

1 November 2022

Consultation with Portfolio Holder for Partnerships

Report of Assistant Director (Partnerships)

A.1 Use of health inequalities funding for a Housing and Benefits Early Intervention Officer to work with children and families

(Report prepared by J Fox)

PART 1 – KEY INFORMATION

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To consult the Portfolio Holder for Partnerships on the proposal to spend up to £35 000 of the £400, 000 from the health funding provided to Tendring District Council from the North East Essex Clinical Commissioning Group (NEECCG) and East Suffolk and North East Essex Foundation Trust for the purposes of addressing inequalities.

Up to £35, 000 is proposed to be used for a post with the multi disciplinary team (MDT) with the ECC Children and Families Team for a Housing and Benefits Early Intervention Officer who will be in post until May 2023.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The CCG (now replaced by the Integrated Care Board (ICB)) provided £400 000 for addressing inequality at place work within Tendring. This funding which is ring fenced to be spent on agreed initiatives, was accepted by Cabinet at the meeting held on 21st September 2021. The Cabinet report also outlined the agreed framework for spending the CCG funds and the associated governance arrangements – (reference the Memorandum of Understanding Appendix 3), which can be viewed (p89):-

<https://tdcdemocracy.tendringdc.gov.uk/documents/g1838/Public%20reports%20pack%2017th-Sep-2021%2010.30%20Cabinet.pdf?T=10>.

The MOU expressly required spending proposals could only be enacted with the agreement of the Parties to the MOU and by approval of the NEE HWB Alliance Committee following recommendations from the Strategy Group. Also, that spending and outcomes will monitored and reported to North East Essex Health and Wellbeing Alliance and via the Alliance Change Management Officer reporting routes as required.

It is currently proposed to spend funding on a Housing and Benefits Early Intervention Officer to be part of a multidisciplinary team within the Children and Families Team from Essex County Council Social Care to deal with children and families in crisis in the Tendring area.

The already existing team would benefit from housing and benefits support for a pilot running until May 2023, at which point they hope to use the evaluation from the team to ensure this receives on going sustainable funding.

An indicative spend plan was presented and approved by the Alliance Board when the funding was first received. The spend plan did not include the proposal for a Housing and Benefits Early Intervention Officer.

Since the Early Intervention Officer is beyond what was originally agreed at the Alliance Board a highlight report was sent to the Board in August 2022 which approved £35 000 to fund a Housing and Benefits Early Intervention Officer.

The Assistant Director for Partnerships is proposing to allocate up to £35,000 of the overall inequalities in place funding to this role and consultation with the Portfolio for Partnerships and Section 151 and Monitoring Officers is sought to enable the Assistant Director for Partnerships to agree the outcomes and spending proposals for each project, as required by the authorised delegation from Cabinet.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that:

- a) **That, subject to (b) the Assistant Director for Partnerships agrees to the spending proposal of up to £35 000 from the health inequalities funding provided from the Clinical Commissioning Group to contribute towards a Housing and Benefits Early Intervention Officer.**
- b) **prior to implementation of this recommendation the Portfolio Holder for Partnerships is consulted on the outcomes and spending proposals for each project, in consultation with the Section 151 and Monitoring Officers, highlighting the implications set out within this Report to accompany the published Officer decision.**

PART 2 – IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

DELIVERING PRIORITIES

The provision of the funding will help to deliver Community Leadership through the Partnerships theme of the Corporate Plan and its objectives around health and wellbeing for effective services and improved public health.

FINANCE, OTHER RESOURCES AND RISK

The CCG provided £400 000 for use around health inequalities to be ring-fenced for agreed initiatives. Although some of this funding is being used for example funding a health inequalities coordinator and there is other proposed spending there are sufficient resources available to fund this post until May 2023.

