



**FOR PUBLICATION**

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT CARE**

**7 December 2023**

**Report of the Executive Director - Adult Social Care and Health**

**Interim Grant for Social Activity Services**  
(Cabinet Member for Adult Care)

**1. Divisions Affected**

Chesterfield, Erewash, High Peak, South Derbyshire

**2. Key Decision**

- 2.1 This is not a key decision because it is not likely to be significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more electoral areas in the County.

**3. Purpose**

- 3.1 To request Cabinet Member approval to:
- Provide grant funds to the seven organisations listed in paragraph 1.2 of Appendix 1 that currently provide activity preventing social isolation, for a period of up to 1 year from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 as set out in this report. The total sum being funded through these grants is £90,952.

**4. Information and Analysis**

- 4.1 Adult Social Care and Health have been paying seven organisations an annual grant for several years to deliver social inclusion activity. Over this time we have seen many changes in preventative support available in each locality, which in turn has created gaps, duplication and an inequitable allocation of grant funding across the County.

As part of the Voluntary Sector Grants Review, these seven organisations have been identified as delivering similar activity but only in certain areas of Derbyshire. This now needs to be considered as part of a review of current provision and future requirements.

- 4.3 Adult Social Care have funded social activity services and luncheon clubs for a number of years as attendance:

- Helps improve confidence to maintain independence
- Provides companionship and support
- Provides accessible, low level support to meet social needs and reduce loneliness
- Links people into other preventative support services commissioned by the Council.

- 4.4 Adult Social Care and Health has a ringfenced grant of £18,000 for luncheon clubs, older peoples' clubs and clubs for disabled people (referred to as the luncheon club grant fund). There is an annual application process and around 60 clubs are supported with a small grant. Our contribution can be used for expenditure on rent and rates, heating and lighting, cleaning and caretaking, renewal of equipment and transport to and from club meetings. It cannot be used for club outings and the maximum amount of the grant is dependent on how often the club is open.

The maximum amounts payable during the current financial year are:

- clubs open full time £369
- clubs open 3 days per week £219
- clubs open less than 3 days per week £110

[Grants to luncheon clubs, older peoples clubs and clubs for disabled people - Derbyshire County Council](#)

The majority of clubs receive £110 a year, three receive £219 and three are receiving £369. There is usually a surplus amount left in the budget and there has not been any review of the annual funding for a number of years.

- 4.5 According to the 2021 Census, 22% of the Derbyshire population is 65 years old and over which equates to around 175,000 individuals. This is higher than the England average of 18.6%. Amber Valley has the largest over 65+ population (28,647), followed by Erewash (23,483) and Chesterfield (22,274). However, Derbyshire Dales locality has the largest % of residents over 65+ (27%) when comparing its overall population.
- 4.6 Social isolation has been highlighted as a cause of ill health and more so since the Covid 19 pandemic, with several publications, including the Local Government Association *Must Know: Loneliness - Is your council actively tackling loneliness* (2021) evidencing the need. 'One of the highest risk factors for experiencing loneliness is age. Around half of people aged 75 or over live alone; 17 per cent are in contact with family, friends and neighbours less than once a week, and for 11 per cent it is less than once a month. Associated risk factors in old age are low income, poor physical or mental health, and living alone in isolated rural areas or in deprived urban communities.'
- 4.7 A review and re-modelling of the Derbyshire approach to social inclusion activity is now required to ascertain future requirements. Following the 2021 census, there have been population changes within the Derbyshire districts, and the cost of living is also an emerging factor contributing to loneliness. Extending the current social activity grants for another year would allow time for these grants to be reviewed alongside the befriending review to determine the future arrangements.

## **5. Consultation**

- 5.1 Formal consultation is not required at this stage as there are no proposed changes to current service provision.

## **6. Alternative Options Considered**

- 6.1 The Council could do nothing and allow the current grants to end on 31 March 2024. This would severely impact those organisations currently delivering the social activity and potentially leave some vulnerable people without support. By making an interim fixed term grant this would ensure continuity of service until we ascertain future requirements.

