



# HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL

## CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S DECISION RECORD

**Form 2 - Request for spending approval (including decisions which will reduce income) GREATER THAN £10,000 or greater than £30,000 over three months**  
(For approval below the above amounts use Form 1)

Date of Decision: 12-06-2020

Officer Making Decision: Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, Chair of the relevant Committee and Chief Solicitor and Monitoring Officer.

Subject / Description & Reason for Decision: This decision was taken due to the cancellation/ postponement of meetings and in accordance with the National guidance/legislation in relation to Covid 19.

Type of Decision: The decision is essential to the Authority's response to the Covid 19 pandemic.

Nature of Delegation Being Exercised: Constitution Reference – CE15 – urgent decisions normally reserved to a Committee.

Any Declared Register of Interest: No

Description of funding request/reduction in income request	<p>To agree additional funding for the Befriending Service to meet additional demand that has arisen as a result of COVID19, and which is expected to continue as lockdown measures are eased.</p> <p>The Befriending Service is currently commissioned from Cleveland Fire Brigade with a contract value of £20,000 per year.</p>
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ODR No. :

	<p>The demand for the service has increased significantly since lockdown measures were introduced in March 2020. Large numbers of people (predominantly the over 65s) are increasingly socially isolated and unable to access social activities and opportunities that would have provided them with friendship and stimulation.</p> <p>The number of people being supported by the service had more than trebled by the end of May 2020 and continues to increase. People are being signposted to the Befriending Service (as well as other opportunities such as the Hartleneighbours service) through the Hartlepool Support Hub as well as there being continued opportunities for people to self-refer.</p> <p>The service is currently managed by a single member of staff working three days a week, and it is proposed that this is increased to five days a week for the remaining term of the contract so that the service can be maintained and can continue to expand to meet the growing demand.</p>
Value (this should be total cost)	£15,355
Period Covered	22 June 2020 to 21 September 2021 (15 months)
Approach adopted by other Tees Valley Council	Other local authorities have recognised the impact of COVID19 on social isolation and have put a range of arrangements in place to meet this need, including commissioned services, volunteers and increased support via home care or Direct Payments.

Signatures for retained copy only

Chief Executive - Gill Alexander



Funding Decision - Befriending Service 110620

ODR No. :

Decision made in consultation with:

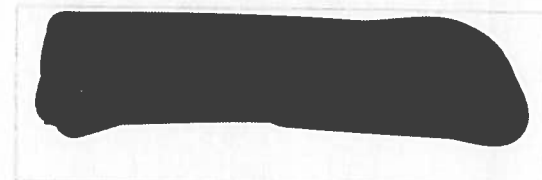
Leader of the Council - Cllr Shane Moore



Chair of [Policy Committee] –



Chief Solicitor and Monitoring Officer – Hayley Martin



Discussion of Finance & Audit - 24th 01774



