

Workington Town Council

Full Council

11 September 2014 Appendix A

Mind in West Cumbria

Background

Mind in West Cumbria offers information and advice to people with mental health problems. It also works to raise public awareness and understanding of issues relating to mental health.

It is one of over 180 local associations (which are independent, affiliated charities) providing services such as supported housing, floating support schemes, drop-in centres and self-help support groups. Local Mind associations differ in size, make up and character. The charity has a national brand but all local associations are unique, although they do all sign up to certain shared aims and ethical guidelines.

Recently, members approached councillors to draw their attention to their financial plight in Workington. The existing trustees were recommending closure of the charity, in spite of ongoing demand for its services. Mind runs three drop in sessions in Workington (of the seven it runs throughout Allerdale). It also offers a befriending service, a family support service and a number of other initiatives which are currently grant funded.

The charity has five paid employees and an apprentice, and works closely with other organisations in the town such as the Citizen's Advice Bureau, Allerdale Disability Association and the local NHS mental health staff. It has recently been rehoused by Allerdale Borough Council and given a short term rent holiday on offices in the Town Hall.

The charity is seeking financial support to alleviate a cash shortfall which would cause it to lay off staff within two months.

Recommendation

That the council adopts the resolution set out in minute PR14.41. The council can fund this from underspends from the previous financial year.

Any grant would be subject to the receipt of a satisfactory Proposal for Funding, including sight of recent accounts, and to the Town Council's Conditions of Funding.

PR14.41 also recommends that the Town Council takes active steps to promote the charity's plight with other town and parish councils, encouraging them to share the burden of a West Cumbrian asset. It is anticipated that this would be facilitated through CALC.