

Name of meeting: Cabinet
Date: 18 November 2020
Title of report: Batley, Birstall and Birkenshaw Place Partnership – supporting the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people.

Purpose of report:

To consider allocating £40,000 funding from the Place Partnership Mental Health themed budget towards support for children and young people in school and community settings in the Batley, Birstall and Birkenshaw Place Partnership area.

Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	No
Key Decision - Is it in the <u>Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports)</u>?	No
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	Yes
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name	Rachel Spencer-Henshall – 05/11/2020
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?	Eamonn Croston – 04/11/2020
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?	Karl Larrad – 05/11/2020
Cllr Cathy Scott Housing & Democracy	Cllr Cathy Scott – Housing & Democracy

Electoral wards affected: Batley East, Batley West and Birstall and Birkenshaw

Ward councillors consulted: Cllrs Habiban Zaman, Mahmood Akhtar, Yusra Hussain, Gwen Lowe, Shabir Pandor, Charlotte Goodwin, Elizabeth Smaje and Mark Thompson.

Public or private: Public.

Has GDPR been considered? Yes

1. Summary

A million pounds in total has been allocated by the Council to the seven place partnerships in Kirklees, for mental health and well-being initiatives.

The Batley Birstall and Birkenshaw Place Partnership led by Cllr Gwen Lowe (comprised of the wards identified above) is collaborating with local schools, and community youth providers, focussing on activities to support Children and Young mental health and wellbeing in the wake of the Covid 19 pandemic.

Evidence suggests that a range of low-level intervention and prevention activities can promote good mental health. The partnership acknowledges that schools and community partners are uniquely placed to support, identify issues early on and address them with early intervention support, to prevent problems escalating.

Councillors are mindful of the adverse effect the pandemic and the loss of usual activities and routines has had on children and young people. They may have experienced anxieties, bereavement, change in family circumstance such as relationship strain or loss of employment in the family. Community Hub Co-ordinators and a cross section of Community Partners have been engaged. This scheme is welcomed, and partners feel this additional funding is essential to help them support children and young people in settling back into the 'new normal'.

Each School and provider is unique and holds specific knowledge and understanding of their pupils and participants. Members intend to work with partners to tailor activities to suit the specific needs within their wards.

Schools and community providers will be invited to submit proposals to the place partnership framed on that local knowledge, and experience. These will be short-term early interventions made sustainable wherever feasible, where success is evident.

These initiatives will create or enhance opportunities to mitigate the impact on mental health during the pandemic and compliment higher level arrangements available from Northorpe Hall, government led initiatives, support from Kirklees Council and other organisations, to benefit the mental health and wellbeing of young people in Kirklees.

It meets the Batley Birstall and Birkenshaw Place Partnerships priority to improve mental health and wellbeing for children and young people and to build up knowledge and understanding in collaboration with other services and organisations, to glean a richer picture of issues in the area and interventions which have positive outcomes. This scheme will run alongside other Place Partnership programmes, where we hope to create networks of providers who are able to respond the mental health needs in our place.

Each programme will have an element of review and best practice.

2. Information required to take a decision

There is a real need to act swiftly to support activities that benefit children and young people, enabling timely interventions and support for low level mental health needs. As children and young people move into the 'new normal', many will have been away from school, friends, physically and emotional activities for several months, during the pandemic. The Batley Birstall and Birkenshaw Place Partnership wishes to support and enhance the arrangements and activities that schools, and the community are able to put in place at this difficult time.

Councillors in the Batley Birstall and Birkenshaw Place Partnership with their local knowledge and leadership roles, in consultation with school, community and support officers, feel the best

approach is to allocate funding at this point and give assurance that partners can build in support at the earliest opportunity.

If funding is approved by Cabinet, monies will be distributed between the three wards at the direction of the Batley, Birstall and Birkenshaw Place Partnership and on proposals being submitted to the partnership outlining the initiative details, associated costs, expected mental health outcomes, and sustainability. Projects will commence as soon as is feasible and within the financial year.

Expected impact/outcomes will be identified for each initiative. Community Hub Co-ordinators, KYA and Kirklees Detached Youth Team have offered to work with schools and community providers, to develop initiatives that meet identified outcomes of better mental health. Evaluation will be required, and successful initiatives will be shared through the place partnership and hub structures, so they may be sustained wherever feasible.

