



University joins forces with local charity to raise aspirations and improve health in Chesterfield

The University of Derby and a Chesterfield-based charity are joining forces for a National Lottery-funded project to support voluntary and community work in the town.

Derbyshire Voluntary Action (DVA) has been awarded almost £487,000 over the next three years to fund COMMuniTY CHESTERFIELD, which aims to raise aspirations in the area, as well as to help local people live healthier lives.

The charity will work with the University's College of Health and Social Care, based at the St Helena campus in Chesterfield, and the town's voluntary sector to explore how those aims can be achieved.

The funding will also enable the creation of a community innovation centre and four new jobs.

Derbyshire Voluntary Action chief executive Jacqui Willis said: "We're thrilled to have won this exciting opportunity to bring new support and resources to Chesterfield's community sector.

"In the current climate of funding cuts and uncertainty, it's vital that we build new partnerships and find different ways of working. We hope the COMMuniTY CHESTERFIELD programme will strengthen our sector through opportunities for volunteering, training, work placements and research projects."

Michelle Brown, Head of Adult Nursing at the University of Derby, said: "As the county's only university we are committed to having a positive impact here in Chesterfield. The majority of our students are local and will stay here to become the health and social care workforce of the future.

"Our partnership with Derbyshire Voluntary Action will provide great new opportunities for our students and staff – and for many of the exciting things that we're working on here in Chesterfield to be integrated into the community."

The COMMuniTY CHESTERFIELD Centre will open in April.

For more information contact Derbyshire Voluntary Action at info@dva.org.uk.

For more information about the University of Derby's College of Health and Social care, visit www.derby.ac.uk.

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Attached:

Pic 1.jpg Vice-Chancellor Professor Kathryn Mitchell (4th right) with University and Derbyshire Voluntary Action colleagues at St Helena Campus.

Pic 2.jpg Pictured outside the new COMMuniTY CHESTERFIELD Centre at St Helena are: L-R: Derbyshire Voluntary Action Chief Executive, Jacqui Willis, University of Derby Vice-Chancellor Professor Kathryn Mitchell, Chair of the Derbyshire Voluntary Action Board, Heather Fawbert and University of Derby Head of Adult Nursing, Michelle Brown.

Notes to editor:

- 'COMMuniTY CHESTERFIELD' is a new partnership project between Derbyshire Voluntary Action and University of Derby College of Health and Social Care that will create a dedicated resource to link together Chesterfield's health and social care voluntary sector/communities with the University's St Helena Campus in Chesterfield. It will be funded by a National Lottery Partnership Grant for three years, from 1 April 2019. The total grant amount is £486,816.
- The project will be led and managed by Derbyshire Voluntary Action, Offices 2a-2c, The Market Hall, Chesterfield, S40 1AR. For more information contact: Julia Cook, Business and Innovations Manager, 01246 555908; 07716 622004; julia@dva.org.uk.
- Please refer general media enquiries about University of Derby to Rob James, Corporate Communications Officer, 01332 591043; 07747 460858; pressoffice@derby.ac.uk