

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 22nd July 2014
Report of: Director of Public Health – Dr Heather Grimbaldeston
Subject/Title: Public Health Transformation Fund
Portfolio Holders: Cllr Janet Clowes, Care and Health in the Community

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 The Public Health Transformation Fund has been specifically created to improve the health and wellbeing of residents in Cheshire East. The dedicated, flexible and time-limited financial resource will enable residents to access and benefit from innovative approaches to health not previously available in Cheshire East through statutory, voluntary, community, faith and private sector* transformation initiatives.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That Cabinet agrees the creation of the Public Health Transformation Fund.
- 2.2 That Cabinet delegates the decision to make the awards to the Public Health Transformation Fund Panel Chaired by the Portfolio Holder.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

3.1 Background

The Health and Social Care Act 2012 transferred the responsibility for some public health services to Local Authorities and included a new duty to improve the public's health. There are many beneficial health and wellbeing services in place across Cheshire East and Outcome 5 of the Council's Three-Year Plan provides an influential vehicle with which to enhance these further. There are also many factors outside of traditional 'health services' which help to improve an individual's quality of life and life expectancy, some of which are recognised throughout the Council and CCG's two, three and five year plans. An effective commissioning cycle requires an individual and their circumstances to be considered as a whole across a spectrum of services and organisations. Departments across the Council and all its wider partner organisations will have ideas about how services can be improved towards meeting this goal but may not have had the opportunity to develop these without support or funding. The Public Health Transformation Fund has been developed to offer this opportunity.

*Also referred to as Partner Organisations in this paper

3.2 Aims

The Public Health Transformation Fund aims to:

- Support the delivery of priority local health and wellbeing activities
- Facilitate collaborative and integrated approaches to population health and wellbeing
- Improve quality of potential future services through targeting the right people with the right service in the right place and at the right time
- Improve value for money by evaluating the outcomes of activities and the associated impact on Cheshire East residents, the Council and its partners before longer term funding is committed.

The Public Health Transformation Fund will help realise the vision of the future whereby health and wellbeing is central to residents, Council wide services and the initiatives of local partner organisations. The Fund offers the opportunity to develop prevention and early intervention initiatives, improve health and wellbeing now and over the long term and reduce reliance on 'treatment' focussed services. Potential applicants should focus on areas of need identified in:

- The Director of Health's Annual Report
- The Health and Wellbeing Board's Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- The JSNA.

Projects should seek to improve outcomes highlighted in the:

- Public Health Outcomes Framework
- Outcome 5 of the Council's 3 Year Plan.

Examples of the types of projects that the Fund may attract are:

- Reducing binge drinking in those aged 15-17 years by introducing non-alcoholic cocktail hours where teenagers can socialise, learn new skills such as beauty therapy and have access to health and care professionals
- Making every contact count – building on the work exemplified by the Fire Service which identifies a wide range of health improving measures open to older people (such as flu immunisation and falls prevention) in addition to confirming fire safety compliance in their homes.

3.3 Approach

Bidders from statutory, voluntary, community, faith and private sectors may submit business cases and be provided with funding within the financial period

01st April 2014 to 31st March 2015. Funding may cover projects lasting up to 2 years (to 31st March 2016).

Bidders will be able to submit proposals in two or three tranches. Projects are routinely expected to be between £30,000 and £150,000.

Proposals will be formally evaluated by a Transformation Fund Panel. The Panel has a mandated minimum membership and includes an external, independent assessor from Public Health England and is Chaired by the Portfolio Holder for Health. The Panel Criteria for award will include assessment of the evidence base, population need, delivery planning, quality, identified risks and finance.

4.0 Wards Affected

All

5.0 Local Ward Members

All

6.0 Policy Implications

The Health and Social Care Act 2012 transferred some public health responsibilities and services to Local Authorities in April 2013.

7.0 Financial Implications

Funding will be made available from the public health ring fenced budget. The Finance team have noted that there is sufficient available funding within the Public Health ring-fenced budget for the transformation fund outlined in this report. Any organisation submitting a bid will be subject to an assessment of their financial position to reduce any risk to Cheshire East Council.

8.0 Legal Implications

The Transformation Fund will be advertised locally and on The Chest.

There are no legal issues preventing the establishment of this fund. Awarding of the grant will be in line with criteria above.

The award of funding is subject to a grant agreement and terms of reference currently under review by the Council's legal team.

Successful bidders will be asked to evaluate their progress on a quarterly basis to the Transformation Fund Panel to enable full benefits to be

realised and reported to Cabinet. In line with project methodology a template has been designed to guide them in the type of evaluation criteria to consider.

In delivering the objectives of the Fund, care must be taken to ensure that when funding is provided it is truly a grant. Any attempt to dictate the way in which outcomes are to be achieved or apply terms and conditions could, dependent on the value, inadvertently create a service contract that may breach public procurement rules. Essentially, the terms of the grant should set out the purpose of the grant, what it can be allocated to and only claim back, suspend or withhold funding in accordance with the circumstances outlined in the grant agreement.

There is a small risk that State Aid could apply to the grants being made. However, it is understood that these grants are unlikely to exceed the threshold of 200,000 euros. Assistance under this amount is regarded as “de minimis” and unlikely to distort competition. However, “de minimis” payments over the last three years should be taken into account so when a grant is awarded the recipient should be made aware that the funding qualifies as de minimis aid and the Council will need to check that the recipient has not received similar aid which means it would cumulatively exceed the threshold for State Aid.

9.0 Risk Management

The release of funding is subject to clear terms. Cheshire East Council reserves the right to reduce or withdraw funding at any time during the period of the agreement where the agreed proposals are not being delivered.

Good governance arrangements have been put into place as outlined in the Agreement and Terms of Reference.

Legal and procurement advice has been sought in developing the terms of the grant agreement.

10.0 Access to Information

The draft Agreement and Terms of Reference for the Public Health Transformation Fund and associated documentation are attached.

Further background can be sought by contacting the report writer:

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