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**MENTAL HEALTH CAPITAL GRANT RELEASE OF FUNDS**

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**Responsible Cabinet Member – Councillor Veronica Copeland  
Adult Services Portfolio**

**Responsible Director – Cliff Brown, Director of Community Services**

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**SUMMARY REPORT**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. To request the release of capital funds from the Mental Health Capital Grant for the enhancements of specialist service delivery associated with meeting the needs of working age adults and older people with mental illness accessing the services of Age Concern (older people) and substance misuse services where co-morbidity exists (working age adults).

**Summary**

2. The Mental Health Capital Grant is received annually from central government to spend on improving services for people with mental health issues. The Council is involved from an Adult Social Care perspective in the creation of an integrated substance misuse service for the borough. By co-locating the existing substance misuse services (in a refurbished building) it will result in a “one stop” shop system streamlining the treatment journey across all treatment tiers from Harm Minimisation, Structured Day-Care, Tier 3 medication and prescription to Tier 4 residential rehabilitation.
3. This service for people with dual diagnosis, ie mental illness and co-morbid substance misuse will achieve a number of improved outcomes.
4. With regards to older people Age Concern are planning building refurbishment which will provide increased opportunities for older people in terms of social participation, increased use of technology to overcome exclusion and isolation, a focus upon improved access for BME groups with an overall objective of reducing deaths by undetermined causes and the promotion of mental wellbeing via extensive, diverse day opportunities for older people.

**Recommendation**

5. It is recommended that Cabinet:-
  - (a) Approve the release of £39,432 capital in terms of the Age Concern initiative.
  - (b) Approve the release of £25,000 for the dual diagnosis capital proposal.

## Reasons

6. The recommendations are supported because they will provide:-
  - (a) Increased opportunities for vulnerable groups.
  - (b) Increased improved outcomes for older people and those who are caught up in substance misuse cycles.
  - (c) Promotion of the health and wellbeing agenda.
  - (d) A reduction in suicides and substance misuse related crime in the Borough.

**Cliff Brown**  
**Director of Community Services**

## Background Papers

- (i) Business case assessment from for Integrated Substance Misuse System
- (ii) Day Care Refurbishment for Age Concern

Maxine Naismith : Extension 3258

S17 Crime and Disorder	Some impact in terms of a reduction of substance misuse related crime
Health and Well Being	The release of capital will enhance the health and wellbeing agenda as already described
Sustainability	No impact
Diversity	The capital release will have an impact in terms of targeting individuals from BME communities with regards to access to service provision and tailored provision
Wards Affected	All groups
Groups Affected	Adult substance mis-users and older people
Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not recommend a change to the Council's budget or policy framework.
Key Decision	This is not a key decision
Urgent Decision	This is not considered an urgent decision
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	This proposal contributes to the Safer Darlington theme and Healthier Darlington theme
Efficiency	No efficiencies

## MAIN REPORT

### Information and Analysis

#### Description of Scheme

7. Age Concern Darlington has currently achieved 3 stars from the Care Quality Commission (CQC) for its care services. Older people accessing the day opportunities have a variety of physical and mental health needs. However, depression and early onset dementia are prevalent to this care group and the expansion and modernisation of the service will provide an increased variety of socialisation opportunities. Improved premises would enable them to offer more variety and diversity and therefore the increased opportunity to engage with service users.
8. Age Concern currently has a 160 people per week using day care. The improved premises will improve the outcomes for older people and will contribute in the following ways:
  - (a) Reducing the numbers of deaths by undetermined causes, i.e. often isolation and increased levels of depression.
  - (b) Reducing hospital admissions if people had a more positive outlook made possible by the building alterations and diversification of the service.
  - (c) Increasing the capacity to offer people additional opportunities for social participation and community engagement by providing a variety of easily varied room settings and the development of a café.
  - (d) Delivering a variety of creative leisure, arts, education and sporting opportunities for older people.
  - (e) Extending the current offer of health promotions, prevention and early intervention programmes in a more creative and engaging service which will be better able to work with small groups and promote the personalisation agenda.
9. Additionally, laptops will be purchased to enable older people to engage with new facilities and develop new techniques by accessing modern technology in a society which increasingly uses technology to communicate.
10. A camcorder and associated technology will also be provided to develop a Facebook page as research amongst local users is showing that they have families spread across the UK and beyond and would like to look at using technology to “reduce” the distance between them and their families.
11. In relation to dual diagnosis, the project will contribute to achieving the objectives of improved treatment outcomes for people with complex co-morbidity. There will be improved planned exits from services into universal services, improved information sharing across partners agencies, the removal of treatment and testing duplication and an increase in the treatment capacity for hard to reach groups such as BME communities. The ultimate aim is a seamless client journey.

12. An appropriate building has been identified, leases taken up, surveys completed and plans and estimates for the refurbishment drawn up. The majority of the funding has been secured via the National Treatment Agency, however further in-depth surveys carried out revealed asbestos and the need for essential systems replacement.
13. There is a capital shortfall of £39,432 for the refurbishment project and £25,000 from the DAAT diagnosis elements. It is appropriate for a contribution to be made from the Mental Health Capital Grant, which is provided for the enhancement of specialist service for people with mental health issues. The capital for this project would fund installation costs for phone, fire safety equipment, I.T, CCTV and will secure the projects completion.
14. The success of this project contributes to the overall performance of substance misuse services relating to the Council's partnership within the DAAT. It allows increased access into treatment and improved throughput focussing upon planned exits and treatment outcomes. This releases capacity to in-reach into BME communities and frees up dedicated time for complex dual diagnosis clients and the reduction of hospital admissions. In addition an Information Sharing Protocol has been signed up within the DAAT to remove duplication, provide seamless assessment, and improved outcomes for clients and family carers. The co-location offers the option of further including the third sector and accommodating these members within the new, innovative treatment facility.
15. There will be an improved focus on the recovery model and result in more people becoming stable or drug free, accessing stable accommodation, training and employment with the impact of reduced benefit claims. This will also facilitate closer links with housing partners.

#### **Other Options Considered**

16. None considered appropriate.

#### **Delivery of the Projects**

17. Delivery of the project:-
  - (a) In terms of the DAAT proposal within 6 months and Age Concern throughout 2010.
  - (b) The projects will be managed by the DAAT, and Age Concern will manage the older people's initiative.

#### **Future Revenue Costs**

18. None.

#### **Total Cost of the Scheme and How it will be Funded**

19. The total costs of the schemes equate to £64,432 and will be funded from the Mental Health Capital Grant. There will be no revenue costs for DBC and these are 2 one-off payments to the DAAT and Age Concern.