

Approval of Grant Funding Route for Dementia Pilot Projects

SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Council, in partnership with NHS Derby City and the Alzheimer's Society were successful in being awarded nearly £140,000 of Department of Health (DH) funding in July 2009, to become one of the National Dementia Strategy Demonstrator Sites.
- 1.2 This funding will be used to develop peer support services for people with dementia and their carers, in the form of community cafes and carer support groups. Additional match funding from the Council (£25k over two years) will be used to develop a one-to-one befriending scheme for service users with dementia to reduce isolation.
- 1.3 Additionally, in July 2009 the DH confirmed that Derby was also to become a Carer Demonstrator Site. This means further funding to support carers by developing and delivering a range of services across the whole spectrum of need.
- 1.4 As part of the Carers Demonstrator project, a befriending scheme will be set up to develop one-to-one support for carers of people with dementia.
- 1.5 This report recommends that the Derby and Derbyshire Alzheimer's Society are grant funded to become the delivery partner for the services within a) the Derby Dementia Demonstrator Project, and b) the befriending scheme for carers of people with dementia as part of the Derby Carers Demonstrator Project (via a funding agreement).
- 1.6 The recommendation to grant fund as opposed to contracting or procuring these services is in line with guidance within the Joint Commissioning Framework for the Voluntary and Community Sector (2008).
- 1.7 The funding agreement with Alzheimer's Society for the above services will total £205,420 over two years.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To support the route of grant funding to Derby and Derbyshire Alzheimer's Society for a) the delivery of services within Derby's Dementia Demonstrator Project, and b) for the carers befriending scheme within the Carers Demonstrator Project (via a funding agreement).

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Joint Commissioning Framework for the Voluntary and Community Sector (2008) clearly sets out the difference between grant and contract funding, and outlines circumstances where these options are applicable.
- 3.2 Following guidance within the framework, the following factors suggest that grant funding is the most appropriate option for the delivery of the services within the Dementia Demonstrator Project, and the befriending scheme within the Carers Demonstrator Project:
- As part of the bidding process for the demonstrator programme, the DH required local authorities to submit bids in partnership with an appropriate voluntary sector partner
 - Local authorities had a very tight timeframe to submit bids for these pilot programmes, for example less than 30 working days to submit a bid for the Dementia Demonstrator Schemes
 - The Alzheimer's Society were chosen as the local specialist provider of support services for people with dementia and their carers; they already deliver two community cafes and a carers support group for service users with dementia and their carers in the city, and have a proven track record of positive partnership engagement and delivery of services in this area
 - To contextualise this specialism, 14 out of the 18 peer support pilots nationally are being delivered in partnership with the Alzheimer's Society
 - The services within these pilots are not statutory, but complementary to statutory services
 - The services will run on an open referral system (as opposed to on a referral basis by health and social care professionals)
 - There is a need to develop innovation and partnerships between the voluntary sector and statutory agencies in this area
 - The need to remain flexible about the delivery of these services is important given they are part of national pilots
 - The services are part of a time-limited pilot and therefore there is a need to develop a business case, and for development within the local market prior to formal commissioning on a competitive basis
- 3.3 Funding agreements will be in place between the Council and Alzheimer's Society for the services as part of the Dementia and Carers Demonstrator Projects. These will detail the outcomes and outputs required by the provider (linked to the requirements of the DH) to ensure value for money is achieved.
- 3.4 The services within these pilots will be overseen and project managed by the Strategic Commissioning Managers for Older People and Carers respectively. The local strategic partnership boards for dementia and carers will provide steer and decision making at a senior level to ensure there is appropriate support and project management of these services.

- 3.5 Following evaluation of the services that form part of these pilots, services to be continued beyond this pilot will be put out to tender as per guidance within the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.

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Background papers:	None
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 – Implications

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

- 1.1 To support the development of this activity Adult Social Services will contribute £25,000 over two years. The remainder of the funds is DH funding.

Legal

- 2.1 The recommendations to grant fund via funding agreement are in line with the partnership agreed Joint Commissioning Framework for the Voluntary and Community Sector (2008) and thus legal guidelines.

Personnel

- 3.1 There are no DCC personnel implications.

Equalities Impact

- 4.1 A full EIA will be carried out as part of the development of the services to be delivered. These services will meet identified needs for older people and adults under 65 years old with dementia and their carers across the city.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 5.1 These services will contribute to the 'Helping us all to be healthy, active and independent' corporate priority.