

Agenda item:

Decision maker:

Subject:

Macmillan Cancer Support Project.
Portsmouth Library Service

Report by:

Library Services Manager

Wards affected: All

Key decision (over £250k):

1. Purpose of report

To identify the activity and actions for the three year Portsmouth Library Service, Macmillan Cancer Support project.

2. Recommendations

That the report be noted

3. Background

In February 2011 Portsmouth Library Service received confirmation that it would receive funding to deliver information support via an information pod in the Central Library, smaller information resources to be delivered from branch libraries and outreach activities and events out in communities. The project will be principally delivered and developed by a Macmillan Support Officer and a recruited group of volunteers. It is anticipated that up to 45 volunteers hours will be required each week to deliver the project as planned.

3.1 Funding

The Library Service initially sought funding of £107K over a three year period. Funding of £80K has been awarded and on that basis the project will go forward, however the service is currently in dialogue with the PCT to explore means of making up the £27K shortfall.

3.2 The Project

The project will:

- Provide equal access to good quality information and holistic support to those affected by cancer. This will be delivered in a safe and welcoming environment in order to bear down on the health inequalities.
- Provide healthy lifestyle information, advice on preventive measures and health checks. This will be delivered to the wider population through library services points and other cultural venues and events.

This is achieved through the following objectives –

- Providing free access to information (in the form of booklets, leaflets, DVDs, CD-ROMS and internet access) from an information hub in the Central Library and from collections held at Southsea, North End, Cosham and Beddow Libraries.
- Providing a welcoming environment where users can express their concerns and be dealt with in a sensitive and appropriate way. Evidenced by the Macmillan Quality Environment Mark awarded in September 2010.
- Ensuring information is reliably sourced, up to date working with Macmillan Cancer Support
- Promote awareness of the information and support service and the related support delivered by Health professional partners. This to be achieved through promotion in libraries, other cultural outlets, on-line services and events.
- Deliver the Macmillan Cancer Support agendas at existing library events and activities.
- Target specific communities and hard to reach groups as required using existing library contacts and networks.
- Actively target cancer survivors and cancer carers amongst the volunteers to deliver the project

3.3 The Project Officer

A Macmillan Library Outreach Officer will be appointed to work 22.5 hours per week, initially to develop the information environment and resources and then develop and train volunteers recruited by the Macmillan Information and Support Centre, Library staff and other partners from within the Portsmouth City Council Cultural Services Department, to deliver regular support sessions and one-off events.

3.4 Project activity

The scheme will seek to capitalise on existing events and activities organised by Libraries and Culture to access general and targeted groups with Macmillan information and support.

The Macmillan "Pod" will be situated in the Central Library with a large display in the foyer signposting to the main support and information area.

Weekly promoted sessions will be delivered at the new Southsea Library, due to open in Summer 2011. This library has a disability focus for the city and will house a Macmillan collection of leaflets and stock on a purpose built stand.

Further collections will be held at the following libraries along with displays and regular advertised sessions:

- Cosham Library
- North End Library

- Beddow Library

The project will bear down on Portsmouth agendas regarding healthy lifestyles and support for vulnerable residents. This work will aim to support all residents and library members who require information at any point of the cancer pathway but specifically prevention, detection, referral and follow-up points in the cancer pathway.

This will complement the more in-depth and complex work of the Macmillan Information Support Centre situated in QA Hospital.

3.5 Targeted groups for service delivery

The service will directly benefit:

- Individuals with cancer
- Families and carers of individuals with cancer
- Individuals with health concerns which may be related to cancer
- All persons who may benefit from healthy lifestyle advice and support
- Volunteers supporting the project.

The service will indirect benefit:

- Information on healthy lifestyles will benefit individuals with other health issues i.e. obesity, heart disease and overall fitness
- The general public will benefit from raised cancer awareness and issues of prevention,
- Macmillan Cancer Support will benefit from support of local initiatives, publicity campaigns and fundraising.

The project will predominantly support cancer concerns at all stages of the cancer journey but predominantly in regards to cancer preventative and survivorship issues.

3.6 Portsmouth Library Services current support for health related issues

In addition to the core provision of health related information in terms of reference sources, books to borrow and information on-line, the library service already delivers the following projects to support health agendas.

- Books on Prescription for adults – to support mild to moderate mental health difficulties – a book providing information on a condition is prescribed by a health professional and collected from the library.
- Books on Prescription for children – to support mild to moderate mental health issues and behavioural issues. Books providing information on the condition are prescribed by health professionals, and teaching staff including SENCO's and the books are collected from the local library.
- VITAL helpline – developed and delivered by a vision impaired member of staff in partnership with the SIDs Team and Adult Social Care. The service provides information and support to individuals with vision impairment and newly diagnosed patients are signposted to the site by health professionals.

- At Home Library Service – delivered by paid staff and volunteers the service delivers library and information services to those unable to visit libraries for themselves due to disability, illness or other factors.
- Bibliotherapy Reading Group – for individuals suffering from or recovering from mental or physical illness.
- IT support sessions for individuals and groups seeking to develop their IT skills to meet specific needs – targeted groups including, elderly, vision impaired, specific interest groups, i.e. job seekers, patient information, genealogy.

4. Reasons for recommendations

To inform on the development of this initiative.

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Signed by:

Appendices:

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location
Macmillan Cancer Support bid	Central Library

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by on

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Signed by: