

**FOR PUBLICATION**

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES**

**2 December 2021**

**Report of the Director of Public Health**

**Use of the Contain Outbreak Management Fund to provide homelessness winter provision support**

**1. Divisions Affected**

1.1 County-wide

**2. Key Decision**

2.1 Not a key decision

**3. Purpose**

3.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval from the Cabinet Member for Health and Communities to utilise Contain Outbreak Management funding to:

- a) Provide match funding towards the support worker element of Derbyshire's homelessness winter provision from December 2021 to March 2022, at a cost of £54,000.

**4. Information and Analysis**

4.1 Until the onset of the Covid 19 pandemic, Derbyshire local authorities and Derby City Council have provided winter night shelters in conjunction with Derby City Mission (DCM). DCM have secured communal facilities such as churches and church halls for those without accommodation to have a hot meal and bed down for the night. These

facilities were provided in Chesterfield and Derby but accessible to all Councils across Derbyshire.

- 4.2 Under the continued Covid-19 restrictions, District/Boroughs are still not able to provide shared space type provision for the winter of 2021-22. This report seeks approval to support an enhanced winter homelessness provision, building on the experience gained via last year's winter provision for rough sleepers, and the learning from the 'Everyone In' directive experienced in the first lockdown.
- 4.3 During lockdown 1 and 2, a local hotel and adventure centre were used as homelessness accommodation, both providing self-contained and Covid safe accommodation. This year, District & Borough authorities are still expected to have a heightened winter offer due to the ongoing Covid-19 restrictions and the uncertainty of the colder winter months that lay ahead. Despite best attempts to secure one central venue that can serve the whole of the county, no accommodation has been identified. Thus, there will not be a central accommodation offer as there has been for the last two years.
- 4.4 The official annual rough sleeper spot count for Derbyshire only identifies 7 rough sleepers currently, however this is only a snapshot of potential demand. Officers in the Chesterfield, Bolsover and North East Derbyshire area for instance, have identified 29 individuals at imminent danger or who are rough sleeping occasionally.
- 4.5 During the 2020/2021 winter homelessness provision, 91 placements were made over the course of 4 months. There is evidence that during each winter, people on the fringes of settled accommodation become homeless especially during the colder months. It is anticipated that demand this year will be the same if not more than last year, due to the increased financial pressure that some people are under.
- 4.6 Derbyshire Homeless Officers Group (DHOG) will co-ordinate the overall project for participating boroughs and district councils in Derbyshire, and the provision will be delivered by DCM, who have successfully run the Chesterfield night shelter for the past 2 years, and Derby for over 5 years. They also led last year's winter homelessness provision located within the outdoor activity centre.
- 4.7 As there is no central venue this year, a dispersed model of support will be applied to help people placed in accommodation identified by local housing teams instead. Workers will continue to ensure that clients are able to access appropriate support and essential supplies across a number of areas including mental health, drugs and alcohol support,

police, social care, other NHS services, welfare rights, and housing options. The workers will also ensure that clients are supported to take up vaccinations and reduce the risk of onward Covid -19 infection by ensuring they have access to appropriate infection protection and control advice and supplies, and access to Covid-19 testing provision.

- 4.8 As Derbyshire continues to respond to Covid-19, individuals will still be asked to self-isolate if they test positive for Covid-19 or, in certain circumstances, if they have been identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive. This is extremely challenging for those rough sleeping, with onward spread of infection a significant issue. The funding proposed in this report seeks to proactively ensure that residents can effectively self-isolate. This forms part of Derbyshire's holistic approach to supporting individuals to effectively self-isolate or plan for self-isolation
- 4.9 DCM has secured enough funding through the Winter Transition Fund to provide 7 full time support workers and 1 co-ordinator. Potential funding outlined in this report will match fund the cost of 3 additional full-time detached support workers, to ensure that Derbyshire has coverage on a 7 day a week rota. DHOG will provide strategic leadership for the project and ensure assurance via weekly project meetings attended by a range of multi-agency partners to develop, monitor and evaluate the project.
- 4.10 It is intended that by providing the support needed to reduce rough sleeping, individuals will be less likely to challenge the rules in the future and this will enable them to self-isolate, and to provide accurate test and trace information as they will have some form of address to provide.
- 4.11 Funding will be allocated as a grant payment to North East Derbyshire District Council, who will hold the money on behalf of DHOG and the authorities operating the scheme.

## **5. Alternative Options Considered**

- 5.1 Do nothing: Whilst housing is not a statutory responsibility of County Councils, if this is not supported there would be a missed opportunity to support the system-wide work to provide a comprehensive service as possible to rough sleepers across Derbyshire through the winter period, reducing their risk to COVID while also supporting other health and care needs.

5.2 Consider strengthening other providers. This carries the risk that complex situations requiring specialist homelessness support will not be addressed.

## **6. Implications**

6.1 See appendix 1

## **7. Background Papers**

7.1 FUNDING TO SUPPORT NO SECOND NIGHT OUT SCHEME –  
Cabinet Member for Health and Communities Report: 7 January 2021  
<https://democracy.derbyshire.gov.uk/documents/s5710/No%20Second%20Night%20Out%20Scheme%20in%20Derbyshire.pdf>

## **8. Appendices**

8.1 N/A

## **9. Recommendation(s)**

9.1 That the Cabinet Member for Health and Communities approves the usage of Contain Outbreak Management Funding to:

- a) Provide match funding towards the support worker element of Derbyshire's homelessness winter provision from December 2021 to March 2022, at a cost of £54,000, by grant payment to North East Derbyshire District Council who will hold the money on behalf of DHOG.

## **10. Reasons for Recommendation(s)**

10.1 Rough sleepers in Derbyshire will be supported this winter in Covid safe accommodation, and thus be given support to self-isolate effectively.

## **11. Is it necessary to waive the call-in period?**

11.1 NO

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## **Implications**

### **Financial**

- 1.1 For 2020-21 DCC has been allocated a total Contain funding grant of £20.182m of which £19.058 m has been rolled over to 2021-22. A further £3.958m of Contain funding has also been allocated via a grant funding arrangement from the Department of Health and Social Care for 2021-22. Expenditure associated with the delivery of the Local Outbreak Management Plan will utilise the Contain framework grant funding. The grant totalling £54,000 outlined in this report will be funded from this budget.

### **Legal**

- 2.1 Cabinet agreed the overall profile of spend when it met on 4 January 2021 and that delegated authority will be given to the Director of Public Health and Cabinet Member for Health and Communities to develop an implementation plan to co-ordinate the delivery of the different workstreams described in this report. Where appropriate additional approvals from Cabinet Member would be sought in line with the Council's Constitution and Financial Regulations.
- 2.3 The Council's Financial Regulations allow grants of up to £0.100m to organisations to be approved by Cabinet Members. The Council's Constitution allows for Cabinet Members to delegate authority to officers to undertake the powers afforded to them by the Constitution. 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 liabilities.

### **Human Resources**

- 3.1 The funding will enable local providers to deliver projects and services. Derbyshire County Council accepts no employment or future redundancy liability, with all employment and related matters to be managed by the providers

