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**MENTAL HEALTH CAPITAL GRANT RELEASE OF FUNDS**

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**Responsible Cabinet Member - Councillor Veronica Copeland,  
Adult Social Care and Housing Portfolio**

**Responsible Director - Murray Rose, Director of People**

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**SUMMARY REPORT**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. To request the release of capital funds from the Mental Health Capital Grant.
2. To seek approval to spend the allocation of Mental Health Capital Grant on a range of projects to support people with a mental health problem to retain and develop their independence.

**Summary**

3. The Mental Health Capital Grant was allocated to support local authorities to make the planned strategic shift to supporting people within their own communities and further develop individual choice.
4. Organisations were invited to bid and were assessed against the capital grant criteria.
5. Eight completed bids were returned and, following evaluation, five are recommended for approval.
6. All of the proposed allocations are a contribution to proposed work, none cover all planned work.
7. Each project is subject to a signed agreement between the provider and the Local Authority, which sets out terms and conditions of the grant, including repayment by the provider if the work is not carried out.
8. These are one off capital grant allocations and will have no future revenue implications for the Local Authority.

**Recommendation**

9. It is recommended that Members:-

- (a) Approve the release of £102,484 from the Department of Health Mental Health Capital Grant.
- (b) Approve spending of the grant on the schemes set out in paragraph 16 to support local service development.

**Reasons**

10. The recommendations are supported by the following reasons:-

- (a) The process has been in line with the capital grants guidance.
- (b) These are one off capital grant allocations and will have no future revenue implications for the Local Authority.

**Murray Rose**  
**Director of People**

**Background Papers**

“No Health without Mental Health” – HM Government 2011  
The National Dementia Strategy, “Living Well with Dementia” DoH 2009  
Putting People First - Cabinet Office 2008

Mark Humble: Extension 3821

S17 Crime and Disorder	This report has no implications for Crime and Disorder.
Health and Well Being	This report has implications to address health and wellbeing for the residents of Darlington and specifically for service users and family carers who use specialist mental health services.
Carbon Impact	The issues contained within this report do not have an impact on Carbon Emissions.
Diversity	The provision of support is targeted at vulnerable local people with assessed needs.
Wards Affected	This report impacts on residents with a mental health problem within all wards of Darlington.
Groups Affected	This report impacts on adults and older people with a mental health problem, their family and their carers.
Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not recommend any changes to the Council’s Budget or Policy Framework.
Key Decision	This is not Key Decision.
Urgent Decision	This is not an Urgent Decision.
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	This links to theme 3 ‘Healthy Darlington’ specifically addressing health inequalities to narrow the gaps in health and wellbeing.
Efficiency	This report does not identify the potential for specific efficiency savings. However, efficiencies may be gained through effective interventions being accessible.

## MAIN REPORT

### Information and Analysis

11. The model of support for adults and older people with a mental health problem has, over the years, gradually moved away from support in institutions dominated by the medical model to supporting people within their own communities. The Mental Health Capital Grant was a key component of the National Framework for Mental Health, which has now been subsumed by the new Mental Health Strategy “No Health without Mental Health” and was allocated to support Local Authorities make the planned strategic shift to supporting people within their own communities.
12. Since 2006 the Local Authority has received an annual Mental Health Capital Grant allocation of approximately £83k. This round of seeking proposals is linked to the current plans to recommission day opportunities for adults and other people with a mental health problem.
13. The Grant can be rolled over year on year. If the proposed spend is agreed there will still be £181k remaining within the budget.
14. To continue the plans to recommission day opportunities for adults and other people with a mental health problem, the Local Authority recently requested project proposals that would meet the outcomes outlined in national guidance and in line with the draft local mental health strategy.
15. The criteria used asked for projects that were new and innovative, in line with the original grant requirements that could provide:-
  - (a) Advice and services related to accessing and retaining employment.
  - (b) Advice and support regarding access to opportunity for social participation in, for example, education, housing, arts, sports and leisure, community engagement and building capacity with mainstream agencies.
  - (c) Modernising and the reconfiguration of day services to provide for improved access to mainstream and supported employment opportunities.
  - (d) Support for services aimed at meeting the needs of key groups at particular risk of exclusion, e.g. young people in transition or homeless people.
  - (e) Improving access for people from black and minority ethnic communities.
16. Eight completed bids were returned and following evaluation the following five were recommended for approval:-
  - (a) **Mood/Food Dementia Café – Provided by Darlington Mind**  
Resource to develop a café to support people and carers with dementia. Support would come through increasing social interaction, promoting healthy eating and access to employment.  
Contribution: £30k

- (b) **Contribution to refurbishment of current day service – Provided by Age UK**  
Contribute to a programme of phased alterations that will support greater access for people with dementia and their carers and extend opening hours.  
Contribution: £20k
  
  - (c) **To support and make changes to a community allotment project – Provided by Groundworks, North East**  
To make some physical changes to a community allotment to support greater physical access, including a compostable toilet.  
Contribution: £11,484
  
  - (d) **Support making some physical changes to current building that supports young disabled people – Provided by DAD**  
Physical refurbishment would ensure greater access for young people who require support to be part of their local community.  
Contribution: £11k
  
  - (e) A proposal from **Accept Care**, has provisionally accepted, for a plan to develop a café within Darlington that will support employment for people with a mental health problem. To date there has been some difficulty in them identifying premises. This funding will not be released until there is a clear robust action plan. However, members are asked to agree the allocation in principal.  
Contribution: £30k
17. All of the proposed allocations are a contribution to proposed work, none cover all planned work.
18. Each project is subject to a signed agreement between the provider and the Local Authority, which sets out terms and conditions of the grant, including repayment by the provider if the work is not carried out.
19. These are one off capital grant allocations and will have no future revenue implications for the Local Authority.

### **Outcome of Consultation**

20. No formal consultation has taken place. However, all recommended projects are in line with outcomes agreed with users and carers following recent consultation in relation to day opportunities.