

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **For immediate release**

### **GODALMING TOWN COUNCIL FUNDS VITAL SERVICES FOR THE COMMUNITY**

On Thursday, 5 September, Godalming Town Councillors were delighted to approve the terms for funding agreements of £158,000 for three organisations who provide much needed local services that benefit the Godalming community. The Service Level Agreements (SLA) proposed by the Town Council guarantees financial support and security over the next four years to assist with the provision and continuation of much needed support services. Such arrangements allow the service provider the financial security to invest in the service and provides the Council with measurable outcomes for the support provided. The three organisations offered SLAs are the Hoppa Community Transport Hospital Hoppa, Citizens' Advice Waverley and the Farncombe Day Centre.

The Council's funding of £20,000 over the next four years will ensure that the Hospital Hoppa Service can continue to provide an accessible, door-to-door, non-emergency patient transport service to the Royal Surrey County Hospital, as well as all other health facilities between Haslemere and Guildford, for the residents of Godalming and surrounding villages who do not qualify for free NHS transport.

Another much valued service for Godalming residents that the Town Council is supporting with £112,000 over the next four years is the Citizens' Advice Waverley. The Town Council has supported the Citizens' Advice service for many years, but moving from yearly grants to a four year agreement means that Citizens' Advice Waverley has much more certainty in providing a 5-day a week, locally available, independent, high quality advice service to Godalming residents. .

The final organisation to be supported with a funding agreement is the Farncombe Day Centre which will receive £20,000 of assistance over four years to operate a minibus to provide a vital transport service from a client's home to the day centre and return.

At a much lower, but equally important level, the Council also awarded a £500 grant from the Council Community Fund to assist with running the Surrey Fire & Rescue Service - Safe Drive Stay Alive performances. Safe Drive Stay Alive is a road safety initiative that aims to highlight to all young people their responsibilities whilst being in a car, as a driver or passenger, as well as the consequences should these responsibilities not be taken seriously. Godalming sends more young people to this event than any other town in the County.

Ends

For more information on this release or images,  
please contact: Andy Jeffery – Town Clerk  
Email: [townclerk@godalming-tc.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@godalming-tc.gov.uk)  
Tel: 01483 523075  
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