

SCHEME OF DELEGATION

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Environmental Health and Community Partnerships

GRANT AGREEMENT TAMWORTH SAMARITANS

EXEMPT INFORMATION

None

Purpose

To update on the two year grant awarded to Samaritans which ends on 31st March 2024 and to seek approval to take up the option within the grant agreement to extend for one further year to support the sustainability of a Tamworth Branch to provide a range of services for Tamworth residents.

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

1. The current grant agreement is extended for one year from 1st April 2024 – 31st March 2025 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 Environmental Health and Community Partnerships to manage the grant including any variations during the term of the grant.

Background

The Council, via a Scheme of Delegation, approved a two year grant to Tamworth Samaritans to the value of £5,000 a year which will come to an end on 31st March 2024. Within the grant agreement there is an option to extend for a further one (1) year period from 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025 to the value of £5,000 to contribute to core costs to sustain a Tamworth Branch which can then support local outreach activity to the people of Tamworth.

TBC has supported Tamworth Samaritans for many years 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. Tamworth Railway Station has been officially listed as a 'hot spot' and Tamworth Samaritans have been very active in Small Talk Saves Lives campaign at Tamworth Railway Station. This involved handing cards out to passengers which prompted quite a lot of discussion and conversation. Topics ranged from people saying they had thoughts of suicide, some said they were callers themselves, others talked about coping with mental health conditions, particularly depression and anxiety.

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 including:

- Tamworth Railway Station – Small Talk Saves Lives Campaign
- Brew Monday held at Tamworth Railway Station

- Networking events
- Talk to the Soroptimist dinner event
- Attending a stall at Tamworth Pride Event
- Attending Swinfen Young Offenders Prison
- Every 2nd Monday of month outreach at Sacred Heart

Tamworth Samaritans currently have 98 volunteers.

Between May-August 2023 the volunteers supported callers in the following ways:

901 Hours on the phone
3138 Phone calls
333 E-mails responded to

Financial Implications

The grant to Tamworth Samaritans can be met from the Voluntary & Community Sector Budget GS1002.

OFFICER'S DECISION:

Rob Barnes – Executive Director Communities

Report Author

Karen Clancy
Partnerships Manager
Ext 569