

PUBLIC

MINUTES of a meeting of the **CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES** held on 25 June 2020.

PRESENT

Councillor C Hart – Cabinet Member

Also in attendance: Councillor G Wharmby

Apologies were received from Councillor D Allen

16/20 **DECLARATION OF INTEREST** The Cabinet Member declared a personal interest as a member of the Board of the Derby County Community Trust (minute 21/20).

17/20 **MINUTES RESOLVED** that the non-exempt minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Health and Communities held on 5 June 2020 be confirmed as a correct record.

18/20 **URGENT DECISION TAKEN BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF COMMISSIONING, COMMUNITIES AND POLICY - FUNDING TO SECURE AND PROVIDE EMERGENCY ACCOMMODATION FOR ROUGH SLEEPERS IN DERBYSHIRE DURING THE COVID19 LOCKDOWN** The COVID19 pandemic and subsequent social isolation measures had placed significant pressure on, and presented many challenges for, the Council, district and borough councils, other public sector providers and communities to support those unable to meet their basic needs, not least rough sleepers and the homeless across the county. To ensure that this vulnerable group were supported during this time, it was necessary for the Council and district and borough councils to secure and provide emergency accommodation for those at greatest risk.

Due to the urgency of the support required by rough sleepers and the homeless, the speed at which the lockdown was implemented nationally and the need for district and borough councils to act quickly given the rapid removal of the supply chain, an urgent decision was sought from the Executive Director of Commissioning, Communities and Policy for permission to provide match funding to district and borough councils to support the block booking of hotel accommodation in the north and south of the county to meet demand and provide the right amount of flexibility of supply.

Discussions with two hotels initially took place to ensure provision was available for a period of four months. Accommodation was subsequently secured at one hotel in Derbyshire and approximately 80 homeless people were supported during this time. The accommodation was provided on a voluntary basis for homeless persons to utilise.

A copy of the urgent decision of 27 March 2020 was appended to the report. The urgency of support required and the need to secure funds to block book accommodation at a time when the sector was shutting down meant that consultation with the Leader of the Council took place in advance of the decision being made.

The cost of match funding the provision of emergency accommodation for homeless people in Derbyshire during the Covid-19 pandemic was estimated to be no more than £250,000. The Council had received £37m of additional Government support towards the costs of Covid-19 which would be spent by the middle of July. The Council would require additional support from Government over the coming months.

RESOLVED for the Cabinet Member to note the Urgent Decision report.

19/20 KEEPING EVERYONE IN – DERBYSHIRE HOMELESSNESS COVID-19 RESPONSE On 23 March 2020, the Government asked all councils in England to bring in everyone who was rough sleeping, and subsequently everyone who became homeless during the lockdown period. An urgent decision, to provide funding to support district and borough councils in securing and providing emergency accommodation for rough sleepers, taken by the Executive Director for Commissioning, Communities and Policy, was the subject of a separate report to this meeting.

To date, Derbyshire, district and borough councils had brought in 80 people, the majority of which had been placed in hotel accommodation. At the start of the crisis, district and borough councils, with the County Council, worked together to collaborate on the temporary acquisition of hotels to create much needed extra housing capacity to shield a large portion of the homeless and rough sleeping cohort. This had proven to be a major success with several agencies and organisations involved, to look after some of the most vulnerable people in society through the worst times of the Covid-19 crisis.

The hotel provision could not be retained beyond the end of June 2020. In addition, partners did not expect the 'everyone in' initiative to continue much further and necessary resources were needed to support and re-house as many people as possible into longer term accommodation. Most of the people accommodated in hotels, guest houses and B&B's would have nowhere to go, and support services would not be able to provide the care and expertise required for the amount of people being released onto the streets. This was unacceptable to partners involved in supporting the homeless cohort during the lockdown.

Work was taking place to build on the collaborative approach that had been nurtured over the last few months. Proposals to put in place a recovery service 'Keeping Everyone In' was part of Derbyshire's Covid-19 homelessness response. Priorities for the on-going response were:

1. Put in place the necessary support to help people find accommodation and then keep them in, to prevent further homelessness and negate the impact on key services and the public purse.
2. Create the necessary housing capacity in the supply chain including council temporary accommodation, social housing, private rented accommodation, refuge spaces and supported accommodation.
3. Continue with the full collaborative approach taken between sectors and embed this into the ongoing recovery and beyond.

Proposals, which were detailed in the report, would see the current partnership provide an intensive and wrap-around support service to a cohort of approximately 60 homeless people in Derbyshire who had been placed in temporary accommodation by local authorities during the pandemic. The cohort, for which this service was intended, was a complex group for whom existing provision would not sufficiently meet their needs, and who therefore “fall between the gaps” or receive services unsuitable for their level of need and/or circumstances. Existing services were already at capacity and in many cases operating waiting lists, thus creating a barrier to timely access.

