

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

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

**7 January 2021**

**Report of the Director of Public Health**

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

**1. Purpose of the report:**

To update the Cabinet Member for Health and Communities on the allocations of the Coronavirus (Covid-19): Local Authority Emergency Assistance Grant for Food and Essential Supplies.

To seek additional approval as outlined in the report, to enable allocation of grant funding to the external organisations stated.

**2. Information and analysis:**

Derbyshire County Council received £0.808m in the form of a Local Authority Assistance Grant for Food and Essential Supplies. This grant was provided by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) to support people who are struggling to afford essentials due to the impact of Covid-19.

Local authorities have the discretion to identify and support those in most need. As such Public Health has been liaising with key partnership groups to develop ideas being put forward, and seek assurance that the grant is meeting local needs.

A previous report to the cabinet member setting out the background in detail and allocating the bulk of the monies was approved on 4 September 2020. [Minute number 37/20] Since that date, disbursement of the agreed monies has taken place.

In that report in the 'risks' section it was stated:

*"The impact of Covid-19 on our vulnerable communities is constantly changing, making it hard to predict future needs and pressure points. To mitigate against this, the report recommends that a level of contingency funding is set aside in the budget that can be allocated at a later date to*

*meet any emerging needs that haven't already been considered in the recommendations, or to strengthen ones that require more funding than anticipated.*

*Whilst consideration has been made to the needs of our vulnerable communities, the rapid pace required for allocation of this funding, and the ever changing data situation has made it difficult to evaluate need exactly."*

Two additional elements that officers have been working on since presenting the original report are:

1. To make a parity of availability for Eviction and Housing Advice available across the whole county, to align with the additional provision already approved via the Derbyshire Law Centre.

Working with the organisation DHA, which hosts Derby Law Centre and provides the court duty scheme at Derby Court, a gap in provision has been identified for people who are facing threats to their rented or mortgaged property but are 'out of scope' for Legal Aid – which can include people who are newly out of work; self-employed; or only recently claiming benefits. This significantly restricts the ability of DHA/Derby Law Centre to assist them.

Derbyshire residents supported by this organisation predominantly live in Erewash, Amber Valley, and South Derbyshire. Derby Law Centre and Derbyshire Law Centre – in the north of the county - work together and cross refer.

2. To support provision of domestic and personal safety equipment via DCC Community Safety commissioned partners to people experiencing domestic abuse throughout the county.

In one area of the County funding has historically been provided by one Community Safety Partnership and this has proved a valuable resource in increasing the safety of victims. Additional funding will enable the service to be continued in this area and extended to all other areas of the county.

During the pandemic victims of domestic abuse where the perpetrator is no longer resident have been adversely affected by increased isolation in their own homes and increased vulnerability to harassment by perpetrators, enabling them to be aware when their property is being approached and by whom increases their security and empowers them to seek intervention if they need to. The funding will be distributed to the following organisations commissioned by Derbyshire County Council to deliver support services, on the understanding that the resource will also

be available to victims supported by non-commissioned services in the areas:

- Derbyshire Wish - Amber Valley, Erewash, South Derbyshire
- The Elm Foundation – Amber Valley, Bolsover, Chesterfield, North East Derbyshire
- Crossroads Derbyshire – Derbyshire Dales, High Peak
- Glow IDVA service – High Risk Victims throughout the County.

As well as undertaking to distribute this funding, the Community Safety Unit will also undertake to monitor the spending of the grant and gather evidence and evaluation of its impact by the end of the financial year.

Cabinet member approval is therefore sought as follows:

Cabinet member approval sought in this report			
£22,000	Eviction advice service (south)	DHA/ Derby Law Centre	DHA / Derby Law Centre Support to people 'out of scope' for legal aid who face eviction or a threat to their rented or mortgaged housing.
£13,000	Supporting victims of domestic abuse	Derbyshire Wish The Elm Foundation Crossroads Derbyshire Glow IDVa service	Domestic and personal safety items to those experiencing domestic abuse

### 3. Risks:

Given the unpredictable nature of the pandemic there remains a risk that demand will outstretch resources.

The impact of Covid-19 on our vulnerable communities continues to constantly change, making it hard to predict future needs and pressure points. To mitigate against this, the original report (4<sup>th</sup> September 2020) recommended that a level of contingency funding be set aside in the budget that can be allocated at a later date to meet any emerging needs that haven't already been considered in the recommendations, or to strengthen ones that require more funding than anticipated. This recommendation falls within this scope.

#### **4. Social Value considerations:**

Health and wellbeing is intrinsically linked to the wider social determinants of health including access to food, unemployment and education. Poorer individuals experience worse health outcomes than people better off.

Socioeconomic deprivation puts some people at a much higher risk of catching and dying from Covid 19 (Health Foundation, 2020). Measures put in place to control the virus are also having a disproportionate effect on some communities, which is likely to deepen health inequalities in the longer term (Health Foundation, 2020).

The interventions outlined in this, and the 4 September 2020 report are aimed at supporting those most in need.

#### **5. Other considerations:**

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

#### **6. Background papers:**

- Report for Public Health Senior Management Team: 'Allocation of Derbyshire's Coronavirus (COVID-19): Local Authority Emergency Assistance Grant for Food and Essential Supplies' (4 August 2020)
- Report for Corporate Management Team: 'Allocation of Derbyshire's Coronavirus (COVID-19): Local Authority Emergency Assistance Grant for Food and Essential Supplies' (6 August 2020)
- Cabinet Member Report – 4 September 2020 - Allocation of Derbyshire's Coronavirus (COVID-19): Local Authority Emergency Assistance Grant for Food and Essential

#### **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 note the information contained in this report and approve the recommendation regarding a further allocation of external grant to support provision of services relating to the Local Authority Emergency Assistance Grant for Food and Essential Supplies.

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