



FOR PUBLICATION

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

Thursday, 10 March 2022

Report of the Director - Public Health

Mental Health and Wellbeing Partnership Projects
(Health and Communities)

1. Divisions Affected

1.1 Countywide.

2. Key Decision

2.1 This is not a Key Decision.

3. Purpose

3.1 This report seeks Cabinet approval to:

- (a) Award Derbyshire Mind funding of £203,500 for delivery of a physical activity *and* wellbeing project
- (b) Award Arts Derbyshire funding of £203,500 for delivery of an arts and wellbeing project
- (c) Note that funding for both projects is from the Public Health Grant and Covid related grant funding from central Government

4. Information and Analysis

4.1 Covid-19 has had a significant impact on the mental health and wellbeing of the whole population, but more so in the case of people who experience mental ill health. Poor mental health impacts negatively on individuals, families, communities and the economy, whilst good mental health is associated with a range of both health and non-health

benefits. There has been an increase in people with presentation of anxiety and low mood from an estimated 1 in 10 people prior to the pandemic to an estimated 1 in 5 people since March 2020. The Royal College of Psychiatrists report an increase in crisis presentations of 2.2% for the period April to December 2020, as compared to the same period in 2019. Nationally, it is estimated that 1.6 million people are waiting for treatment with new referrals up 24% in June 2021, as compared to the same point a year earlier. According to local NHS modelling in Derbyshire it is estimated that an additional 60-70,000 people will require some support for mental wellbeing.

4.2 Due to the impact of Covid-19 there has been a reduction and/or disruption to the informal, community and non-mental health specific support that local groups and organisations provide through physical activity, arts, social connectedness, and other common interests. These are important mechanisms and tools to keep people well, to prevent ill health developing or worsening, to help reduce the need for social or clinical support and to decrease crisis presentations.

4.3 It is proposed that extra investment is made to deliver programmes to support the reduction of risk factors, to improve protective factors for mental wellbeing and to help people maintain stability and independence.

Recognised as system leaders and specialists, Mind nationally, and Derbyshire Mind locally, have a high-profile association with mental health and wellbeing and are a trusted organisation with excellent standing.

Arts Derbyshire are the lead infrastructure organisation in Derbyshire who support the delivery and access to cultural prescriptions and arts related activities and sessions.

4.4 It is proposed that both of the above organisations will lead coordination of mental health and wellbeing specific engagement and promotion with people, groups and organisations; will identify needs and gaps in the provision of activity sessions; will administer a small grant fund to enable local groups and organisations to deliver sessions; will identify barriers and support people to access sessions; and will link and liaise with key strategies, mechanisms and organisations within the County.

4.5 There will be a specific requirement for Derbyshire Mind to link and liaise with the Derbyshire Green Social Prescribing Programme and Active Derbyshire. Similarly, there will be a requirement for Arts Derbyshire to link and liaise with the countywide social prescribing programme. In

addition, it will be a specific requirement for both organisations to link with Public Health Locality Health and Wellbeing Partnerships.

- 4.6 There is a strong evidence base which demonstrates that physical activity can improve mental health and similarly many studies which have shown arts related activities are beneficial for mental health. Relevant and appropriate monitoring, reporting and evaluation will be agreed with Derbyshire Mind and Arts Derbyshire.
- 4.7 These programmes will contribute to the Social Prescribing Plan for Derbyshire, complementing the existing work by providing social prescribing infrastructure appropriate activities and opportunities for people to be prescribed towards.
- 4.8 Funding will be met by the Public Health Grant. The value of funding reflects equal investment in both physical activity and arts related activities to enable a range of sessions to engage and interest local people who could benefit. The value reflects the requirement to deliver an equitable spread of sessions across the County.
- 4.9 Funding will cover administrative and coordination costs for Derbyshire Mind and Arts Derbyshire, small grants to local groups and organisations and costs associated with findings to overcome identified barriers to access.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 Formal consultation is not required. Engagement has taken place with key partners, such as Derbyshire Mental Health Forum, and within key partnerships, such as Public Health Locality Partnerships and Green Social Prescribing Programme Groups. Discussions identified that emerging need from the impact of Covid-19, is the reduction in provision of sessions and activities to be prescribed and the increased need for supported access to sessions.

6. Alternative Options Considered

- 6.1 Do nothing. This would result in a missed opportunity to work with key partners to enable proactive delivery of and access to sessions that would benefit mental health and wellbeing and would help mitigate the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 6.2 Conduct a market procurement exercise. This would significantly delay delivery timescales and increase demands on support services to undertake a tender process, would delay the need to invest the funding

urgently and would be a missed opportunity to maximise social value by working with key local stakeholders, credible market leaders and experts who are ideally placed to deliver.

7. Implications

7.1 Appendix 1 sets out the relevant implications considered in the preparation of the report.

8. Appendices

8.1 Appendix 1 – Implications

9. Recommendation(s)

That Cabinet:

- a) Award of funding of £203,500 to Derbyshire Mind for delivery of a physical activity and wellbeing project
- b) Award of funding of £203,500 to Arts Derbyshire for delivery of an arts and wellbeing project
- c) Note that funding for both projects will be met from the Public Health Grant and Covid related grant funding from Government.

10. Reasons for Recommendation(s)

10.1 To enable urgent delivery of additional activity which will support the reduction of risk factors, improve protective factors for mental wellbeing as well as to support wellbeing and independence at a time when the Covid-19 pandemic has had a major damaging impact on mental health. This work also supports the social prescribing work underway in Derbyshire.

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

11.1 *No*

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Appendix 1

Implications

Financial

- 1.1 Funding will be met by the Public Health Grant and Covid monies.

Legal

- 2.1 The Council has power to provide grants under the general power of competence set out in section 1 of the Localism Act 2011.
- 2.2 The Council's Financial Regulations state that grants in excess of £100,000 require Cabinet authorisation.
- 2.3 The Council's standard grant agreement shall be used to set out the terms and conditions for which the grant is made. This includes conditions for clawback of funding in certain circumstances and states that the Council is not liable for any employment liabilities.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 3.1 These programmes will support delivery of the Derbyshire County Council Plan Outcome of resilient, healthy and safe communities; will support delivery of the Derbyshire County Council Service Plan Outcome PH7 - Work with partners to promote positive mental wellbeing and improve support for local people, including the prevention of suicide; and will support delivery of the Outcomes Based Accountability (OBA) indicators and measures for mental health and wellbeing, as well as impacting several of the OBA priorities.

