

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**MEETING OF CABINET MEMBER – HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES**

**24 June 2020**

**Report of the Director of Public Health**

**Extension of grant to Derby County Community Trust to deliver the ‘Active Choices’ programme**

**1. Purpose of the report:**

To seek Cabinet Member approval to allocate a grant extension of £35,802 to Derby County Community Trust. This is to continue the delivery of the Trust’s “Active Choices” sport and exercise programme to support recovery from drug and alcohol misuse from 1 July 2020 to 31 March 2021.

**2. Information and analysis:**

On 6 June 2019, Cabinet approved the award of a grant of £47,736 to Derby County Community Trust to continue to deliver its Active Choices programme of sport-based activities to people working towards recovery from drug and alcohol misuse in the localities of South Derbyshire, Erewash and Amber Valley, for a period of twelve months to run until 30 June 2020.

This project commenced in June 2018 and was sourced in response to the success of a similar grant-funded drug and alcohol recovery programme delivered in Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire by Chesterfield Football Club Community Trust. It is recognised that professional football clubs can attract people, who otherwise may not consider an exercise-based programme, because they value the association with the club.

Since the start of the project participants have been predominantly recruited from the adult substance misuse treatment service. The activity targets within the grant agreement were for the Trust to offer five sports-based activity sessions a week across the three localities and to engage with 76 participants over the twelve month period. During the first year of delivery the Trust engaged with 121 individuals and retained 72 of these for more than 3 months in activities which improve their physical and psychological wellbeing. The highest uptake for the sessions were in South Derbyshire, which has no other community-based recovery support projects.

In addition to increasing participants’ physical activity, the vast majority of participants reported an improvement in their self-esteem.

The Trust continue to adapt the programme to encourage greater participation. Initially, football and boxercise sessions were offered. In January 2019, they

introduced badminton sessions, which proved popular for people with lower levels of fitness.

From October 2019 the Trust has also developed social groups in Swadlincote and Ilkeston. These were developed as a way for people to engage with the project before taking part in the activities. This has helped people build their confidence and get to know other people, which has then led to their participation in the sporting activities when they feel ready. This was seen as a barrier for some people, so the development of the social groups has helped to increase participation in the activities.

The Trust successfully engaged with 121 people who were in recovery from drug and alcohol problems in the first year of delivery and has so far worked with 56 people in the current year. Therefore, it is proposed to continue funding the delivery of the programme for a further nine months to align it with the other drug and alcohol recovery projects, which will also run up until the end of March 2021. This will mean all decisions about funding for recovery projects after March 2021 can be made at the same time.

**3. Financial considerations:**

The grant to deliver the Active Choices programme will be funded from the Public Health Recovery Grant budget for 2020-21.

**4. Legal / HR considerations:**

A grant agreement shall be used to set out the terms and conditions for which the grant is made. The recipient of the grant is not contractually obliged to deliver the service, although the Council would seek to claw-back the grant in appropriate circumstances were there to be significant non-performance of any grant conditions. The grant agreement will also state that the Council is not liable for any employment liabilities.

The Council's Financial Regulations allow for grants of up to £100,000 to be approved by a Cabinet Member.

**5. Other considerations:**

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

**6. Background papers:**

Cabinet Paper 7 December 2017 Derby County FC Community Trust: Active Choices

Cabinet Paper 6 June 2019 Award of grant to Derby County Football Club Community Trust to deliver the 'Active Choices' programme

**7. Key Decision:**

No

**8. Call-in:**

Is it required that call-in be waived for any decision on this report? No

**7. Officer's Recommendation:**

That the Cabinet Member approves the award of a grant of £35,802 to Derby County Community Trust to deliver its Active Choices programme in South Derbyshire, Erewash and Amber Valley for a further nine months from 1 July 2020 to the 31 March 2021.

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