Funding will be utilised in line with the governance framework set out in the associated Cabinet Report 21st September 2021, “Agenda Item 13 - North East Essex Health and Wellbeing Alliance update and acceptance of funding from health partners”, and associated Memorandum of Understanding, Appendix 3 (link to report including Memorandum of Understanding see above).

Section 151 Consultation

There are no further comments over and above those set out elsewhere in this report

LEGAL

The money provided by the CCG is subject to an MOU which has been signed by Tendring District Council and the CCG.

An indicative spend plan was taken to the Alliance Board when this funding was received and was approved.

That spend plan did not include this proposal and therefore a highlight report was taken to the Alliance Board in August 2022 and was approved for up to £35, 000 to be spent on a Housing and Benefits Early Intervention Officer.

It is currently envisaged that the post will be employed by Tendring District Council and seconded over to the ECC multi-disciplinary team. This is a fixed post until May 2023 and so there will be no redundancy implications.

Monitoring Officer Consultation

On the basis that the appropriate approvals are in place from the Alliance Board and there are no ongoing implications for the Council, with the post being for a fixed term, I have nothing further to add to the report which covers the governance arrangements.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Consideration has been given to the implications of the proposed decision in respect of the following and any significant issues are set out below.

Crime and Disorder / Equality and Diversity / Health Inequalities / Area or Ward affected / Consultation/Public Engagement.

The appointment to this post will help support the Council's priorities of health and wellbeing for effective services and improved public health

PART 3 – SUPPORTING INFORMATION

BACKGROUND

The CCG have provided £400K health inequalities funding to spend on work to deliver around reducing health inequality.

An MOU exists in terms of this funding signed by the CCG and the Council. See Cabinet Report 21 September, Agenda item 13, Appendix 3, p89.

<https://tdcdemocracy.tendringdc.gov.uk/documents/g1838/Public%20reports%20pack%2017th-Sep-2021%2010.30%20Cabinet.pdf?T=10> .

An initial indicative spend plan was agreed by the Alliance Board for this funding which did not include this particular post.

Spending on this post has now been approved by the Alliance Board via a highlight report which went to the Board in August 2022.

CURRENT POSITION

Colleagues from Essex County Council Children and Families who are part of the Alliance made contact with the Council and requested use of some of the health inequalities funding to support work in respect of a multi disciplinary team (MDT)

The team which is made up with specialists in their field for example around probation, employment etc. are used to support families in crisis to help resolve their problems by delivering interventions and signposting

This is part of a pilot the team are running for the MDT which runs to May 2023 and will include an evaluation process. The success so far means the team expect the ongoing evaluation to result in the team receiving mainstream funding in future.

As part of the MDT it was requested that some of the health inequalities funding was allocated to providing a housing and benefits adviser who can sit in the team and support residents and in addition link closely to the Council.

This post would be required up until May 2023 which is when the initial overall funding for the MDT stops and by which time it is proposed that the evaluation of the team will demonstrate its long-term importance and viability and from then on it will receive mainstream funding.

The Alliance have approved the use of the funding for this post in a highlight report which went to the Alliance Board in August 2022.

The Assistant Director for Housing and Environmental has also highlighted the increasing prevalence of homelessness which this post will seek to help prevent and therefore supports the proposed spending.

The outcomes for siting this post with the Team are as follows

- The post holder will become central in the team and provide housing and benefits advice to the most vulnerable families in Tendring.
- They will join a team of Subject Matter Experts (SME's) whom are representative of social care, probation, Children and Adult Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and youth work.
- They will work collaboratively with the other experts to deliver bespoke support to families who have a history of being unable to access services.

More Generally

- In terms of the wider advantages, being part of the MDT enables the local council to become part of this progressive approach to supporting our most vulnerable families in Tendring.

FURTHER HEADINGS RELEVANT TO THE REPORT

BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR THE DECISION

Cabinet Report, 21 September 2021 - Agenda Item 13 – “North East Essex Health and Wellbeing Alliance update and acceptance of funding from health partners”

APPENDICES