

OFFICER DECISION RECORD 2 FORM

This form should be used to record Officer Decisions which have a financial impact (income/expenditure) between £25k - £100k.

Decision Reference No: AHWB/023/2021 Doncaster Armed Forces Veterans – Support for Housing

BOX 1.

DIRECTORATE: Adults, Health and Wellbeing DATE: 12th May 2021

Contact Name: Lisa Swainston

Tel. No.:01302 734169

Subject Matter: Doncaster Armed Forces Veterans – Support for Housing

BOX 2

DECISION TAKEN:

For Doncaster Council to accept a funding contribution from the South Yorkshire Region of £16,250 to provide innovative support to help either sustain housing tenancy, prevent homelessness or to support a homeless veteran back into housing provision, specifically aimed at Veterans of our Armed Forces.

The purpose of this funding will be an innovative localised approach to fulfil support to veterans, not otherwise met in existing community / voluntary / charity or housing support aid and grant systems to be trialled and evaluated on behalf of The South Yorkshire Armed Forces Region Partnership. This arrangement will be replicated in each of the partner local authorities, including Doncaster, Barnsley, Rotherham and Sheffield.

The funding will be utilised in collaboration with the Doncaster Armed Forces Steering Group Partners, who have all committed to the delivery of the National Armed Forces Covenant and in conjunction with the Doncaster housing provider, St Leger Homes of Doncaster (SLHD). Additional collaboration will be further developed with dedicated homelessness and housing support to improve reach, impact and accessibility of the funding, including: Complex Lives, private housing providers, housing support teams and the community / voluntary sector

The funding allocated to Doncaster, will be placed within the Stronger Communities Service, where the borough wide Veterans Lead Officer for the Doncaster wide partnership and the Veterans Support Officer sit.

The Veterans Innovation Fund, will be available through 2021 to facilitate the purchase of items to support sustainability in housing. It will be delivered by using a tested, audited and agreed financial method of distribution of monies for individuals

through a simple application process with purchase made direct by the Council on behalf of the individual for successful applications. This process of application, funding and monitoring of spend and outcomes is already well established in the service for such as the Stronger Families and Wellbeing Innovation Funds.

The funding needs to be spent by March 22 and a Quarterly report is required on impact of funding. Any unspent money will be considered at March 2022 and may require the authority to return any element not spent – no risk for larger clawback of monies already spent in delivery throughout the year. We have made individual agreements so the success or failure of any element of the funding within other South Yorkshire region Local Authorities has no financial impact on Doncaster's element. (information attached in background papers).

BOX 3

REASON FOR DECISION AND ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED:

Initially the South Yorkshire Region partners worked together to secure an innovative funding offer to support Veterans and this was agreed in format and tendered out in 2020. There were no suitable applications for the total funding which was £65,000 to be rolled out across the region. The individual authorities' members therefore discussed with the South Yorkshire funding, successfully granted through Dan Jarvis office and requested the opportunity to ensure we still used this money across the region for supporting veterans on a more localised basis.

This was agreed and each local authority had to complete a framework for how we would utilise our local share of this funding, for Doncaster this was £16,250 for them to agree an alternate allocation and use. This proposal was submitted, agreed and authorised by the South Yorkshire Region office as viable to draw down our initial allocation.

Consideration of utilising this money purely alongside the Housing provision with SLHD did not progress as it was felt that basing this money closer to the community / voluntary and wider partners in the steering group would make it more accessible and create more innovative applications for support elements that would contribute towards the more formal housing support offers in place for Doncaster but would not be limited by them.

If this proposal is rejected then Doncaster would not receive a local allocation of funding to build our support options to the veterans community and this would lead to either the money being retained within the South Yorkshire Region funders, or being shared out across the other partnership local authority areas.

**BOX 4
BACKGROUND PAPERS**

YES



20200420 Grant agreement Supporti

Initial agreement for the collective Region Funding arrangements



Item 5 20210223 SYAFC Report SY Fur

Update from the South Yorkshire Covenant Board around progress with alternative funding approach on locality basis



20210126 Template SCR Armed Forces F

Framework and funding project agreed by SYR for Doncaster.



Grant Agreement DMBC SV Homeless

Funding agreement prepared for Doncaster to formally access the funding.

**BOX 5
INFORMATION NOT FOR PUBLICATION:**

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, it is in the Public's interests for this decision to be published in full, redacting only the signatures.

Name: _Gillian Parker_ Signature: _by email_ Date _13/05/2021_

Signature of FOI Lead Officer for service area where ODR originates

**BOX 6
AUTHORISATION:**

Name: _Phil Holmes_ Signature:  Date: _13/05/2021_

Director Adults Health and Wellbeing

Does this decision require authorisation by the Chief Financial Officer or other Officer?

YES/NO

If yes please authorise below:

Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Chief Executive/Director/Assistant Director of _____

Consultation with Relevant Member(s)

Name: _____ **Signature:** _____ **Date:** _____

Designation _____

(e.g. Mayor, Cabinet Member or Committee Chair/Vice-Chair)

Declaration of Interest YES/NO

If YES please give details below:

**PLEASE NOTE THIS FORM WILL BE PUBLISHED ON THE COUNCIL'S WEBSITE
IN FULL UNLESS IT CONTAINS EXEMPT OR CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION**

Once completed a PDF copy of this form along with any relevant background papers should be forwarded to Governance Services at Democratic.Services@doncaster.gov.uk who will arrange publication.

It is the responsibility of the decision taker to clearly identify any information that is confidential or exempt and should be redacted before publication.