

ITEM 9

AUTHOR: Mrs Kate Graddock, Deputy Executive Officer
DATE: 12th October 2020
TITLE: Provision of Services from Clarity
FOR: Full Council

LET'S TALK FREMINGTON
 A new support group starting in Fremington

TUESDAYS
 12pm - 2pm at
 The Beechfield Centre

Are you living with a mental health issue?
 Do you experience emotional distress?
 Are you suffering with depression, anxiety or loneliness?

Let's Talk is a safe, supportive group environment professionally facilitated by qualified Counsellors working with Clarity

To find out further information and/or join the Let's Talk Fremington group, contact Clarity
 ☎ 01271 257474 on a Tuesday or a Thursday
 ✉ clarity.northdevon@yahoo.co.uk

Higher quality of life, self-esteem and positivity
 Raise personal awareness and gain greater understanding of your issues
 Good use of opportunities to help others through shared experiences
 Positive opinion and feedback
 This group is jointly sponsored by Fremington Parish Council, Devon County Council, Church and North Devon Council

Clarity
 Devon County Council
 North Devon Council

Members will recall that in June 2019, members commissioned a 'Let's Talk Fremington' service to be provided by Clarity¹ for a period of 46 weeks. The group officially started in December 2019 and it is now time to consider whether to continue with this service from January 2021.

The group meets each week (46 times a year) for 2 hours in The Beechfield Centre and at present the programme is partially funded by Fremington Parish Council, Devon County Council Cllr F Biederman and North Devon Councillors. The group is limited to 12 local individuals who need support for all manner of emotional and mental health issues. The group provides them with a safe and confidential forum to be able to explore their feelings and to gather help, support and direction from trained counsellors and others that attend.

From December 2020, Clarity will need to increase their costs to provide this service, this will mean the following:

Additional budget for continuation of service after December 2020	£975.00 plus approx. £130 travel expenses
Provision for 2021 – 2022	£3,450.00 (increase of £690.00 p/y) plus approx. £400 travel expenses

You will need to be mindful about simply cutting a service. These individuals have complex needs and to suddenly stop a service could be detrimental to their wellbeing, therefore a decision on whether to continue does need to be made at this Full Council meeting. Clarity has provided a confidential feedback report for councillors' information, which is attached for members only.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. For the Council to continue with the service until 31st March 2022.
2. That budgetary provision is made from General Reserves to continue the service until 31st March 2021 and that the Council ensure there is sufficient budgetary provision in the 2021-2022 budget.

¹ A Barnstaple based mental health charity which offers a range of counselling and group therapy to people experiencing mental health or emotional issues.