

**Name of meeting:** Cabinet  
**Date:** 18 November 2020  
**Title of report:** Dewsbury Place Partnership – ‘Better Connected Dewsbury’ Proposals for allocation of mental health focus funding.

**Purpose of report:**

To consider allocating £142,857 from the Place Partnership mental health themed budget for the commissioning of three preventive and interlinked approaches to help address mental health priorities across Dewsbury.

<b>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?</b>	No
<b>Key Decision - Is it in the <u>Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports)</u>?</b>	No
<b>The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?</b>	Yes
<b>Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> &amp; name</b>	Rachel Spencer- Henshall 05/11/2020
<b>Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?</b>	Eamonn Croston - 04/11/2020
<b>Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?</b>	Karl Larrad – 04/11/2020
<b>Cabinet member <a href="#">portfolio</a></b>	Cllr Cathy Scott, Housing and Democracy

**Electoral wards affected:** Dewsbury East, Dewsbury West, and Dewsbury South wards.

**Ward councillors consulted:** Cllr C Scott, Cllr E Firth, Cllr A Lukic, Cllr M Hussain, Cllr D O'Donovan, Cllr M Pervaiz, Cllr M Ahmed, Cllr G Asif, Cllr N Dad.

**Public or private:** Public

**Has GDPR been considered?** Yes

**1. Summary**

A budget of £1m in total has been allocated by the Council to the 7 Place Partnerships in Kirklees for mental health and well-being initiatives that build local community capacity and resilience.

Councillors in the Dewsbury Place Partnership (DPP), (Dewsbury East, West and South wards), and led by Cllr Gulfam Asif, as Place Partnership Lead, agreed to focus their mental health theme work on adults facing the largest mental health inequalities across Dewsbury; in particular, those who often feel lonely and socially isolated, and/or those who do not access greenspaces (for whatever purpose) on a regular basis.

The Mental Health Intelligence Summary for Dewsbury provided by Kirklees Public Health, indicated two of the greatest 'challenges' needing to be better addressed in relation to mental health support for Dewsbury residents as; *the low and decreasing numbers of adults who feel socially connected*, as well as *low numbers reporting accessing greenspaces regularly (for whatever purpose)*.

In addition to the Intelligence Summary, the councillors considered a range of the most up to date research and suggested good practice to address these challenges.

One key report: 'Improving Access to Greenspace: A New Review for 2020' by Public Health England, advised "spending time in the natural environment improves our mental health and feelings of wellbeing. It can reduce stress, fatigue, anxiety, and depression. It can help boost immune systems, encourage physical activity, and may reduce the risk of chronic diseases such as asthma. It can combat loneliness and bind communities together'.

The Public Health England report recommends 'good practice' interventions; to enable and support increased access and use of greenspaces for nature connection, recreational and physical activities, as well as community and social connection and cohesion. These recommendations take account of barriers many faces in relation to regular access to greenspaces, and to achieving social connections; especially for those living in deprived neighbourhoods. This report's key recommendations helped inform and shape the development of the proposals in this report.

The DPP also gathered information about the pre-existing and planned services and activities across Dewsbury aimed at addressing these challenges. Taking advice from Public Health Manager, Mental Health, a short questionnaire was sent to key services and community organisations, explaining the DPP priorities, and asking what was already in place or planning; what works well; key assets, and any gaps or suggestions for additional interventions. From the responses, there was pre – lockdown, a good range of interventions, activities, and support on offer; however, a recognition that numbers of community groups, such as walking groups, is lower than in other Place Partnership patches. Responses indicated a more joined up and collectively planned local offer of support might enable more impact, plus additional preventive, and innovative approaches for those facing significant barriers.

Through their consultation and follow on discussions with services and groups, the Dewsbury Place Partnership recognises the range and strength of existing assets across Dewsbury; community groups, services, volunteers, and the vital contributions they make in supporting residents' emotional health and wellbeing.

This has been especially evident throughout Covid -19, with groups and services stepping forward to provide vital help through food provision and befriending support. The DPP is also

aware that a range of community support and connection that was previously available, particularly through local community centres, has now either completely ceased or vastly decreased. The Partnership wants to explore, with local groups, services, and volunteers, how best that place-based support offer can be sustained, as well as grow in capacity, impact, and sustainability. The planned development of the Dewsbury Mental Health network (as integral to the 'Health, Mind, Nature' project) is all about helping the discussions and hopefully better joined up planning and delivery that could support this to happen.

