vulnerabilities around substance misuse but who are underserved in terms of appropriate resources

An internal transfer of funds between Derbyshire County Council departments from Public Health to Children's Services will enable the development of these resources.

### **Development of video clips for accessing hard to reach groups - £18,000**

Specific groups of substance and alcohol misusers are classified as “hard to reach”. These often include people who have co-existing mental and physical health problems alongside their substance misuse. They are frequent and persistent users of emergency health services who fail to engage in ongoing community treatment support, and offenders who move in and out of custodial establishments and struggle to maintain accommodation.

A request from Chesterfield Royal Hospital through the Derbyshire Substance Misuse Strategic Group for suitable resources to engage with people in these groups has led to a proposal to develop short videos inspiring recovery. The videos would be shown during the short windows of opportunity when individuals access emergency or short-term health support in hospital to generate conversations about engaging in treatment and recovery. They could also be shown on waiting room screens in probation offices or GP surgeries.

It is proposed that an organisation is commissioned to develop three videos using local people demonstrating their real-life experiences of recovery in Derbyshire.

### **Expanded support for veterans with alcohol dependency - £10,000**

The “Stand To” project delivered by DAAS works with armed forces veterans in Derbyshire who have alcohol problems and who struggle to access a mainstream treatment service. “Stand To” is staffed by trained alcohol workers who are themselves veterans and this approach has been highly successful in reducing harm, actively engaging veterans in treatment and promoting recovery since its inception in 2015. Derbyshire County Council funded the initial phase of the project which has since been supported by funding from the Royal British Legion. A Big Lottery bid will allow for long-term sustainability of the project and the proposal is to provide £10,000 to DAAS to maintain and develop the existing service provision until the success of that bid is known in Autumn 2017.

## **3. Financial considerations:**

The total of £110,686 will be met from the Public Health Substance Misuse budget, and Public Health reserves generated from contracted activity.

The costs will be allocated as follows:

- £77,661 in grant funding
- £15,025 through internal transfer from Public Health to Children Services

- £18,000 to commission an organisation under Protocol 7 of the Council's financial regulations

#### **4. Legal considerations:**

The Council's standard grant agreement shall be used to set out the terms and conditions for which each 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:**

These one-off grants will deliver a variety of projects returning value to local communities in preventing substance and alcohol misuse:

- a number of the projects will employ local people to deliver the projects
- the social marketing programme will involve young people in developing key prevention messages on substance abuse for their peers which will develop increased citizenship and improved "theory into practice" experience relevant to their educational and work skills development
- the funding of the highly successful Stand To veterans' project will demonstrate commitment to the Derbyshire Armed Forces Community Covenant to which the Authority is a signatory
- even small changes enabling access to continuing treatment rather than frequent reliance on emergency health services for a small but significant group of individuals will reduce the pressure on the NHS and social care, thus supporting the aims of the local Sustainability and Transformation Plan.

#### **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 26 July 2016 Public Health Prevention Fund Investment  
Cabinet 15 March 2016 Prioritisation of Public Health Grant Investment

#### **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, Health and Communities approves funding the proposed projects as detailed in the report.

**Dean Wallace**  
**Director of Public Health**