

PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR PARTNERSHIPS

25 JANUARY 2024

Report of Assistant Director (Partnerships)

A.1 Use of Healthy Housing funding for mental health support for housing residents

(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 £165, 000 from the Healthy Housing funding provided to Tendring District Council from the Integrated Care Board (ICB) as part of the North East Essex Health and Wellbeing Alliance (The Alliance) for the purposes of addressing issues around housing and health.

Up to £165, 000 is proposed to be used to access mental health support for residents who have mental health issues and are identified as part of wider visits undertaken by council staff. For example where a housing inspection is undertaken which also reveals residents have mental health concerns and require wider support than the housing intervention that council staff can provide. It is currently proposed to deliver this service for approximately 2 years depending on resources.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Clinical Commissioning Group (now replaced by the Integrated Care Board (ICB)) provided £165 000 for addressing issues around healthy housing 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 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 an initiative to provide mental health support to residents as part of a housing intervention from housing and environmental health staff.

The proposal to allocate this funding to provide mental health support in relation to housing work has been approved by the Alliance Executive Group in January 2024.

The Assistant Director for Partnerships is proposing to allocate up to £165,000 of Healthy Housing funding to providing mental health support around housing 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 £165, 000 from the healthy housing funding provided from the North East Essex Health and Wellbeing Alliance to provide mental health support in relation to housing.
- 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 use of this funding to support residents in terms of mental health and housing meets the corporate priorities of pride in our area and services to residents and also working with partners to improve quality of life.

It will help improve services around housing as a holistic approach can be taken to support both the mental health need and also the housing need of residents as often poor housing and poor mental health are aligned. This approach will seek to deliver improvements in the health of residents who are facing mental health challenges.

FINANCE, OTHER RESOURCES AND RISK

The Alliance have provided £165,000 for use around health housing.

It is proposed to use the funding to provide mental health support to residents which council officers identify as part of their role around a housing or environmental intervention. This will allow an integrated approach where a housing or environmental need is identified but there are wider mental health needs as well.

This scheme has been funded previously and is currently in existence until March 2024 and therefore this funding will extend the delivery of this project.

It is proposed to continue this project for up to 2 years with the additional £165, 000 however the timescale may be shorter if all the funding is used up before that time as it may depend on the level of support required.

Previous funding for this project was originally provided to the Council but was subsequently returned to the ICB who then direct funded it and therefore a procurement process was not undertaken by the Council.

The current funding has been provided to the Council to allocate to health and housing work as it sees fit as the Council does significant work around housing provision and standards. Council staff have identified the value of the existing work and would like to see it extended and on that basis the money will not be returned to the ICB for this work but will be specifically procured by the Council.

Allocation of this funding will be via a Council procurement process.

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. However it is important to highlight that it will be important to consider the success / impact of the scheme to inform the Council's future priorities and budgets as it is likely to be very challenging to fund this activity from the Council's own resources if external funding is no longer available.

LEGAL

The funding provided by the ICB as part of the North East Essex Health and Wellbeing Alliance is subject to an MOU which has been signed by Tendring District Council the ICB.

Approval for allocating the funding to this role was provided by the Alliance Executive Group on 4 January 2024.

It is proposed to use the funding to contract with a mental health provider who can provide staff to support council staff who are undertaking interventions around housing.

This service will be procured and therefore will not be subject to any Subsidy Control requirements as it will not constitute a subsidy.

Monitoring Officer Consultation

Nothing further to add to the content of the report and confirm consultation has been undertaken.

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 use of funding to provide integrated and holistic support around housing and mental health will address the health inequalities faced by those in poor quality housing who often have concurrent mental health issues.

PART 3 – SUPPORTING INFORMATION

BACKGROUND

The ICB as part of The Alliance have provided £165, 000 for use around healthy housing to help address the wider determinants of health in respect of housing.

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> .

A project around healthy housing is already in existence funded by the ICB up to the end of March 2024. The existing project uses mental health nurses to support council staff who uncover mental health issues associated with residents who are receiving housing interventions.

The proposal is to continue this work beyond the current finish date in March 2024.

Approval for allocating the funding to this proposal was given at the Alliance Executive Group on 4 January 2024.

CURRENT POSITION

A health and housing project is currently in existence which provides support to council officers who undertake housing interventions and whilst doing so find that a resident has significant mental health issues as well which need to be resolved or the housing problem is likely to recur.

Housing and environmental staff have identified the value of this service and prior to seeking approval for extending this project were asked their view and explained that the mental health support provided by the nurses was invaluable in dealing with clients.

The existing project also saw the nurses providing regular support on the SOS bus in Clacton and Jaywick.

The proposed extension of this project will continue to see support provided to council officers undertaking housing interventions. A key focus of this is around addressing homelessness and ensuring tenancies are sustained to ensure residents mental health does not result in a further deterioration of their housing situation.

The existing service is provided in conjunction with Colchester City Council as well and they are seeking to continue funding this although at a reduced level due to resource constraints.

There will be a reduced service on the SOS bus but nurses will attend this on appointment basis to support around housing rather than being there on a regular basis picking up more general issues.

An addition to the service will be the inclusion of some dual diagnosis provision which will seek to support those who have both drug and alcohol issues which need resolving and which are commonly associated with those in poor quality housing.

This service will be procured and will run for up to two years in line with available resources.

The outcomes from this work are proposed to include

- helping to reduce homelessness and improve housing stability
- To increase access to services and especially for those who otherwise would not be accessing services
- To provide an integrated care approach
- To help develop staff knowledge across the system

It is therefore proposed to continue to monitor the following

- The number of mental health engagements
- The incidence of eviction, homelessness and housing transition in those referred
- The number of integrated approaches around housing, mental health and dual diagnosis
- Interventions, accessibility to services and outcomes from interventions.

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