

12th December 2024**Report of the Portfolio Holder for Cooperative Council, Community Partnerships and Anti-Social Behaviour****GRANT AGREEMENT TAMWORTH SAMARITANS****Exempt Information**

None

Purpose

To update on the grant awarded to Samaritans which ends on 31st March 2025 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. A grant to Tamworth Samaritans is authorised to the value of £5,000 per year for three years for the period 1st April 2025– 31st March 2028 to the value of £15,000 with an option to extend for one (1) further successive period 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. Delegated authority is given to the Executive Director of Communities and Section 151 Officer in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Cooperative Council, Community Partnerships and Anti-Social Behaviour to manage the grant including any variations during the term of the grant.

Executive Summary

Tamworth Samaritans currently have 93 volunteers, and their mission statement is to reduce deaths by suicide

What do they do:

- They listen.
- They allow callers to process their own thoughts and find their own solutions.
- Most callers say they feel better for exploring all options and don't choose to end their lives.

The grant has enabled Tamworth Samaritans to sustain a local branch, which can then support local outreach and enable them to take part in local events such as:

- Brew Monday (took place in January at Tamworth Railway Station)
- Small talk saves lives campaign (took place in March at Tamworth Railway Station)
- Weekly drop in to the railway station to keep in touch and maintain a regular dialogue with station staff.

- Swinfen Young Offenders Institute, offering support and training
- Talks in schools
- Talks to interested groups such as Rotary and the Soroptimists
- Tamworth Pride
- We Love Tamworth event
- Safer Nights events
- Sacred Heart drop-in sessions, 2nd week of each month
- Being part of Network Rail National Campaign for Tamworth Railway Station and Network Rails Awareness Day
- Volunteer week event

Samaritans training and engagement programmes supports organisations to train their people and teams to spot and support anyone struggling to cope.

How do Samaritans measure impact:

During the period April 2024 – September 2024 Tamworth volunteers supported

- 4736 phone calls
- 1387 hours on the phone
- 389 e-mails responded to
- 7 people out of 10 say they feel better after speaking to a Samaritan

The Community Partnerships Managers have met with Tamworth Samaritans and reviewed the current grant. It is proposed that the Council seeks to award a further 3 + 1 year grant to Tamworth Samaritans as per the table below:

Purpose of grant	Outcomes required	Value	Agreement length
Sustainability of Tamworth Samaritans branch	Establishing outreach programmes i.e. Schools, GP's, Railway Station, Town Centre (Safer Nights) to reach those in mental distress. Contribution to core costs to sustain a Tamworth Branch which can then support local outreach activity to those in crisis.	£5,000 per annum	3 + 1 years
Total		£20,000	

Options Considered

None - Not to award the grant – this would mean that we would lose the outreach work to the community and the Tamworth Samaritans local branch may be unsustainable.

Other – as per recommendation within this report - Fund for 3 years – this approach will ensure Tamworth has a local Samaritans branch and enables outreach work to continue in the community supporting mental health and wellbeing.

Resource Implications

The grant to Tamworth Samaritans can be met from the Voluntary & Community Sector Budget GS1002. The grant will be on a 3 + 1 year basis to allow the Council flexibility should the availability of funding increase or decrease.

Legal/Risk Implications Background

There are no staffing, community/performance planning, sustainable development, community safety, equal opportunities or human rights implications arising from this report.

Equalities Implications

See attached Community Impact Assessment.

The award of the grant also provides sustainable volunteering opportunities for community wellbeing and cohesion – people helping people.

Environment and Sustainability Implications (including climate change)

There are no climate change/net zero Implications as a result of this report.

Background Information

The council has supported Tamworth Samaritans for many years and the grant funding enables Tamworth to continue to have a local Samaritans branch, thus enabling outreach work, raising awareness of their services and reaching some of the most vulnerable residents of Tamworth.

Report Author

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Appendices

Appendix 1 - Copy of the Tamworth Samaritans performance report for the period April 2024 – September 2024.

Appendix 2 – Community Impact Assessment

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