

13 March 2025

Decision of Portfolio Holder for Partnerships

Report of Assistant Director for Economy Culture & Leisure

A.1 Use of health inequalities funding to support the continuation of funded roles in Tendring to address health inequalities

(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 £160,000 of the £600,000 from the health funding provided to Tendring District Council from the North East Essex Clinical Commissioning Group (NEECCG) (now the North East Essex Health and Wellbeing Alliance (the Alliance) and East Suffolk and North East Essex Foundation Trust for the purposes of addressing inequalities.

Up to £80,000 is proposed to be used to extend the current Fuel Poverty Officer role employed by Tendring District Council.

Up to £80,000 is proposed to be used to extend the current Housing & Benefits Early Intervention Officer role employed by Tendring District Council and seconded to the Essex County Council multi-disciplinary team.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the health inequalities funding was originally up until 2023 but was subsequently extended by the Alliance until 31 March 2025. No formal decision was undertaken by the Portfolio Holder at the time agreeing the extension of the MOU and therefore it is recommended that the Portfolio Holder now agrees this extension.

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 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 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 health funding to contribute towards the continuation of the Fuel Poverty Officer role and the Housing & Benefits Early Intervention Officer role already in place.

An indicative spend plan was presented and approved by the Alliance Board when the funding was first received which included spending on a Fuel Poverty Officer.

Since the Housing & Benefits 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 initially.

In December 2024, a highlight report was sent to the Alliance outlining what has been achieved in the Fuel Poverty role and the Housing & Benefits Early Intervention role to date and the Alliance agreed to the continuation of both roles using additional health funding provided to TDC.

The Assistant Director for Economy Culture & Leisure is proposing to allocate up to £160,000 of the overall inequalities in place funding to the continuation of these two roles and consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Partnerships and Section 151 and Monitoring Officers is sought to enable the Assistant Director for Economy Culture & Leisure to agree the outcomes and spending proposals for each project, as required by the authorised delegation from Cabinet.

In March 2022 the Alliance extended the MOU in for health inequalities funding to 31 March 2025 although this was not formally accepted by the Portfolio Holder for Partnerships at that time and so it is now proposed to accept the extension of the MOU up to 31 March 2025.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that:

- a) That, subject to (b) the Assistant Director for Economy Culture & Leisure agrees to the spending proposal of up to £160,000 from the health inequalities funding provided from the North East Essex Health and Wellbeing Alliance to contribute towards the continuation of the Fuel Poverty Officer role and the Housing & Benefits Early Intervention Officer role.**
- b) prior to implementation of this recommendation the Portfolio Holder for Partnerships is consulted on the outcomes and spending proposals for each project, following the consultation with the Section 151 and Monitoring Officers, and highlighting the implications set out within this Report to accompany the published Officer decision.**
- c) To agree the extension of the North East Essex Health and Wellbeing Alliance Health Inequalities Memorandum of Understanding until 31 March 2025.**

PART 2 – IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

DELIVERING PRIORITIES

The provision of the funding will help to deliver Community Leadership within the Corporate Plan by working with partners to improve quality of life and in particular to promote safer, healthier, well connected and inclusive communities.

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 has now been allocated, there are sufficient resources available to fund:

The Fuel Poverty Officer (currently ending 23 May 2025) using £80,000

The Housing & Benefits Officer (currently ending 31 March 2025) using £80,000

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

No further comments other than those set out elsewhere in the report.

LEGAL

The money provided by the CCG and ESNEFT 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 CCG and ESNEFT.

An indicative spend plan was taken to the Alliance Board when this funding was received and was approved. This included spending on a Fuel Poverty Officer.

Since the Housing & Benefits 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 initially.

In December 2024, a highlight report was sent to the Alliance outlining what has been achieved in the Housing & Benefits Early Intervention role and the Fuel Poverty role to date and the Alliance agreed to the continuation of both roles using additional health funding provided to TDC.

The Fuel Poverty Officer is a role employed by Tendring District Council.

The Housing and Benefits Early Intervention Officer is a role employed by Tendring District Council and seconded over to the ECC multi-disciplinary team.

The employment liability costs such as redundancy have been included within the funding amounts requested for these roles.

Subsidy Control

Fuel Poverty Officer

The post is employed by Tendring District Council. There will therefore be no Subsidy Control implications as the Council is not providing funding to an external organisation.

