

All Committee meetings were cancelled with effect from 23rd March, 2020 due to the COVID-19 emergency.

The recommendations in this report were approved by an Executive Director of the Council, acting under delegated authority in terms of paragraph 2.1.1 of the Council's List of Officer Powers



21st April, 2020 (CANCELLED)

Approved by Executive Director, Communities -

13th May, 2020

Funding for Dunfermline Advice Hub

Report by: Paul Vaughan, Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods

Wards Affected: 2,3,4

Purpose

This report seeks a contribution of £50,000 of Area Anti-Poverty funding to continue the work of the Dunfermline Advice Hub during 2020/21 as per their Service Level Agreement with Fife Council.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to agree a contribution of £50,000 from the area anti-poverty budget for the purpose of employing the Advice Hub coordinator and sharing the property costs in their town centre location at Conduit, Chapel Street, Dunfermline.

Resource Implications

This funding relates to year 2 of a three-year Service Level Agreement with Five Lamps (Conduit).

Legal & Risk Implications

This report raises no particular legal or risk implications.

Impact Assessment

An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) is not required, as the report does not propose a change or revision to existing policies and practices.

Consultation

Consultation has taken place with Five Lamps (Conduit) and the Dunfermline Area Convenor and Vice Convenor.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The Dunfermline Advice Hub has been operating successfully for a number of years and is well regarded locally. The Hub is a one-stop-shop for advice and provides a friendly face to face service for people in need of advice and support. The Advice Hub brings together a variety of Third Sector and Public Sector organisations who share the space and offer a collaborative service to people in need.
- 1.2 Prior to 2019, the advice Hub had its own town centre premise on Douglas Street, Dunfermline. However, for a variety of reasons, this location proved unsustainable. A steering group was formed to provide guidance and direction and the decision was made to co-locate the Advice Hub with Conduit Scotland (ethical money lender) in their premises on Chapel Street, Dunfermline.
- 1.3 A three-year Service Level Agreement was drawn up with Five Lamps (parent company of Conduit) and it was agreed that Funding of £50,000 would be paid per annum. This funding covers the salary cost of the Advice Hub Coordinator and a share of the property costs including one-to-one meeting rooms for advice consultations and a large training room.

2.0 Issues and Options

- 2.1 The Advice Hub has grown from strength to strength in the new location. A total of 36 voluntary and public sector organisations offer face-to-face advice consultations ranging from money advice, benefit advice, addiction support, housing advice and mental health surgeries. The large town centre premise means that these organisations can share the space free of charge and offer a holistic approach particularly to individuals and families in crisis.
- 2.2 Telephone and on-line advice and support is also provided, and this has been particularly beneficial throughout the current Covid-19 pandemic. The Advice Hub Coordinator is able to refer people into foodbanks and other practical support.
- 2.3 Collaboration between the support and advice organisations is actively encouraged and regular networking events are held so that information can be shared, and multi-agency initiatives can be developed.
- 2.3 As society recovers from Covid-19, there will be an even greater need for the Advice Hub in Dunfermline. Many families who have never required advice services before are coming forward and seeking help due to redundancy and furloughing.

3.0 Conclusions

- 3.1 Funding for this project will continue the vital work of the Dunfermline Advice Hub to assist in the recovery phase of Covid-19.

Background Papers

The following papers were relied on in the preparation of this report in terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1973:

- N/A

Report Contact

Gillian Taylor
Community Manager
New City House Dunfermline
03451 55 55 55 Ext No 450481
gillian.taylor@fife.gov.uk