

MINUTES of a meeting of the **CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES** held on 4 September 2020 virtually on MS Teams

PRESENT

Councillor C Hart – Cabinet Member

Also in attendance: Councillors G Wharmby

35/20 **MINUTES** **RESOLVED** that the non-exempt minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Health and Communities held on 21 August 2020 be confirmed as a correct record.

36/20 **REVIEW OF URGENT DECISION OF CHANGES TO DELIVERY OF PUBLIC HEALTH DELIVERED SERVICES** The Cabinet Member was updated on changes made to Public Health-delivered services due to the COVID19 pandemic.

Live Life Better Derbyshire - Physical Activity and the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) remained on pause. Stop Smoking support remained available to existing and new clients through phone and video-call support, with Nicotine Replacement Therapy provided by mail. Between April and June 2020, there were 596 quit dates recorded, with 391 Derbyshire residents reporting having stopped smoking at 4-weeks. This was an increase on the same period in 2019.

The full Weight Management digital offer was launched on 17 August. All clients being supported at the time of lockdown had been contacted and offered a slot on the new programme. The first cohort of new clients had received their induction phone calls and would be offered a slot in one of the follow-up telephone clinics. Clients were able to access a range of online educational and communication options fully supported by the Weight Management Health Improvement Advisor team. Individuals who met the service criteria could self-refer for support or be referred by a professional.

School Crossing Patrols – many schools had introduced “staggered” start and finish times to comply with COVID-19 guidance, requiring Patrols to be in attendance for a longer period each day. Confirmation was required from all schools but increasing the length of each patrol would result in additional service costs of up to £70,000 for the current financial year. This increase would be met by the Public Health budget.

Time Swap, Safe Places, Local Area Co-ordination, Disability Employment Service, First contact, 50+ Forums and the Pension Credit Project remained suspended, with staff redeployed to support the Council’s response to COVID-19 and on-going community work.

RESOLVED - that the Cabinet Member note the report.

**37/20 ALLOCATION OF DERBYSHIRE'S CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19):
LOCAL AUTHORITY EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE GRANT FOR FOOD AND
ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES**

The Cabinet Member was updated on the internal allocations of the Coronavirus (Covid-19) Local Authority Emergency Assistance Grant for Food and Essential Supplies and approval sought to enable allocation of grant funding to the external organisations.

The Council had received £0.808m in the form of a Local Authority Assistance Grant for Food and Essential Supplies by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) to support people who were struggling to afford essentials due to the impact of Covid-19. Public Health had been liaising with key partnership groups listed in detail within the report, to develop ideas and seek assurance that the grant was meeting local needs.

The grant could be used to fund existing schemes to meet rising demand, to ensure money was mobilised quickly and robustly and was expected to be spent within 12 weeks of it being made. This could take the form of cash/vouchers for direct payment to clients or through supporting advice and information to help people in the longer term. A mixed approach to allocation of the funding was recommended.

The Council required monthly information on how much had been spent and on what, alongside responding to a Government monitoring survey in October 2020.

Derbyshire's existing local welfare assistance offer, the Derbyshire Discretionary Fund (DDF) had supported residents during Covid-19. There had been an increase in applications from families and those who had previously been working or self-employed. Referral pathways to other sources of support had been strengthened and the 'system' response to the pandemic had proved an opportunity to build stronger working relationships with partners. Other proposed allocations would work in collaboration with the DDF scheme to ensure the avoidance of duplication of provision.

The proposals for funding, set out in Appendix One, were approved by the Corporate Management Team (CMT) on 6th August 2020. Additional proposals for funding to external partners, totalling £171,000 were also detailed for approval in the report.

Given the unpredictable nature of the pandemic there was a risk that demand would outstretch resources. The report recommended that a level of contingency funding was set aside in the budget to be allocated at a later date to meet emerging needs not already considered, or to strengthen ones that would require more funding than anticipated. The rapid pace required for allocation of this funding, and the ever-changing data situation, had made it difficult to evaluate need exactly.

RESOLVED to (1) note the information contained in the report; and (2) approve the recommendations regarding allocation of external grants to support provision of services relating to the Local Authority Emergency Assistance Grant for Food and Essential Supplies.