

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MEETING WITH CABINET MEMBER, HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES

5 November 2020

Report of the Director of Public Health

MENTAL HEALTH FRIENDLY PROJECT

1. Purpose of the report

To seek approval for the provision of grant funding to Fuzzy Ducklings for delivery of a project to support the development of a mental health friendly project at a value of up to £45,000 for a period of 2 years from 1 December 2020.

2. Information and analysis

For many people who suffer with anxiety, stress or depression a trip outside the home can be a harrowing experience. The onset of Covid-19 has exacerbated existing symptoms for many people, and has also increased the number of people feeling anxious about trips out. In providing some security and assurance, safe places and friendly faces may help those suffering overcome some of their anxieties. By linking with the existing Safe Places scheme run by Public Health, this will extend the number of safe spaces into private businesses and retail settings, which will significantly expand the reach

It is proposed that a pilot scheme is initiated in Chesterfield, where foundation work has already taken place. In order for Chesterfield to become a “mental health friendly” place a model has been developed that comprises of 3 strands:

- Raising mental health awareness, addressing stigma, and promoting inclusivity;
- Developing a digital resource that will provide support to people by highlighting the location of safe spaces they can access if they feel unwell; and
- Engaging local business to play a role in improving mental health outcomes, though for example, adoption of staff training on mental health awareness.

The initial scheme in Chesterfield is being overseen by Chesterfield Mental Health Network, a multi-agency partnership with representatives from community and voluntary sector, health and social care and business sector. Initial insight has been provided by a local entrepreneur and a mental health service-receiver.

The pilot scheme will be evaluated and if successful, expanded delivery will take place across Derbyshire.

3. Finance considerations

It is proposed to award a grant of up to £45,000 over a 2-year period from 1 December 2020 to Fuzzy Ducklings, and this will be funded from the Public Health Grant. An initial payment of £5,432 will be paid to pilot the proposal in Chesterfield. The remainder of the grant will be paid to expand the project across Derbyshire if the pilot is deemed successful.

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 Fuzzy Ducklings for delivery of a mental health friendly project at a value of up to £45,000 for a period of 2 years from 1 December 2020.

Dean Wallace
Director of Public Health