

Agenda Item No. 7(g)

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

25 April 2017

Report of the Strategic Director - Economy, Transport and Communities

FUNDING FROM THE DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT: 2016-18 FUND FOR REFUGES, SPECIALIST ACCOMMODATION BASED SUPPORT AND SERVICE REFORM TO HELP LOCAL AREAS MEET THE PRIORITIES FOR DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICES (HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES)

(1) **Purpose of Report** To note the Chief Executive's use of his urgent powers to accept a grant of £529,799 from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) to enhance the provision of domestic abuse accommodation and support in Derbyshire.

(2) **Information and Analysis** On 3 November 2016, DCLG announced a £20 million fund to assist in the provision of accommodation-based support services and the local reforms needed to meet the Priorities for Domestic Abuse Services. Derbyshire County Council was the lead organisation in a successful bid to the fund, which was developed in partnership with a range of local specialist domestic abuse providers and supported by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and the eight district/borough councils. The value of the grant awarded by DCLG was £529,799.

The funding will be utilised to enhance the provision which is already available for victims of domestic abuse in Derbyshire; it specifically covers:

1. Expansion of specialist refuge provision in the High Peak for young women and girls who are at risk of or experiencing abuse and/or exploitation. The funding will be used to provide two dispersed properties in the community for young women who are ready to move on from the intensive support of the refuge but still require additional support to live independently.
2. Recruitment of specialist community workers to improve engagement with Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) groups across the County.

3. Introduction of a domestic abuse prevention and support worker to a refuge in the High Peak for women with complex needs, predominantly substance misuse. This will allow the refuge to fully support women who are fleeing domestic abuse and have substance misuse issues, therefore increasing the refuge capacity available in the County.
4. Continuation of the complex needs workers in refuges that were funded from a previous round of DCLG funding. This will allow refuges to support people with substance misuse and/ or mental health issues more effectively without always needing to refer to over-subscribed health services.
5. Extension of the refuges to provide out of hours cover. Some will be extended to 24 hours and others will provide evening and weekend cover. This means that people fleeing domestic abuse can access refuge accommodation out of hours rather than going into B&B accommodation.
6. Development of a pilot project between the domestic abuse helpline and the County BME forum to work towards the helpline being more accessible to all communities. This will include production of appropriate materials and resources as well as training.

A full evaluation of the projects will be undertaken by the Safer Derbyshire Partnership.

Although the grant was only awarded on 3 March 2017, the initial funding allocation of £30,392 was received by the County Council on 9 March 2017. As the next available Cabinet meeting to accept the grant award was not until 25 April 2017, the Chief Executive agreed to use his urgent powers, provided for in the County Council's constitution, to accept the whole grant, subject to the conditions of the grant award being acceptable.

(3) Financial Considerations The total cost of the project will not exceed £529,799 and is fully funded from the grant from DCLG

(4) Legal Considerations The County Council's constitution provides for the Chief Executive, after discussion, if practical, with the leader of the Council or the relevant Cabinet Member to make urgent decisions on matters which, because of the timescales involved, cannot wait until the next Cabinet or Cabinet Member meeting.

The monies received from DCLG will be allocated to the specific third sector specialist providers identified within the bid approved by DCLG.

(5) Social Value Considerations Domestic abuse has a devastating impact on victims and their families. The funding from DCLG will allow the

specialist third sector domestic abuse services to deliver enhanced levels of support to victims to some of the most vulnerable people in society, in particular those who are considered the hardest to engage for reasons such as mental health, substance misuse or because they are from isolated and/or marginalised communities.

By supporting victims of domestic abuse and their families to access safe and suitable accommodation the specialist providers can work with them to enable them to make their own choices and to live independently in the future.

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

(6) **Key Decision** Yes.

(7) **Call-In** Is it required that call-in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in the report? No.

(8) **Background Papers** Held on file within the Economy, Transport and Communities Department. Officer contact details – Christine Flinton, extension 38271.

(9) **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION** That Cabinet notes the Chief Executive's decision to use his urgent powers to accept a grant of £529,799 from the Department for Communities and Local Government to enhance the provision of domestic abuse accommodation and support in Derbyshire.

Mike Ashworth
Strategic Director - Economy, Transport and Communities

<p style="text-align: center;">Authorisation of Emergency Powers</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Request to invoke urgent powers delegated to the Chief Executive under the County Council's Constitution</p>	
Name and Job Title of Officer responsible	Christine Flinton – Head of Community Safety
Department	Economy, Transport and Communities
Location of proposed works/contract (if applicable)	Countywide
Reason for request (please provide full justification for the need to invoke emergency powers)	<p>In November 2016 DCLG announced a £20 million fund to support the provision of accommodation-based support services and the local reforms needed to meet the Priorities for Domestic Abuse Services. The grant period is 2016 to 2018. Derbyshire County Council as the lead commissioner, submitted a bid which was developed in partnership with local specialist domestic abuse providers and supported by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and the eight district councils.</p> <p>The grant was awarded on the 3rd March 2017 and although we are yet to receive the conditions of grant the funding allocation for 2016/17 of £30,392 was received by the County Council on the 9th March 2017.</p> <p>The next Cabinet meeting available to gain formal approval is not until 25th April. As such it is requested that the Chief Executive uses his emergency powers to accept the grant in the 2016/17 financial year.</p>
Details of Elected Member approval (if applicable)	Cllr Allen is aware of the successful grant application.
Estimated cost of works/contract	Grant from DCLG is for £529,799.30

Signature.....

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'S' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Date.....

21 3 17

Chief Executive