

**UTILISING COMMUNITY PAYBACK SERVICE USERS IN THE DISTRICT**

**Cabinet Member(s):** Cllr Colin Slade, Cabinet Member for the Environment  
**Responsible Officer:** Darren Beer, Interim Group Manager - Street Scene and Open Spaces

**Reason for Report:** This report sets out the key aspects in utilising service users provided by DDCCRC (Dorset, Devon and Cornwall Community Rehabilitation Company)

**Recommendation:** That the Cabinet adopts the proposal to utilise community payback service users in the District.

**Financial Implications:** MDDC will pay for sundry items, such as paint and waste bags and the disposal of waste from site.

**Budget and Policy Framework:** None directly as DDCCRC are an external provider of the service users.

**Legal Implications:** None, as DDCCRC would take full responsibility of the service users.

**Risk Assessment:** None, as the DDCCRC would take full responsibility of the service users.

**Equality Impact Assessment:** None, as DDCCRC would take full responsibility of service users.

**Relationship to Corporate Plan:** Priorities within the Corporate Plan are economy, homes, community and environment. The Street Scene Service is a frontline service, which works throughout the district ensuring cleanliness and attractiveness of our public realm through both education and enforcement to assist in upholding these priorities.

**Impact on Climate Change:** There are no climate change implications associated with this project. However, MDDC is committed to working with its local residents, business and volunteer communities to provide a safe, healthy and fair living, working and trading environment. Where it can the Council will provide practical and proactive help and advice to all parties to help them achieve compliance with the law ensuring minimal impact to climate change.

**1.0 Introduction/Background**

1.1 Community Payback is a punishment and a way individuals can pay back to the community. The courts sentence individuals to between 40-300 hours depending on the seriousness of the crime and the service user's record. Service users carrying out Community Payback must work at least seven hours - or one full day - per week, either as part of a group or on a single placement.

- 1.2 DDCCRC provides Community Payback services across the counties of Dorset, Devon and Cornwall for service users supervised by DDCCRC and by the National Probation Service, who are sentenced to an unpaid work requirement.
- 1.3 Unpaid Work is a sentence of the Court which delivers punishment by depriving service users of free time, while ensuring payback to the community. It promotes public understanding and confidence in community sentences, while enabling the individual to gain work related skills in a positive, law abiding environment.
- 1.4 Work undertaken on Community Payback projects is intended to benefit and improve local communities and does not provide profit for DDCCRC or MDDC.
- 1.5 Community payback does not replace paid employment of others but may add value to work undertaken by the Beneficiary.
- 1.6 DDCCRC carries full public liability, employer's liability and professional indemnity Insurance.

## **2.0 Projects and Placements**

- 2.1 People on Community Payback undertake all kinds of projects which provide value to communities. They do not, however, undertake work that would replace that of anyone in paid employment. At present group transport is unable to be provided due to Covid-19, therefore placements will take place in a town/village close to the service user's home. A project may commence once an assessment of the work requested is completed, the conditions are agreed and there is adequate availability (up to eight) of service users for that project.
- 2.2 Workers have various levels of skills and aim for a high quality of work which is always overseen by trained supervisors; work includes:
- Landscaping, forestry and litter picking
  - Building and maintenance
  - Painting and decorating
  - Customer service/retail work

## **3.0 Why do DDCCRC provide this service?**

- Has a genuine community benefit
- Is visible and demanding of service users, so as to be perceived as a credible and suitably demanding punishment by members of the public
- Motivates service users to change their patterns of behaviour
- Increases the service user's sense of worth
- Provides opportunities to develop new skills which are useful for future employment

#### 4.0 **Conclusions**

- 4.1 For this to be a successful relationship between MDDC and DDCCRC, Members must support and provide viable projects for service users to complete.

**Contact for more Information:** Darren Beer, Interim Group Manager - Street Scene and Open Spaces  
[dbeer@middevon.gov.uk](mailto:dbeer@middevon.gov.uk)

**Circulation of the Report:** Cllr Colin Slade, Cabinet, Leadership Team