

Key Decision Required:	Yes	In the Forward Plan:	No
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CABINET

27 FEBRUARY 2015

REPORT OF THE WELL-BEING AND PARTNERSHIPS PORTFOLIO HOLDER

A.6 REPORT ON PUBLIC HEALTH SPECIALIST FOR TENDRING

(Report prepared by Keri Lawrence)

PART 1 – KEY INFORMATION

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT
This report outlines recommendations towards a Public Health Specialist post in Tendring.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure that public health improves across Essex, the Council must work on key local issues at a local level, developing local solutions. To this end, Essex County Council (ECC) has written to City and District Councils and Borough Councils across Essex with the offer of Public Health Specialists embedded at local level. • ECC plans to fund a post, shared across Tendring and Colchester (and similar across the rest of Essex), which one of the Local Authorities (LA) would employ and the post holder would have a base in each LA. • The Public Health Specialist would be accountable to an appropriate manager in the district and would deliver on local issues, with professional accountability to the local Care Commissioning Group (CCG)-based Public Health consultant. • ECC would favour local agreement on who hosts the post holder and would like to see a whole time equivalent Public Health Specialist working across each CCG area but would welcome a dedicated post in each LA if there is appetite and local funding. • Colchester Borough Council has already indicated to ECC that it is looking to half fund a post. If Tendring District Council (TDC) was able to do likewise, it would enable a dedicated Public Health Specialist to Tendring.

RECOMMENDATION(S)
<p>It is recommended that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cabinet approves the acceptance of the offer for a Public Health Specialist, embedded at local level; and 2. Funding be allocated from the ‘Fit for Purpose’ Budget to enable the Council to employ and half fund a full-time dedicated Tendring Public Health Specialist

for a fixed-term of two years, with the possibility of extension dependant on review.

PART 2 – IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

DELIVERING PRIORITIES

The Public Health Specialist Programme works towards delivering on the Council's 'Our People' priority; aiming to reduce health inequalities and disadvantage, and promote healthy and active lifestyles. The post could also address local needs and contribute towards reducing levels of crime and the fear of crime.

FINANCE, OTHER RESOURCES AND RISK

Finance and Other Resources

ECC would ensure no risk to the LA by commissioning over a long time period and agreeing to underwrite redundancy costs. The Public Health Specialist would also have a recurring budget of £30,000 per LA to spend on local projects. Funds for this programme are available from April 2015.

The commitment from TDC would be up to £60,000 over two years, which could be identified from the 'Fit for Purpose' budget, for which the Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council have delegated authority to utilise. The sum indicated would include direct employment costs and overheads, and underwriting any risks associated with employment (e.g. redundancy costs). Long-term funding would be subject to the success of the post, finding suitable funds and the future year's budget-setting process.

PART 3 – SUPPORTING INFORMATION

BACKGROUND

The Public Health Specialist would provide the appropriate knowledge to support TDC in finding innovative solutions to local health-related problems. A similar role in Tendring has worked very successfully in the past, and the previous post holder was integral in the setting-up of the Tendring Health and Well-being Board as well as the development of a Health Inequality Strategy.

A Public Health Specialist would be pivotal in the development of TDC's relationship with Colchester Hospital as well as supporting the implementation of the Community Builder funded Mental Health Hub (by, for example, increasing commitment from Health partners). In addition, the Public Health Specialist could develop and support initiatives to reduce street drinking and alcohol and drug-related crime and disorder.