The minimum anticipated cost of proposals was estimated to be in the region of £224,000 which would support six Link Workers and one Senior Link Worker. Specialist Link Workers, including a Mental Health Nurse and a Specialist Addictions Support Worker were estimated to cost in the region of £57,000 and £45,000 respectively and were recognised as potential excellent additions to the team to provide a comprehensive service to the cohort that had been identified.

The County Council’s financial contribution was estimated to be no more than £125,000. However, as proposals were at an early stage of development, the Council would also be required to support the on-going collaborative partnership response, helping to shape and deliver proposals to support homeless people in Derbyshire. Given the nature of the emerging response and the ongoing development of the recovery service, it was recommended that further progress reports be brought to future Cabinet Member meetings.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet Member to (1) note the work taken place during the current Covid-19 pandemic to support homeless people in Derbyshire through the provision of emergency accommodation and support;

(2) support the on-going Derbyshire Covid-19 response and the County Council’s continued involvement in collaborative approaches to support homeless people across the county;

(3) approve £125,000 funding for proposals to establish a recovery service ‘Keeping Everyone In’ as set out in the report to be met from the funds received from the Government’s Covid-19 Emergency Support Fund; and

(4) receive further reports on progress in due course.

20/20 ESTABLISHING A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY FUND TO SUPPORT THE RESPONSE TO COVID19

The Cabinet Member was asked to approve the set-up of an emergency fund of up to £50,000 to support community and voluntary sector organisations to continue their involvement in the community response to COVID19.

It had become apparent that a number of community and voluntary sector organisations had insufficient resources to maintain their current level of response to the COVID19 pandemic. The national shielding, social isolation and social distancing requirements had also compelled many organisations to quickly adapt their service delivery model to operate within the guidance, often requiring additional resources to enable this.

The creation of a Public Health Emergency Fund that supported voluntary and community sector organisations with funding up to a maximum value of £2,000 for constituted groups and £250 for non-constituted groups was proposed, allowing them to play a key role in the local response. Organisations were eligible to receive funding if they meet certain criteria, which was set-out in detail within the report.

The Fund would come from the Public Health Reserve and, as such, any proposed use of the Emergency Funding must be linked to an existing Public Health work programme in order to run concurrently with other corporate grant schemes, whilst retaining a clear focus on improving public health outcomes.

To apply for Emergency Funding, organisations would provide details to the Director of Public Health (or an Assistant Director of Public Health) of the funding required and its purpose. It was therefore proposed that the Cabinet Member delegated authority to the Director of Public Health to determine whether organisations should receive funding.

The fund would operate for a period of 12 months, and be reviewed by the Cabinet Member and the Director of Public Health. If the fund was fully allocated prior to the 12 month review then the Cabinet Member and the Director of Public Health will determine whether to extend the value of the Emergency Fund.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet Member (1) approve the establishment of a Public Health Emergency Fund of £50,000 to support the response of the community and voluntary sector to the COVID19 pandemic;

(2) delegates authority to the Director of Public Health to approve awards of no more than £2,000 to individual organisations; and

(3) receives details of recipient organisations on a quarterly basis.

21/20 EXTENSION OF GRANT TO DERBY COUNTY COMMUNITY TRUST TO DELIVER THE 'ACTIVE CHOICES' PROGRAMME

The Cabinet Member was asked to approve the allocation of a grant extension of £35,802 to

Derby County Community Trust, to continue the delivery of the Trust's "Active Choices" sport and exercise programme from 1 July 2020 to 31 March 2021.

On 6 June 2019, Cabinet approved the award of a grant of £47,736 to the Trust to continue delivery of 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 30 June 2020.

The 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 was 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.

Participants had predominantly been recruited from the adult substance misuse treatment service and had engaged with 121 individuals: 72 of these were retained for more than 3 months in activities which improved their physical and psychological wellbeing. The vast majority of participants reported an improvement in their self-esteem.

The Trust continued to adapt the programme to encourage greater participation. In January 2019 badminton sessions were added to the established football and boxercise sessions and from October 2019, it had developed social groups in Swadlincote and Ilkeston as a way for people to engage with the project before taking part in the activities that helped build their confidence and get to know other people

The Trust wished 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 ran to the end of March 2021.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet Member approve 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.

22/20 **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC** **RESOLVED** that the public, including the press, be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the remaining item on the agenda to avoid the disclosure of the kind of exempt information detailed in the following summary of proceedings:

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS CONDUCTED AFTER THE PUBLIC, INCLUDING THE PRESS, WERE EXCLUDED FROM THE MEETING

1. To consider the exempt minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Health and Communities held on 5 June 2020.