

MINUTES of a meeting of the **CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES** held on 7 January 2021 virtually on MS Teams

PRESENT

Councillor C Hart – Cabinet Member

Also in attendance: Councillor G Wharmby

01/21 **MINUTES** **RESOLVED** that the non-exempt minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Health and Communities held on 5 November 2020 be confirmed as a correct record.

02/21 **FOOD AND FEED SERVICE PLAN** Approval was sought from the Cabinet Member for the Food and Feed Service Plan 2020/21 which set out a proposed programme of activity to seek compliance with food and feed requirements. The Agreement set out the planning and delivery requirements of feed and food official controls, based on the existing statutory Codes of Practice. The draft Plan was attached to the report (Appendix 1).

District and borough council Environmental Health Services were responsible for enforcing food hygiene however the county council was responsible for ensuring that businesses trading in Derbyshire comply with food labelling and compositional standards requirements. The county council was also responsible for ensuring feed businesses complied with legal requirements on feed labelling, safety and hygiene through the provision of advice and information and ensuring compliance with food and feed standards and hygiene requirements. The Division also undertook project work to test compliance within a particular trade sector or food and feed products.

RESOLVED - that the Cabinet Member approve the Food and Feed Service Plan 2020/21.

03/21 **FURTHER ALLOCATION OF DERBYSHIRE'S CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19): LOCAL AUTHORITY EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE GRANT FOR FOOD AND ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES** The Cabinet Member was updated on the allocations of the Coronavirus (Covid-19): Local Authority Emergency Assistance Grant for Food and Essential Supplies and additional approval was sought to enable allocation of grant funding to the external organisations stated.

Derbyshire County Council received £0.808m Local Authority Assistance Grant for Food and Essential Supplies which was provided 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 liaised with key partnership groups to develop ideas and seek assurance that the grant was meeting local needs.

A report to the cabinet member setting out the background in detail and allocating the bulk of the monies was approved on 4 September 2020 and disbursement of the agreed monies had taken place. However, the rapid pace

required for allocation of this funding, and the ever changing data situation had made it difficult to evaluate need exactly. Two additional elements requiring funding were:

1. £22,000 to the Eviction and Housing Advice Service to align with the additional provision already approved via the Derbyshire Law Centre to support people 'out of scope' for legal aid who face eviction or a threat to their rented or mortgaged housing.
2. £13,000 to support victims of domestic abuse and provision of personal safety equipment via DCC Community Safety commissioned partners (detailed within the report) to people experiencing domestic abuse throughout the county.

Health and wellbeing was 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 put 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 were also having a disproportionate effect on some communities, which was likely to deepen health inequalities in the longer term. These interventions were aimed at supporting those most in need.

RESOLVED - that the Cabinet Member note the information contained in the 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.

04/21 **FUNDING TO SUPPORT THE 'NO SECOND NIGHT' SCHEME IN DERBYSHIRE** The Cabinet Member was updated on the partnership approach to operate a COVID Safe 'No Second Night Out' scheme to support the homelessness population of Derbyshire throughout the winter. Grant approval of £82,500 was also sought to provide funding for the support worker element of the project.

The No Second Night Out was a national initiative calling on all Councils to tackle rough sleeping following the Government's 2018 Rough Sleeping Strategy which committed to ending rough sleeping by 2027. The Strategy recommended a collaborative and joined up approach, working innovatively with business, communities, faith and voluntary groups and the general public.

Derbyshire Homeless Officers Group (DHOG) had been working in partnership with Derby City Mission who had a proven track record in fast mobilisation of the winter night shelters and safe space to provide a No Second Night Out approach. There were currently 37 rough sleepers in the Derbyshire area. However, due to the coronavirus pandemic, usual operational arrangements were not a viable option.

DHOG had been looking into alternative options, building on the experience gained during the first national lockdown under the 'Everyone In' directive. Accommodation provided was successful however it was costly and could be improved on. DHOG were working on developing the not-for-profit privately-operated Mount Cook Outdoor Centre in Wirksworth to operate a scheme from 1 December

2020 until 28 February 2021, to work in partnership with the YMCA to provide 36 single room beds, with an option to increase this to 46. This site and scheme layout enabled social distancing/self-isolation to be maintained. Referrals would be made direct to out-of-hours homelessness service with 24-hour access to accommodation.

DHOG would co-ordinate the overall project, which was a broad collaboration between local authorities, police, fire, probation, private and voluntary sector providers. The project was being championed at county level by the Police and Crime Commissioner as homelessness lead. District and boroughs would cover rent payments via existing Housing Benefit budgets and YMCA would act as the landlord. P3 charity, housing options teams, drug and alcohol services and Pathways of Chesterfield were also actively engaged alongside housing options teams to provide comprehensive wrap around support.

It was identified as critical to have 24 hour 7-day-a-week support cover on site. Employing a team of support workers to ensure onsite presence of two members of staff with a 24/7 presence, employed by Derby City Mission, would cost £27,500 per month which was not recoverable under Housing Benefit.

DHOG had completed a detailed risk assessment, but there were several risks to be aware of and these were detailed in the report.

RESOLVED - that the Cabinet Member (1) note the partnership approach to operate a COVID Safe 'No Second Night Out' scheme to support the homelessness population to operate from 1 December 2020 until 28 February 2021;

(2) approve a grant of £82,500 towards the initiative, by providing funding for the support worker element of the project; and

(3) note that the funding would be released following confirmation from Derbyshire Homeless Officers Group that appropriate primary care and pharmacy support services were in place to ensure the successful operation of the scheme.

05/21 **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

06/21 **RESOLVED** that the exempt minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Health and Communities held on 5 November 2020 be confirmed as a correct record.