

Record of officer decision

Decision title:	Award of funding for a Community Catalyst in Herefordshire
Date of decision:	15 September 2017
Decision maker:	Director, Adults and Wellbeing
Authority for delegated decision:	The functions scheme of the constitution (element 3.7.5, operational decision, section 7)
Ward:	Countywide
Consultation:	N/A
Decision made:	Award funding to Community Catalysts for the provision of a Community Catalyst service for a period of three years at a total cost of £38.5k.
Reasons for decision:	<p>Community Catalysts is a social enterprise working across the UK. They develop local community resources to assist people to stay well and within their own home by identifying and nurturing micro-enterprise at a local level to respond to the needs of the community.</p> <p>Community Catalysts have successfully drawn funding from the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation and Power to Change to support their Enterprising Communities Project over two phases.</p> <p>Herefordshire Council have successfully bid to become a phase two project partner, to jointly fund a locally recruited Community Catalysts to work within Herefordshire. S/he will be responsible for nurturing, stabilising and supporting local enterprises, ensuring legal compliance and sustainability while assisting Herefordshire Council to make the necessary system changes to support micro-enterprises. This will boost the local economy in communities by expanding local enterprise and creating job opportunities.</p> <p>The project will support the re-designed adult social care pathway, identifying, developing and nurturing local energy and micro-enterprise so that people's support needs can be met in new ways at home and in their local community.</p> <p>The project will contribute to achieving the priority in the council's corporate plan "To enable residents to live safe, healthy and independent lives". It will do this by reducing demand on services, targeting care and support and increasing integration to support some of the most vulnerable residents within the community.</p> <p>The approach to support will also assist with hospital discharge, as more options for local and practical support will be available to support a safe discharge and enable sustainable solutions for patients, reducing the likelihood of re-</p>

	<p>admission. A key benefit will be providing informal care in the very rural areas to address gaps in resources.</p> <p>The project will commence on 1st August 2017 for three full years, concluding on 31st July 2020. The Community Catalyst will be in post for years one and two and an evaluation process will be completed in year three.</p> <p>Herefordshire Council will provide £38.5k of funding from the integrated Better Care Fund. Community Catalysts will add £156.5k of funding awarded to them, taking the project total cost to £195k. No commitment will be made by the council to any other funding beyond this period.</p> <p>Specifically the joint funding will provide –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Community Catalyst, recruited and employed by CCL commencing in Autumn 2017 for 30 hours per week, for a period of two years. • An evaluation undertaken by University of Birmingham to evaluate the impact of the project and the value of investing in support for enterprising local people. • Project management, experience, operational systems and procedures from Community Catalysts.
<p>Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:</p>	<p>Risks</p> <p>The following risks have been identified;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project is delayed and staff are not recruited on time - mitigation: A recruitment and training timetable is in place and recruitment has already commenced. • There is still a requirement for a Community Catalyst or similar role once the funding period has concluded – mitigation: future sustainability will be secured through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Redesigned working practices leading to more effective and efficient linking of public services and voluntary sector provision; - Public sector commissioners using the learning to influence future commissioning intentions; - Sources of external funding. <p>Equality Duty</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project will help to meet the needs of adults with care and support needs, which will include people with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010. The project does not involve the closure of services and will have no detrimental impact on people with protected characteristics.

Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The option not to fund a Community Catalyst. This option is not recommended. The re-designed adult social care pathway aims to connect adults with care and support needs to what is available in their communities. This model relies on sustainable local resources to meet demand. Therefore, the role of the Community Catalyst is fundamental to supporting the pathway. • The option to directly recruit a Community Catalyst. This option is not provided for in the model developed by Community Catalysts and there would not attract the external funding identified. There would also be risks to the council without the expertise of Community Catalysts.
Details of any declarations of interest made:	Not applicable

Signed..... Date: 15/09/17