

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET MEMBER, FOR HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES

25 March 2021

Report of the Director of Public Health

DERBYSHIRE ADVISORY SERVICES IN FOODBANKS

1. Purpose of the Report:

To seek approval from the Cabinet Member for Health and Communities for the allocation of grant funding to Derbyshire Citizens Advice Services for delivery of advisory services in foodbanks at a value of £33,600 for a one-year period.

2. Information and analysis:

Derbyshire Citizens Advice services have been working in partnership with Feeding Britain and Rural Action Derbyshire (RAD) to deliver a project across Derbyshire to provide good quality, impartial, free and confidential advice and information to people accessing local foodbanks. This is a settings approach, aiming to ensure that people in food crisis have immediate access to quality advice to tackle the issues that made them vulnerable to hunger and enable appropriate support to engender independence and mitigate continued risk of reliance on the foodbank. Current funding for the project has ended but the partnership recognise the value in the project, and are seeking additional funding to continue the approach until longer term sustainable funding is sourced.

Investment in timely advisory services is more cost effective than allowing an individual's financial, physical and mental health to decline to the point that they require more expensive services in the future. Embedding sessions within food bank settings supports those most in crisis and often experiencing emergency situations. This can bring rapid stability and resolution to the individual's immediate needs, allowing them to plan and budget for the future and reduce their reliance on foodbanks and other services for a prolonged period of time. Additionally, individuals will feel more able to cope with their situation and have a greater awareness of where to find early help should it be needed in the future.

This report seeks investment for a 12-month extension to continue the offer in a number of foodbank settings spread across Derbyshire. As this is a relatively small pot of money, the investment doesn't allow blanket coverage in every area. However, Citizen's Advice will work in partnership with Feeding Derbyshire/RAD to identify areas of highest need in each of the Citizens Advice Office geographies, and mobilise and move resources accordingly as the project progresses. The grant

will cover project costs for a 12-month period, including adviser salaries and on costs, until external funding can be sourced.

The project will be monitored by the Public Health team. It is anticipated that the project will contribute towards several public health indicators including living in poverty, fuel poverty and self-reported wellbeing. Regular monitoring reports will be provided detailing number of clients accessing advice in foodbank sessions, number of issues advice is given for, income gained due to income maximisation and case stories demonstrating impact.

Work is ongoing with Rural Action Derbyshire via the Feeding Derbyshire/Feeding Britain project to secure sustainable longer-term funding for this area of work. It is anticipated that this will be achieved, and thus will enable this project to continue beyond the 12-month period outlined in this report.

3. Financial considerations:

This report seeks approval to award a total grant of £33,600, divided between the four Citizens Advice organisations in Derbyshire as outlined below:

Citizens Advice Office	Amount	Geographical area covered
Derbyshire Districts	£8,400	Erewash, Amber Valley, High Peak and Derbyshire Dales
North East Derbyshire	£8,400	North East Derbyshire and Bolsover
Chesterfield	£8,400	Chesterfield
South Derbyshire	£8,400	South Derbyshire

Funding will be met from the Public Health ring-fenced grant budget.

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. 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.

6. 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, property and transport considerations.

7. Background papers:

Public Health Investment Panel January 2021 (held on file in Public Health).

8. Key Decision:

No

9. Call-in:

Is it required that call-in be waived for any decision on this report?

No

10. Officer's Recommendation:

The Cabinet Member Health and Communities is asked to:

- Approve the allocation of £33,600 grant funding to Derbyshire Citizens Advice, to enable delivery of an advisory service in foodbank project, over a one year period from date of approval.

Dean Wallace
Director of Public Health