## **7. Implications**

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

## **8. Background Papers**

- 8.1 Report to Cabinet - Voluntary and Community Sector Review 30 July 2020
- 8.2 Report to Cabinet – Voluntary and Community Sector Review 29 July 2021
- 8.3 Report to Cabinet – Voluntary and Community Sector Review 6 December 2021
- 8.4 Report to Cabinet – Voluntary and Community Sector Review 28 July 2022
- 8.5 Cabinet Member Report – Interim Grant for Befriending Services 23 January 2023

## **9. Appendices**

- 9.1 Appendix 1 – Implications

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

That the Cabinet Member approves the provision of grants totalling £90,952 to the seven organisations listed in paragraph 1.2 of Appendix 1 that currently provide social activity for a period of up to 1 year from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 as set out in this report.

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

- 11.1 There is insufficient time for a strategic review to be completed by 1 April 2024. The interim grants proposed in this report align to agreed grant policies and processes and will allow time for a comprehensive review of future requirements.

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

- 12.1 No

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**Implications****Financial**

1.1 The revenue budget for 24/25 covers the annual grant funding set out in the Table below at Paragraph 1.2.

1.2 Grant funding table

<b>Social Activity to prevent Isolation</b>	<b>Reason for interim grant</b>	<b>12 months</b>
African Caribbean Community Association	Social activity, befriending and lunch clubs. Support until alternative funding streams in place.	£20,282
Age UK Information for Older People Roadshow	Outreach information and advice to older people and their carers in Derbyshire, helping them to stay independent.	£19,547
Borrowbrook Homelink	Social activity, befriending and lunchclubs. Support until alternative funding streams in place.	£2,800
Mencap Swadlincote Gateway Club	Social activity for adults with LD. Support until alternative funding streams in place.	£2,675
The Bureau (Volunteer Centre Glossop)	Social activity with an opportunity for chaperoned shopping. Support until alternative funding stream in place.	£21,936
Connex Community Support	Car scheme. Transport department working through procurement of Active Travel, continue to support until outcome known.	£16,306
South Derbyshire CVS	Car scheme. Transport department working through procurement of Active Travel, continue to support until outcome known.	£7,406
<b>Total Amount</b>		<b>£90,952</b>

**Legal**

2.1 The Council has power to provide grants to voluntary and community sector organisations under the general power of competence set out in section 1 of the Localism Act 2011.

- 2.2 Appendix 1 F (e) (iv) of the Council's Constitution authorises a Cabinet Member to make decisions on grants administered by the Council. Annex 5 of the Council's Financial Regulations state that grants below £0.100m require Cabinet Member 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.

## **Human Resources**

- 3.1 The voluntary and community sector organisations currently funded by the Council as part of this report are independent of the County Council and therefore there are no human resources considerations for the Council.

## **Information Technology**

- 4.1 There are no Information Technology considerations associated with this report.

## **Equalities Impact**

- 5.1 An EIA has been completed from formal consultation feedback.

The analysis indicates that the majority of grants under review are within the Adult Social Care department, and therefore, are related to activities which involve older people or those with a disability.

Funding relates to this protected characteristic in three different ways:

- Funding provides activities specifically to fulfil duties regarding this protected characteristic
- Funding provides activities which target people older people or those with a disability
- Funding provides activities which appeal to a particular age group or those with a disability.

With any review and proposed changes that might come about, it is anticipated that regardless of the outcome, there will be a level of anxiety. This is especially as some of these groups have been long standing and provide activities to vulnerable groups. The Council will work very closely with affected organisations to ensure that plans and

timeframes are clear and any transitions can be managed as effectively as possible.

### **Corporate objectives and priorities for change**

- 6.1 By making an interim grant this will assist those organisations to retain staff, who otherwise may begin to look for alternative employment. This would ensure continuity of service for those people supported which in turn would reduce dependency on other services. As it is expected to have longer term funding arrangements in place in the new process, this will assist with staff retention for those providers who might be successful with obtaining funds via the new process.

### **Other (for example, Health and Safety, Environmental Sustainability, Property and Asset Management, Risk Management and Safeguarding)**

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