

Report of the Chief Executive

SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH DEMENTIA1. Purpose of report

To inform Councillors of the experience of people living with dementia during the Covid 19 pandemic and suggest an initiative to support this group.

2. Detail

The council has a vision to be an area where people with dementia are supported to live well. The Council has an annual dementia action plan; is active in training dementia friends; and has undertaken new initiatives such as building dementia friendly bungalows. Appendix 2 sets out the results of a recent survey the findings of which indicate that people living with dementia and their carers have struggled significantly. There is more of a need than ever to support these residents.

The Committee previously considered a proposal to support people living with dementia to access a new facility run by a Community Interest Company, Imagine ArtsDem Broxtowe, with the following aims:

- To work with individuals with dementia and their carers to develop a place where people with dementia feel welcome and at ease.
- To support carers in the ways that best meet their needs, including respite.
- To apply research and practice knowledge about dementia and the arts to benefit people with dementia and their carers.
- To be a resource for the local community (Broxtowe and surrounding areas).
- To be a centre of excellence in dementia care and support.

Sessions for people living with dementia last a morning or an afternoon and cost £35 per session. The Carer can leave the person in their care with the providers during the session, so the project provides carers with a break as well as enabling participation in artistic related projects for the participant.

The committee deferred a decision and requested more details. An invitation was made to attend the centre at Padge Rd in Beeston, and some Councillors attended. A proposition is set out in appendix 1 for Members to consider.

3. Financial implications

A budget of £10,000 for mental health initiatives was included in the 2019/20 revenue budget.

Recommendation

The Committee is asked to RESOLVE whether to support the proposal in appendix 1 of the report.

Background papers

Nil

APPENDIX 1

The proposal is that a voucher system be made available for people with dementia to enable them to access sessions at the studio at a subsidised cost. A morning or afternoon session currently costs £35. It is proposed that a beneficiary would be able to access, through the voucher system, (blocks of £5 vouchers) a maximum of 5 sessions per individual.

Carers' Champions in GP surgeries and the Community Mental Health Team would allocate 20 'sets of vouchers' which would be designed similar to those on the attached proof. (The Council's logo could be included). The terms & conditions are on one side and a set of 35 x £5 vouchers on the other.

Volunteer drivers, would be recruited to help people who have no access to transport. At this stage in the pandemic it will probably be difficult for this aspect to operate safely, however the centre itself is operating in a covid secure manner so the risks are well controlled.