

Agenda Item 7

From: CllrS Woolley <CllrS.Woolley@lincolnshire.gov.uk>
Date: 5 February 2016 11:58:08 GMT
To: CllrR Wootten <CllrR.Wootten@lincolnshire.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Walking for Health - Draft report

Dear Ray

Thank you for your email.

The Walking for Health (WfH) programme has been successful in many ways with 3,400 people taking part, with most people doing so on a regular basis. The central role of volunteers and the extensive and active social networks that have developed within the WfH programme provide all the necessary ingredients for a strong and lasting legacy beyond decommissioning. The invaluable work of the district co-ordinators over the course of the programme means that the walks are now well established with committed volunteer leaders and participants.

However, because of having relied on these paid coordinators to provide all the support, development and organisational roles, the walks groups have never had to take responsibility for their own independent survival or management. Research on community-led and peer support groups clearly indicates that whilst there are numerous barriers that act to prevent groups' transition to independence, all of these can be successfully overcome given enough time and the right types of support and training. This would be expected to result in a number of options for groups; from remaining as informal voluntary walking groups to becoming formally constituted community groups in their own right to becoming a local branch of the national WfH scheme.

As such we are carrying out impact assessments and have already held a WfH specific engagement event with co-ordinators and providers. The purpose of this is to assess the impact of ceasing the funding for this programme and, if de-commissioning is confirmed, to ensure that this process attempts, as far as possible, to allow for the groups to become self-sustaining in the longer term.

In relation to reducing the substance misuse budgets to ensure funding for this programme, substance misuse treatment services represent a statutory responsibility for the County Council and so we must ensure we have such services in place. The budget for this area has taken a 25% reduction as part of the current financial challenge and to reduce it any further would place the meeting of our statutory duties at significant risk.

I hope this explains the situation.

Regards
Sue

Cllr Sue Woolley
Executive Member NHS Liaison & Community Engagement
Chairman, Lincolnshire Health & Wellbeing Board

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