Housing and Benefits Early Intervention Officer

The post is employed by Tendring District Council and seconded over to the ECC multi-disciplinary team. There will therefore be no Subsidy Control implications as the Council is not providing funding to an external organisation.

Monitoring Officer Consultation

The decision being relied upon as set out in this report was made by Cabinet back in 2021, contained the draft MOU at Appendix 3, however, this document stated that the funding was for a period up to March 2023. It is understood from making enquires that the MOU was extended in March 2022, until March 2025, although not supported by a decision at Tendring. A decision is required to support the extension, but this should be made by the Portfolio Holder. Therefore, this decision should be altered to a Portfolio Holder decision rather than an officer one.

In addition, it is not that the MOU will expire in a few weeks, but the funding and the proposals go beyond this date.

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 provision of the funding will help to deliver Community Leadership within the Corporate Plan by working with partners to improve quality of life and in particular to promote safer, healthier, well connected and inclusive communities.

PART 3 – SUPPORTING INFORMATION

BACKGROUND

The North East Essex Health and Wellbeing Alliance have provided a total of £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>.

The MOU was extended in March 2022 and provided with a new end date of March 2025 (appendix B) A decision was not taken at that time to agree that extension and so is now included as a recommendation in this report.

An indicative spend plan was taken to the Alliance Board when this funding was received and was approved. This included spending on a Fuel Poverty Officer.

Since the Housing & Benefits 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 initially.

In December 2024, a highlight report was sent to the Alliance outlining what has been achieved in the Housing & Benefits Early Intervention role and the Fuel Poverty role to date

and the Alliance agreed to the continuation of both roles using additional health funding provided to TDC.

CURRENT POSITION

Fuel Poverty Officer employed by Tendring District Council

The outcome from the Fuel Poverty Officer role will be:

- Reducing numbers of households in fuel poverty within Tendring

which will be measured by:

- The number of households interacted with in terms fuel efficiency and or insulation
- The number of households interacted with in terms of benefits improvements

The impact will also be demonstrated via case studies which will highlight changes and improvements to people's lives as a result of receiving support from the Fuel Poverty Officer and the Energy Hub in Jaywick.

Housing and Benefits Early Intervention Officer employed by Tendring District Council and seconded to the Essex County Council multi-disciplinary team (MDT)

The outcomes for siting this post with the multi-disciplinary 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.
- In terms of the wider advantages, being part of the MDT enables the local council to become part of this progressive approach to supporting the most vulnerable families in Tendring.

Allocation of Inequalities Funding to date:

Area of spend	Amount allocated	Proposed in this report
Housing and Benefits Early Intervention Officer	£101,000	£80,000
Family Solutions Officer (Harwich)	£90,000	
Family Solutions Officer (Peripatetic)	£20,000	
Fuel Poverty Officer	£70,000	£80,000
Health Inequalities Coordinator	£86,000	
CVST Grant Contribution	£50,000	
Hospital Discharge Officer (Peabody)	£23,890	
TOTAL	£440,890	£159,110

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

Appendix A – Allocation of Funding checklist

Appendix B – Signed extended MOU for health inequalities funding

Appendix C

Allocation of Funding

The following checklist should be completed prior to allocating any funding and once completed a decision is required to allocate the funding.

