

Proposal to bid for funding from the 'What Works' Fund

SUMMARY

- 1.1 In support of the UK financial capability strategy, the Money Advice Service has launched a new fund of up to £7 million, to help understand more about how to improve financial capability. The fund will be available to organisations to help them pilot new approaches to improving financial capability and evaluate their projects
- 1.2 Funding will be available for the evaluation of existing interventions as well as piloting and evaluating new approaches. There will also be funding available to scale up existing programmes which have already demonstrated results to test the effectiveness of the project when reaching a wider group of people.
- 1.3 The Money Advice Service is encouraging organisations to express initial interest by completing an expression of interest by Friday 8th July

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To agree to the drafting of an expression of interest to be submitted by the 8 July 2016, to support the implementation of the Welfare Strategy for Derby and the Single Discretionary Award Scheme Policy.
- 2.2 To delegate authority to the Director of Finance to sign off the final draft of the bid due to the short time frame available.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 We have recently conducted a public consultation exercise relating to the Welfare Strategy for Derby and the Single Discretionary Award Scheme Policy. Part of the Strategy sets out that:

'We will look for alternative and innovative ways to seek funding for the Welfare Strategy. As a Local Authority we are able to access and influence a number of funding opportunities both independently and in partnership with other organisations'¹

The 'What Works' fund is accessible to Local Authorities, which makes it an exciting opportunity for the Council to strengthen the delivery of the Welfare Strategy and

¹ The Welfare Strategy for Derby at point 6.2

Single Discretionary Award Policy.

- 3.2 The deadline for submitting an expression of interest in the 'What Works' fund is midday on 8 July 2016. If delegation is granted, it allows for more time in drafting and refining the bid.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 The pressure on discretionary services is set to increase over the coming twelve months in line with planned welfare reform. We are seeking alternative funding options to move people towards financial independence and to prepare them for the transition from the current benefit system to Universal Credit.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 Do not bid for funding.

This option has been disregarded because of the impact this approach would have on the sustainability of the Welfare Strategy for Derby.

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer Financial officer Equality Officer Service Director(s) Other(s)	N/A Martyn Marples – Director of Finance N/A N/A N/A
For more information contact: Background papers: List of appendices:	Kate Green – Welfare Reform Manager – 01332 640560 Appendix 1 – Implications

IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

- 1.1 None arising from this report.

Legal

- 2.1 None arising from this report.

Personnel

- 3.1 None arising from this report.

IT

- 4.1 None arising from this report.

Equalities Impact

- 5.1 None arising from this report.

Health and Safety

- 6.1 None arising from this report.

Environmental Sustainability

- 7.1 None arising from this report

Property and Asset Management

- 8.1 None arising from this report

Risk Management

- 9.1 None arising from this report

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 10.1 The Welfare Strategy helps to deliver the Council's pledges described in the Derby 2030 plan.

