

26 October 2023

**Portfolio Holder for Partnerships Consultation**

**Report of Assistant Director (Partnerships)**

**A.1 Use of health inequalities funding to support the continuation of a Hospital Discharge Officer to work with patients of the hospital in Colchester who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.**

(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 £23,894 of the £600,000 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 (ESNEFT) for the purposes of addressing inequalities.

Up to £23,894 is proposed to be used for a post with Peabody for a Hospital Discharge Officer who will be in post until September 2024.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The CCG (now replaced by the Integrated Care Board (ICB)) and ESNEFT as part of the North East Essex Health and Wellbeing Alliance (The Alliance) 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 as part of The Alliance 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 (page 331 item g).

[\(Public Pack\)Agenda Document for Cabinet, 17/03/2023 10:30](#)

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 to support the continuation of a Hospital Discharge Officer with Peabody to work with patients of the hospital in Colchester who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Essex County Council have been funding the project for two years which

is delivered by Peabody and are now proposing to extend it for a further two years and are seeking match funding to do this.

The role provides a range of interventions for individuals attending hospital who are identified as homeless or at risk of homelessness. The success of this role demonstrated the need for its extension until September 2024, at which point it is hoped that evaluation will ensure it receives on going sustainable funding.

Funding for the Hospital Discharge Officer has been agreed at the Alliance Board via a highlight report sent to the Board in August 2022 which approved £23,894 to part fund a Hospital Discharge Officer for two years.

The Assistant Director for Partnerships is proposing to allocate up to £23,894 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 £23,894 from the health inequalities funding provided from The Alliance to contribute towards a Hospital Discharge 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.

It also helps to support the emerging Corporate Plan themes in relation to championing our local community as it supports health and wellbeing in the community and in addition working with partners to achieve this.

#### **FINANCE, OTHER RESOURCES AND RISK**

The Alliance have 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 and there is other proposed spending there are sufficient resources available to fund this post until September 2024.

The funding requirement is for £23 894 which will be for part funding a Hospital Discharge Officer for two years. Colchester Borough Council are also allocating the same amount of money to this post and then this is match funded from Essex County Council.

Funding will be utilised in line with the governance framework set out in the associated Cabinet Report 21<sup>st</sup> 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**

Inequalities Coordinator	£99,000
Harwich Family Solutions Officer	£90,000
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	£50,000
Hospital Discharge Officer	£24,000
<b>Unallocated</b>	<b>£162,000</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>£600,000</b>

#### **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 Alliance is subject to an MOU which has been signed by Tendring District Council, the CCG and ESNEFT.

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 £23,894 to be spent on a Hospital Discharge Officer.

Essex County Council are seeking match funding for this post delivered by Peabody which is a fixed post until September 2024.

This is an ongoing project and Peabody provide regular monitoring and update reports in terms of the actions undertaken by the officer and these are provided both to ECC and TDC.

## **Subsidy Control**

Essex County Council have been funding this project and have requested that match funding is provided by TDC (and Colchester City Council) so the project may continue.

It is proposed to provide the funding to ECC who can then pass funding to Peabody as they commissioned the service originally.

When setting up the project ECC have confirmed they conducted a full and thorough procurement for the Service that was compliant with ECC Commercial and Procurement Guidelines.

As this was subject to a procurement process then provision of funding would not be covered by Subsidy Control requirements.

As TDC will be passing money directly to ECC as commissioners for the post there will be no redundancy implications for TDC.

## **Monitoring Officer Consultation**

No further comments to be included, the concerns regarding whether this funding proposal was caught by the Subsidy Control Act 2022, raised with the service earlier in 2023, are now covered within the report and it is noted that Peabody were commissioned through a procurement exercise. The outcomes of the funding should be circulated wider, as these are unknown outside of the service area.

## **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 and emerging themes around championing our community and working with partners.

## **PART 3 – SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **BACKGROUND**

The Alliance have provided £600K 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**

Following contact from the Integrated Care Board (which replaced the CCG) with a request to support allocation to the continuation of a post of a Hospital Discharge Worker the Council is now seeking to support this post with £23,894 of funding. A similar amount is being allocated from Colchester City Council for the post which is then match funded by Essex County Council. The Officer works with patients of Colchester hospital who are homeless or at risk of homelessness to provide suitable interventions and reduce health inequalities among homeless patients.

The Officer is responsible for supporting through giving advice and if necessary providing interventions for those who present to the hospital as homeless or at risk of homelessness. It also applies to those that have become environmentally homeless while in hospital, due to a worsening of their health condition. The officer will follow the East Suffolk and North East Essex NHS Foundation Trust's (ESNEFT) Hospital Discharge Protocol which sets out arrangements between the ICB, ESNEFT, the Local Housing Authorities in Essex, and Peabody to work with patients of the hospital in Colchester who are homeless or at risk of homelessness across the north east Essex footprint.

Funding will support this Hospital Discharge Officer post which is already underway to continue until September 2024. The success so far means Peabody expect to be able to secure further sustainable funding for this post in future.

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 post holder will provide outreach support for patients. They will provide one off advice and guidance for patients who are homeless or at risk of homelessness such as help with form filling. They will engage with patients who require longer term support, helping them to arrange suitable accommodation for when they leave hospital whether at a night shelter, with family and friends or through the Local Housing Authority.

The outcomes for this post are as follows:

- Reduced bed blocking and reduced length of stay for patients where accommodation is a barrier to discharge.
- Reduced number of unplanned referrals to Local Housing Authorities for patients recently discharged from hospital.
- Reduced health inequalities among homeless patients.
- Reduced number of patients being discharged from hospital without suitable accommodation arrangements in place and therefore returning to conditions of homelessness or near-homelessness, further negatively affecting their health and wellbeing.

More Generally

- In terms of the wider advantages, supporting the continuation of the Hospital Discharge Officer post enables the local council to have greater oversight into the work underway to support the health and wellbeing outcomes of vulnerable residents who are homeless or at risk of homelessness while they are patients at Colchester hospital.

#### **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”

**Cabinet Report, 17 March 2023** Agenda Item 11 – Finance Performance Report

#### **APPENDICES**