Checklist	Yes/No	Comments
Will the funding align with the Corporate Plan Themes and Priorities and state which one and why? What are the outcomes expected	Yes	<p>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.</p> <p>Fuel Poverty Officer employed by Tendring District Council</p> <p>The outcome from the Fuel Poverty Officer role will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reducing numbers of households in fuel poverty within Tendring <p>which will be measured by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number of households interacted with in terms fuel efficiency and or insulation The number of households interacted with in terms of benefits improvements <p>The impact will also be demonstrated via case studies which will highlight changes and improvements to people’s health and wellbeing as a result of receiving support from the Fuel Poverty Officer and the Energy Hub in Jaywick.</p> <p>Housing and Benefits Early Intervention Officer employed by Tendring District Council and seconded to the Essex County Council multi-disciplinary team (MDT)</p> <p>The outcomes for siting this post with the multi-disciplinary team are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The post holder will become central in the team and provide housing and benefits advice to the most vulnerable families in Tendring.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • In terms of the wider advantages, being part of the MDT enables the local council to become part of this progressive approach to supporting the most vulnerable families in Tendring.
<p>Is there organisational capacity for using the funding within the timescales expected?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governance • Delivery <p>Have you consulted the relevant services where support is required?</p>	Yes	<p>In terms of the Fuel Poverty Officer, the funding will be used to create new capacity to address an identified issue which will not cause additional pressure for Council service areas but in fact support by providing a referral route for services to direct residents to who may be facing issues with fuel poverty.</p> <p>In terms of the Housing & Benefits Early Intervention Officer, this role is seconded to ECC and so will not place additional any additional pressure on Council service areas and their capacity. The role expands the capacity of the MDT to support families with complex needs by providing specialist housing and benefits support to residents in need.</p>
<p>Does allocation of the funding meet legal requirements?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procurement rules (if appropriate) • Governance requirements 	Yes	<p>The money provided by the CCG and ESNEFT 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 CCG and ESNEFT.</p> <p>An indicative spend plan was taken to the Alliance Board when this funding was received and was approved. This included spending on a Fuel Poverty Officer.</p> <p>Since the Housing & Benefits 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 initially.</p> <p>In December 2024, a highlight report was sent to the Alliance outlining what has been achieved in the Housing & Benefits Early Intervention role and the Fuel Poverty role to date and the Alliance agreed to the continuation of both roles using additional health funding provided to TDC.</p> <p>The Fuel Poverty Officer is a role employed by Tendring District Council.</p> <p>The Housing and Benefits Early Intervention Officer is a role employed by Tendring District Council and seconded over to the ECC multi-disciplinary team.</p>

		<p>The employment liability costs such as redundancy have been included within the funding amounts requested for these roles.</p> <p>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).</p>
Are there sufficient resources to allocate the funding?	Yes	<p>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. 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.</p> <p>We have sufficient resources to be able to allocate funding to the Fuel Poverty Officer role and the Housing & Benefits Early Intervention Officer role.</p>
Is allocation of funding in accordance with any conditions (if funding has been provided externally)	Yes	<p>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.</p> <p>In December 2024, a highlight report was sent to the Alliance outlining what has been achieved in the Housing & Benefits Early Intervention role and the Fuel Poverty role to date and the Alliance agreed to the continuation of both roles using additional health funding provided to TDC.</p>
Are criteria provided for how the recipient is to use the funding (e.g. via an application form, grant conditions or specification)?	N/A	<p>The funding will be used by TDC directly to support the continued funding of two roles.</p>
Which legal powers are being relied upon to support the use of the funding?		<p>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:-</p>

		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
Have you undertaken a Subsidy Control assessment? If so, what was the outcome?	No Subsidy Control assessment required	Fuel Poverty Officer The post is employed by Tendring District Council. There will therefore be no Subsidy Control implications as the Council is not providing funding to an external organisation. Housing and Benefits Early Intervention Officer The post is employed by Tendring District Council and seconded over to the ECC multi-disciplinary team. There will therefore be no Subsidy Control implications as the Council is not providing funding to an external organisation.
Is the Council best placed to allocate the funding (should it be allocated by the funder direct?)	Yes	The Council are recipients of the Inequalities funding. 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 to TDC 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 st 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 It is therefore the responsibility of the Council to allocate the Inequalities funding provided by the Health system to appropriate projects and roles.
Funding should not usually be allocated for	No	This funding will not be used for business as usual running costs. The funding will allow the opportunity to extend the duration of two fixed-term contract roles put in place to support

business as usual running costs		residents with fuel poverty at TDC and with issues related to housing and benefits as part of a wider ECC team.
Has a formal decision been taken to allocate the funding at Cabinet/Portfolio Holder level?	Yes	<p>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:-</p> <p>https://tdcdemocracy.tendringdc.gov.uk/documents/g1838/Public%20reports%20pack%2017th-Sep-2021%2010.30%20Cabinet.pdf?T=10 .</p> <p>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).</p> <p>(Public Pack)Agenda Document for Cabinet, 17/03/2023 10:30</p> <p>The appropriate governance process has been undertaken in order to allocate this funding. Prior to allocation of this funding, the Portfolio Holder for Partnerships has been 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. This will be accompanied by the published Officer decision.</p>