

SCHEME OF DELEGATION

REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR COMMUNITIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

GRANT AGREEMENT TAMWORTH SAMARITANS

EXEMPT INFORMATION

None

Purpose

To update on the one year grant awarded to Samaritans which ends on 31st March 2019 and to seek approval for a further grant award to support the sustainability of a Tamworth Branch to provide a range of services for Tamworth residents.

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

1. Authorises officers to waive financial regulations and issue a grant to Tamworth Samaritans to the value of **£5,000** per year for two years for the period 1st April 2019 – 31st March 2021 to the value of £10,000 with an option to extend for one (1) further successive periods of one (1) year subject to Council requirements, the continuing availability of funding, satisfactory delivery of the Services and the agreement of both Parties.
2. Delegate authority to the Executive Director of Communities in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Communities to manage the grant including any variations during the term of the grant.

Background

Cabinet approved a one year grant to Tamworth Samaritans at its meeting on 22nd February 2018 to the value of £7,000 to contribute to core costs to sustain a Tamworth Branch which can then support local outreach activity to the people of Tamworth and this grant will cease on 31st March 2018.

TBC has supported Tamworth Samaritans and by continuing to have a local branch they are able to provide outreach work raising awareness of their services amongst the residents of Tamworth. They have been very active in the creation of the Tamworth Escalation Project and the need specifically for greater support, resources for the Town and alterations to be made to Tamworth Railway Station. Tamworth Railway Station has been officially listed as a 'hot spot' and following discussions with Network Rail, SCC and TBC there are plans to address the problems. Some rebuilding has started and work is underway with TBC's Arts and Events Team to create an Art Hub at the Station this will involve local groups and change the nature and atmosphere with beneficial effects in people's wellbeing.

More planned events will lead to a more co-ordinated response to incidents as well as

reducing their frequency.

The grant has enabled The Samaritans to sustain a Tamworth Branch which can then support local outreach activity and develop the local outreach programme by:

- Targeting publicity and awareness raising in TBC's priority wards
- Taking part in 'Safer Nights' events
- Holding a 'pop up' in St Editha's Square the 1st Monday of every month
- Being part of Network Rail National Campaign for Tamworth Railway Station and Network Rails Awareness Day

During the first 6 months of this year there were over **28 specific local outreach events** to reach residents in their communities and raise awareness and reach those in mental distress further outreach sessions are planned for the remainder of the year. During January – September 2018, there were approx. **17,840** contacts. Of which **406** were expressing suicidal feelings.

A review of the current grant has taken place within the context of the Council's priorities, and consultation with the portfolio holder and Executive Director of Communities. It is proposed that the Council seeks to award a further 2 + 1 year grant to Tamworth Samaritans as per table below.

| Commissioning Intention | Outcomes required | Value | Agreement length | Enhancement to previous specification |
|-----------------------------|---|----------------|------------------|--|
| Crisis Intervention Service | To support those in crisis over the telephone, via e-mail and face to face, 24 hours per day, 365 days per year. Establishing outreach programmes i.e. Schools, GP's, Railway Station, Town Centre (Safer Nights) to reach those in mental distress. | £5,000 | 2 + 1 years | Emphasis on outreach and prevention in the Tamworth area. Contribution to core costs to sustain a Tamworth Branch which can then support local outreach activity in schools, town centre and railway station. |
| Total | | £15,000 | | |

Financial Implications

The grant to Tamworth Samaritans can be met from the Voluntary & Community Sector Budget GS1002 57025 The grant will be on a 2 + 1 year basis to allow the Council flexibility should the availability of funding increase or decrease.

OFFICER'S DECISION:

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