

PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR PARTNERSHIPS

15 September 2023

Report of Assistant Director (Partnerships)

A.1 Use of health inequalities funding for Community Voluntary Services Tendring (CVST)

(Report prepared by A Moore)

PART 1 – KEY INFORMATION

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To consult the Portfolio Holder for Partnerships on the proposal to spend up to £50,000 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 £50,000 is proposed to be provided to Community Voluntary Services Tendring (CVST) for their work supporting residents who are in extreme need of food, fuel or other essential amenities and where their health and wellbeing is being impacted by this urgent need.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The CCG (now replaced by the Integrated Care Board (ICB)) provided £400 000 for use on 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 (MOU) 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 ICB then provided an additional £200 000 for addressing inequality at place work within Tendring resulting in a total of £600,000 available. This was accepted by Cabinet at its meeting on 17 March 2023.

[Report Template Part A \(tendringdc.gov.uk\)](#)

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. As part of this spending, an indicative spend plan was presented and approved by the Alliance Board, which included a funding amount of £50,000 to Community Voluntary Services Tendring (CVST). CVST have now provided a more detailed plan for how they propose to use this funding to address inequality in Tendring.

The Assistant Director for Partnerships is proposing to allocate up to £50,000 of the overall inequalities in place funding to CVST 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 £50, 000 from the health inequalities funding provided from the North East Essex Health and Wellbeing Alliance to support Community Voluntary Services Tendring (CVST).
- 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 £600 000 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, initial proposals included providing £50,000 to Community Voluntary Services Tendring and there are sufficient resources available to do this. 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).

Allocation of Inequalities Funding to Date

	22/23	23/24
Inequalities Coordinator	£43,000	£56,000
Harwich Family Solutions Officer	£40,000	£50,000
Peripatetic Family Solutions Officer	£20,000	
Housing and Benefits Early Intervention Officer	£35,000	
Fuel Poverty Officer	£70,000	
Community Project Officer	£50,000	
CVST Funding (proposed in this report)	£50,000	
Total	£308,000	£106,000

Section 151 Consultation

There are no additional comments to make over and above those already set out in the report. It is expected that the Service will maintain a detailed record of expenditure from the various tranches of funding made available by our health partners that can be made available as required.

LEGAL

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

A spend plan was taken to the Alliance Board and approved when the initial MOU was signed and this included providing £50,000 of funding to Community Voluntary Services Tendring (CVST).

Within the proposed spending plan that CVST have provided Tendring District Council, there is £8,790 outlined to fund a part time Resilience Support Officer employed by CVST. This amount includes management and on-costs associated with the post. The Resilience Support Officer would be employed by CVST for a fixed term. There are therefore no redundancy implications.

Subsidy Control Act 2022

A subsidy is where a public authority provides support to an enterprise that gives them an economic advantage, meaning equivalent support could not have been obtained on commercial terms. An enterprise is defined as any person, or groups of persons under common control engaged in offering goods or services on a market.

In this case the funding is being used to provide free practical support to vulnerable Tendring residents in urgent need, for example food and fuel vouchers and therefore is not the provision of goods and services on the market. The part of the funding which is being used to cover the administration work is specifically to facilitate the provision of the emergency funding and is therefore not considered a subsidy, as defined by the Act.

Monitoring Officer Consultation

Nothing further to add to the content of the Report, separate discussions have taken place regarding the subsidy control implications and the Monitoring Officer is satisfied with the assessment.

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 funding will help support the Council's priorities of health and wellbeing for effective services and improved public health and will help to address inequality by supporting those most in need.

PART 3 – SUPPORTING INFORMATION

BACKGROUND

The CCG have provided an initial £400K followed by an extra £200K 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.

<https://tdcdemocracy.tendringdc.gov.uk/documents/g1838/Public%20reports%20pack%2017th-Sep-2021%2010.30%20Cabinet.pdf?T=10> . (Ref: Appendix 3, p89).

An initial indicative spend plan was agreed by the Alliance Board for this funding which included funding for Community Voluntary Services Tendring and £50,000 was allocated for this purpose.

CURRENT POSITION

Community Voluntary Services Tendring (CVST) has a long history of empowering and providing support to local people to improve their health and wellbeing, helping them to navigate the maze of local support and services and making a tangible difference to their lives leading to reductions in loneliness and isolation, increasing levels of physical activity, improving their management of long-term health conditions, increasing their skills and knowledge and increasing resilience.

A range of services and support are available locally, both from CVST and other voluntary and community groups across the district but despite this, increasing numbers of people are finding themselves in financial hardship and struggling to make ends meet.

Data from Citizens Advice Tendring shows a significant increase in enquiries relating to debt (over twice as many) and utilities (over 3 times as many) between 2020 and 2021. In addition it has been identified that those who have not needed support before are now requiring it. Disabled people, and people of colour from black African / Caribbean and mixed heritage are more likely to be facing cost of living issues and needing to use local services to get by.

Whilst the CVST Resilience Programme is able to support people with warm clothing, information and emergency resources such as oil filled electric heaters, for people in need over the winter, the demand and level of need is increasing. The greatest level of need relates to emergency fuel and food vouchers, urgent repairs to heating or other household appliances, white goods and clothing.

It is therefore proposed that CVST use this funding opportunity to tackle these immediate and urgent needs to alleviate poverty, improve physical and mental health and wellbeing and build on partnership working across the system. It is recognised that the wider determinants of health – that is, the circumstances that people are born, grow, live, work and age into - impact on their physical and mental health. Providing practical support to tackle emergency needs will give people the opportunity to gain the longer-term help and solutions that they need to improve their circumstances.

The vouchers are tightly controlled in terms of what they can be used for. CVST utilise an organisation called Charis so that vouchers are issued for specific energy companies or supermarkets based on a conversation with the individual in need.

In addition, they can only be used for food or fuel (not alcohol, cigarettes or other non-food items). CVST find out what the nearest supermarket is and provide a voucher for that supermarket which is sent by barcode to the person's phone (or if they do not have a

phone then a physical voucher can be supplied). CVST store information about people who have received a voucher on a secure database so that vouchers cannot be issued to a person more than once (unless there are exceptional circumstances).

Criteria for issuing a voucher is that it must come as a referral from a partner agency or a Social Prescribing Link Worker as it is a requirement that the person receiving the voucher is in receipt of ongoing support in order to tackle the underlying cause of the need rather than just act as a sticking plaster. Priority for food and fuel vouchers is given to families with children, people with long-term health conditions and older people.

Community Voluntary Services Tendring have provided the following breakdown of costs:

Description	Cost
1 x PT Resilience Support Officer (including management and on-costs)	£8,790
Food and fuel vouchers for those in emergency need	£20,000
Emergency repairs	£7,200
White goods, transport, clothing, bedding, food parcels	£9,000
Travel costs, administration, marketing materials	£5,010
TOTAL	£50,000

The outcomes for this funding will be:

- Immediate needs for warmth and food will be met for individuals and their families.
- People in desperate need will be able to access help to be able to repair heating or other essential household appliances, cookers, heaters etc.
- If people were open to further discussion, CVST would use this opportunity to connect people to other support and services that are available locally.
- The project will be a local focus for supporting people in extreme need and this may facilitate other community support activities to be developed.
- Increased feelings of wellbeing
- Improve engagement with other support agencies
- Improve management of health conditions (particularly those exacerbated by cold weather such as asthma and COPD)
- Increase self-reliance and resilience

More Generally:

- The Council will have ongoing oversight as to the progress of funded work to address inequality in Tendring through reporting by CVST.

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

