



# MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT WORKER

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 56/19

8 JULY 2019

The purpose of this Report is for Members to consider a recommendation from the Community Development Working Group to continue the employment of the Mental Health Support Worker leading the Green Room's Monday Group when the Mental Health Centre closures come into effect.

## NO. DETAILS

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### 1) BACKGROUND

- a) The Isle of Wight Council has included the closure of the Island's Mental Health Centres to deliver a proposed £145,000 cut to its 2019/20 Budget.
  - b) In addition to the three main Centres at Parklands Resource Centre in Cowes, Freshwater's Memorial Hall and the Riboleau Resource Centre in Ryde, a group that meets in the Town Council's Green room on Monday mornings is identified as the Ventnor Satellite and will be affected by the closure.
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### 2) VENTNOR SATELLITE

- a) The Monday morning session has been meeting in the Green Room for more than five years.
  - b) It is currently a group of up to eight people referred by the Mental Health team for a craft based session led by a Mental Health Support Worker.
  - c) The group is very keen to continue its meetings beyond the planned closure of the Centres.
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### 3) MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT WORKER

- a) The Support Worker has been with the group for several years and is keen to continue the sessions and to expand access to them following the anticipated ending of her current employment by the Isle of Wight Council.
  - b) Pay rates for Mental Health Support Workers vary significantly with the NHS England web site showing an average of £10 an hour.
  - c) As redundancy notices for the staff working in the Island's Mental Health Centres are yet to be issued it is anticipated that to ensure the continuation of the group the Town Council would not need to take on the worker and fund the post until 1 October this year.
  - d) The salary cost for the remaining half year at three hours a week would then be £780.
  - e) People attending the group pay £3 each time from their Personal Allowance towards the cost of tea/coffee and biscuits.
  - f) Tony McCarthy has discussed the possibility of the Town Council taking on responsibility for the group's continuation with the Isle of Wight Council's Manager of Mental Health Day Services who has confirmed that professional support would continue to be available to the Support Worker if the Town Council took on responsibility for her post.
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### 4) RECOMMENDATION

The Town Council is recommended to agree to take on responsibility for the employment and funding of the Mental Health Support Worker following the ending of Isle of Wight Council support for it.

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