

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES

25 March 2021

Report of the Director of Public Health

**FUNDING FOR ARTS AND HEALTH PROGRAMME
(Health and Communities)**

1. Purpose of the report:

To seek approval from the Cabinet Member for Health and Communities for the allocation of grant funding to Arts Derbyshire to employ an Arts, Health and Wellbeing Co-ordinator, at a value of £12,000 per annum, for a five-year period, from April 2021 to March 2026.

2. Information and analysis:

The Arts and Health programme is one of the strands of work for Arts Derbyshire, which acts as the strategic centre for arts across the county. The aim of the programme is to improve health and wellbeing through arts and creativity across the county, and especially for those most in need. Arts Derbyshire has been established as a charitable organisation, to work with artists, service providers and the public to provide strategic direction for the arts in Derbyshire, to enable collaborative working for arts development, and to encourage people to take part in the arts. The Arts and Health Coordinator role is an existing post, with a well-established post-holder in place, and is essential for the delivery of the Arts and Health programme; developing strategic partnerships, working with delivery organisations to reach those most in need, designing new programmes to meet identified needs, and writing funding applications to support the work. This co-ordination allows the arts community to offer a consistent approach, cohesive offer and maintain good communication links into health and social care services. The current post-holder has taken proactive steps to improve links between the Arts and Health programme and the Public Health Department and used these links to engage with health service colleagues, for example by working to incorporate Arts and Health within Derbyshire's social prescribing offer.

The Arts and Health programme itself provides creative interventions through a range of activities, including poetry, embroidery, music and dance. These aim to keep people well and support longer lives lived better, through alleviating loneliness, helping improve physical activity and mental health. They have a particular focus on reaching populations whose health outcomes may be affected

by long-term conditions, loneliness, mental health and ageing.

There is a growing evidence base on the effectiveness of arts programmes for improving health and wellbeing outcomes. An All-Party Parliamentary Group on Arts, Health and Wellbeing report published in 2017, outlined the contribution arts can make to improving health and wellbeing. The 'Creative Health: The Arts for Health and Wellbeing' report highlighted how the arts can contribute to significant challenges the health and social care services are facing, such as ageing well, long term conditions, loneliness and mental health. The World Health Organisation European Regional Office published a Health Evidence network synthesis report that concluded there is evidence the arts contribute to the promotion of good health and the prevention of a range of mental and physical health conditions, as well as the treatment or management of acute and chronic conditions across the life course. The UK Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport released a report on Arts and Health in April 2020 that corroborated the conclusions of the previous reports.

At a local level, an independent evaluation of the 'A Necklace of Stars' arts project over the past year has shown that people are overwhelmingly pleased they took part. This was a poetry and embroidery project delivered by Arts Derbyshire. The evaluation found that it offered diversion and discipline; structured time; helped overcome blocks in thinking; took a participants mind off their problems and developed new skills, as well as improved participants' sense of worth and self-esteem. The project has had a sustained and broad impact, with some individuals continuing writing or sewing and becoming involved in other groups after the end of the project.

3. Financial Considerations:

This report seeks approval to award a grant of £12,000 per annum, to Arts Derbyshire for a five-year period, from April 2021 to March 2026. Total value of the funding is £60,000 and will be met from the Public Health reserve.

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 seek approval from the Cabinet Member Health and Communities for the allocation of £12,000 per annum, for a five-year period, from April 2021 to March 2026, to Arts Derbyshire, to employ an Arts, Health and Wellbeing Co-ordinator.

Dean Wallace
Director of Public Health