

## BRIEFING NOTE TO MANAGEMENT TEAM

7 March 2023

### Application for funding for two posts to work with Jobcentre Plus

(Briefing note prepared by J Fox)

#### **PURPOSE OF BRIEFING NOTE**

To seek approval to make an application for funding to deliver a Community Budget in partnership with Jobcentre Plus and specifically to engage two Community Support Employment Officers (CSEO's) in Tendring.

#### **BACKGROUND**

Jobcentre Plus have contacted the Council about the opportunity to apply for funding for two Community Support Employment Officers (CSEO's) to provide bespoke support to those claimants furthest away from the labour market and in most in need of help in removing barriers to employment using a collaborative and multi-disciplinary approach.

#### **CURRENT POSITION**

An application form has now been forwarded by Jobcentre Plus to access the funding. The application deadline is 13 March 2023.

These roles would seek to engage with 500 claimants to encourage them to liaise with the CSEO's and to conduct interventions with 300 claimants to get them closer to the labour market.

The wider interventions from the CSEO's would include supporting around debt and rent arrears, preventing offending and accessing health support and drug and rehabilitation support.

The Council would work closely with Jobcentre Plus to share data (in accordance with GDPR) to best support claimants most in a need of a targeted response.

The application form supplied from Jobcentre Plus is for the Flexible Support Grant fund and the application will highlight the proposed delivery model and the Council would apply as the Lead Accountable Body.

The partnership between the Council and Jobcentre Plus is long established and has delivered on many joint projects previously including providing shared work space and events.

It is currently proposed to apply for approximately £90,000 of funding to support two posts which would see one based at Clacton and one at Harwich and would be for a period of up to 12 months.

It is envisaged that as part of this process the Council would provide the supervision and line management in close discussion with Jobcentre Plus colleagues, HR function, IT facilities and potentially office space. The Council will also provide monthly monitoring, returns and financial accountability for all funds received and

demonstrate any match funding as required.

Match funding is likely to be in the format of phones and IT equipment, training and mileage and line management. Previous work with Jobcentre Plus has also included office space as an in kind contribution although it has not been determined as yet if this is required in this instance.

If approved to apply for funding this would be in line with the wider Health and Wellbeing Alliance working which highlights the importance of the wider determinants of health such as employment, housing etc. to maintain the health and wellbeing of our population and would align with wider work around employment such as Clacton Place.

**Recommendation**

**That approval is given to apply for in the region of £90,000 of funding for two Community Support Employment Officers to work with Jobcentre Plus to support employment opportunity.**