

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**MEETING WITH CABINET MEMBER, HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES**

**05 November 2020**

**Report of the Director of Public Health**

**EMOTIONAL WELLBEING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE PROJECT**

**1. Purpose of the report**

To seek approval for the provision of grant funding to Men Talk for delivery of a project to support the emotional wellbeing of young people at a value of £20,000 per annum for a period of 1 year from 1 December 2020.

**2. Information and analysis**

Mental health and emotional wellbeing remains a key public health priority. With the onset of Covid 19 and the widening health inequalities gap, the increasing number of people experiencing emotional wellbeing issues and the ongoing instability and uncertainty, it has become even more important. Young people have been identified as a group at higher risk of mental ill health and it is recognised that enabling positive wellbeing and resilience acts as protective factors, and that early identification and early intervention are essential to prevent symptoms from escalating. This aligns with national guidance and the Derbyshire Mental Health Prevention Framework.

Based on engagement talks in a secondary school in Chesterfield and at Chesterfield College, local charity Men Talk have developed an innovative idea for the supply of a digital wrist band to young people. The wrist band contains an encrypted storage facility, on which the user can store personalised tools to help their emotional wellbeing. It can contain direct contact information to local services, including school nurses, can hold online tools such as a safety plan or positive messages, and can hold other personalised features, such as a music playlist or personalised notes to help in times of anxiety or stress.

It is proposed that during the 1 year project Men Talk will develop the product with support from a working group and related organisations, then roll out an engagement programme of talks which will be supported by the direct supply of the product to young people. This will be delivered at a minimum of 4 designated secondary schools or further education establishments in Derbyshire. The approach will be evaluated to gauge the level of impact.

The target age will be young people aged 16 to 19, which includes young people entering GCSE examinations, those doing A levels or further education and those entering a post-education direction. It has been widely reported that stress and anxiety levels are high amongst this cohort and the additional uncertainty created by Covid 19 has exacerbated them.

**3. Finance considerations**

The total cost of the project will be £20,000, and this will be funded from the Public Health Grant.

**4. Legal considerations**

The Council's Financial Regulations allow grants of up to £100,000 to organisations to be approved by Cabinet Members. The Council's standard grant agreement shall be used to set out the terms and conditions for which the grants are made, which provides for clawback of funding in certain circumstances and shall also provide that the Council is not liable for any employment liabilities.

**5. Other considerations**

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

**6. Background papers**

None

**7. Key Decision**

No

**8. Call-in**

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

**9. Officer's Recommendation:**

To approve the provision of grant funding to Men Talk for delivery of a project to support the emotional wellbeing of young people at a value of £20,000 per annum for a period of 1 year from 1 December 2020.

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