3. Implications for the Council

- **Working with People**

Each school or provider is unique and uniquely placed to identify what will work best in their school with their pupils, to address any difficulties pupils may be experiencing. We seek approval by Cabinet of the funding allocation to progress the delivery of a suite of schemes tailored by each school in consultation with others, for maximum impact and benefit to mental health.

- **Working with Partners**

The place partnership has collaborated with community hub co-ordinators in the place partnership area and community partners have been consulted. The emotional wellbeing of children and young people is a priority, particularly now on returning to the new normal in the wake of the pandemic. This funding if allocated, will give them more opportunity to deliver low level support, timely and tailored to issues that each partner may encounter.

- **Place Based Working**

Place based working recognises that the needs of local communities will vary. The partnership wishes to harness the local knowledge of those working most closely with children and young people and allow them to put forward their proposals to achieve the best outcomes and have maximum impact. There will be ongoing collaboration with the school hubs which consist of schools, community organisations, council services, partners and, as the proposals are developed, submitted and initiated the Batley Birstall and Birkenshaw communities

- **Climate Change and Air Quality**

No change

- **Improving outcomes for children**

Agreement to allocate this funding will have an impact on the Council priority: 'Children will have the best start in life'.

- **Other (e.g. Legal/Financial or Human Resources)**

The legal power for grants is section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 (general Power of Competence). Also, the council must when providing grants comply with Financial Procedure Rules contained in the Council's Constitution and in particular FPR 20.7 to 20.13.

Do you need an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)?

Yes, stage 1 will be undertaken and stage 2 if required for equality considerations regarding access to provision.

4. Consultees and their opinions

The proposals within the BBB place partnerships take a proportionate approach to supporting good mental health in these areas. There are some proposals aimed at the population level and others that have a more specific focus for vulnerable groups. The proposals have considered tackling the root causes of poor mental health, whilst also including proposals that consider positive mental health for all. The early intervention and prevention nature of these proposals is welcomed. Rebecca Elliott Public Health Manager.

BBest and Summer school hubs have been engaged in developing this proposal which will contribute to some of the outcomes from the mental health trailblazer being delivered by Northorpe Hall.

5. Next steps and timelines

Schools and Community provider will be invited to submit proposals. Council officers will on request support to identify specific proposals. Sustainability will be in built where feasible and monitoring and evaluation of all proposals will be required. This will inform future planning. It is envisaged that proposals could be submitted and implemented from Nov to March 2020 with children and young people benefiting from that period and beyond.

Officer recommendations and reasons

The Cabinet is asked to approve this funding from the Place Partnership mental health theme allocation to benefit children and young people in the Batley Birstall and Birkenshaw area.

£40,000 in total to be distributed to schools and community partners in the place partnership area. Schools will be invited to submit proposals to the Batley Birstall and Birkenshaw Place Partnership identifying how positive mental health outcomes will be achieved, evaluated and sustained.

Reasons for recommendation:

Reduction in youth activities and the current Covid 19 restrictions has had an adverse impact on the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people. The Batley Birstall and Birkenshaw Place Partnership wishes to see an allocation of funding to achieve positive outcomes in supporting the mental health of children and young people in the area.

In collaboration with Partners and their support arrangements, a richer picture of the needs will be identified, initiatives and good practice can be shared, and outcomes can be maximised.

6. Cabinet Portfolio Holder's recommendations

The Cabinet Portfolio Holder, Councillor Cathy Scott, supports the recommendations in this report and would ask Cabinet to approve funding of £40,000 from the Place Partnership mental health theme budget as outlined in section 6 of this report.

Reasons for the recommendation – to meet place partnerships agreed outcomes to support children and young people's mental health and wellbeing in the wake of the Covid 19 pandemic through a range of low level intervention and prevention activities to promote good mental health.

7. Contact officer

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8. Background Papers and History of Decisions

Annual Council 22nd May 2019 – item 7 Ward and Place Partnerships – establishment of place partnerships

9. Service Director responsible

Rachel Spencer- Henshall, Strategic Director Corporate Strategy, Commissioning & Public Health, email rachel.spencer-henshall@kirklees.gov.uk