The DPP has become even more aware, as a result of engagement pre and during lockdown, of the wealth of greenspaces across the three Dewsbury wards; Spen Valley Greenway, Public Rights of Way, Footpaths, Canalside walkways, allotments, parks, playing fields, recreation grounds, woodland, and pocket parks. There was a good number and variety of activities delivered in these spaces. Covid – 19 has had an inevitable adverse impact. Anecdotal evidence and observation during lockdown have been that more people were getting out more often on local pathways, trails and into open space to enjoy them. The DPP wants to support continuation of that increased use. This is a key underpinning rationale for these proposals.

The overall proposal is underpinned by effective ongoing engagement with those not accessing greenspaces on a regular basis, as well as those feeling lonely and socially isolated. The aim is to better understand the barriers faced; physical, psychological, cultural, practical, circumstantial and to inform and shape delivery through working with local people. There will be follow on motivation, and support for change, with the aim that more local people will use greenspaces more frequently, and less will often feel lonely and socially isolated.

There will be awareness raising about the mental and physical health benefits of regular access to greenspaces, and groups and volunteers will help lead on this – including better mapping and promotion of local walking and cycling routes, as well as the range of other activities on offer.

A lead organisation will be commissioned, which has expertise in working with individuals and groups, to support increased emotional wellbeing; through nature appreciation workshops, physical activities such as walking groups, environmental improvement works, community growing schemes, and ecotherapy.

Lockdown has resulted in the rapid escalation of the shift of work, services, activities; many, many aspects of daily life, online. Those excluded through lack of kit, and /or skills and confidence, and /or lack of connectivity and data, will potentially become more and more excluded.

DPP councillors have become aware of how even more likely it is in lockdown that vulnerable local people could become even more lonely and isolated. The previous connections through community centres and their group activities have either ceased or greatly reduced. Older people, in particular those over 65 years old are especially likely to be digitally excluded.

Community centres in each of the three Dewsbury wards have advised the DPP members that they would like to have the capacity and expertise to support more of their users to be able to access community activities online, through community centre led sessions by Zoom. An added benefit would be to support an increase in digital skills in the community in general. A community centre or hub based digital inclusion initiative is the third area of development the DPP would like to support through the Mental Health focus funding. This will also support access to learning a new skill which is also one of the 5 ways to wellbeing.

## **2. Information required to take a decision**

The DPP 'Better Connected Dewsbury' proposals for allocation of mental health focus funding, consists of 3 mini, but interlinked projects as follows: -

- (a) 'Mind, Health Nature' 12-month pilot project commission
- (b) Enhancements of greenspaces in each of the three Dewsbury wards
- (c) 'Tech to Connect' a digital inclusion approach to help tackle isolation and loneliness.

Each of the three mini projects will benefit residents across the three Dewsbury wards as set out below.

### **2.1 'Mind, Health, Nature' – Dewsbury wide 12-month pilot project:**

S2R will be commissioned to provide a programme of workshops, mental health support sessions and activities to raise awareness of positive mental health and wellbeing interventions and support the breakdown of barriers to using the outdoors for health and wellbeing outcomes. They will help participants better understand, protect, and sustain their mental health.

S2R already work across Kirklees to deliver a range of mental health preventive approaches, such as the 'Great Outdoors Project' and 'Well Connected'. <https://www.s2r.org.uk/>

They are one of the partners in the 'Working Together Better' Kirklees Mental Health partnership and are one of the Kirklees Council commissioned Community Adult Mental Health Service providers. This also means that for anyone in need of further mental health support, they are well placed to connect those people to the relevant services – adding to the sustainability of the project.

Through this commissioned pilot project with a focus on Dewsbury, S2R shall:

- Engage individuals at home through digital and written media, taking account of language and cultural barriers.
- Work with community groups, offering user friendly mental health information through nature -based activities.
- Enable and support existing community groups to better understand emotional wellbeing, have constructive conversations, and know where and what other support would be appropriate/available.
- Bring together a Dewsbury wide 'mental health network' of mental health stakeholders, and explore the nature, purpose, and outcomes requested by network members.
- Promote a culture and deeper understanding of how access to and appreciation of nature is linked to wellbeing.
- Bring people together on a social level through groups – on and offline working, to help address loneliness and social isolation

S2R will deliver:

- Practical mental health awareness activities.
- Engagement with as many local groups and residents as possible, from all - neighbourhoods, communities of interest, cultures, religious beliefs, and ethnic origin.
- Mapping of local greenspaces; parks, walking and cycling routes, woodlands, nature trails, allotments, and activities available.
- Wellbeing packs online, and printed, promoting outdoor spaces, nature, and related activities.
- Case studies highlighting the benefits of nature for positive mental health and wellbeing.

Costs:

The total cost for the 12-month pilot project is £64,975. An itemised cost breakdown is attached in the appendix to this report.

Costs include £14,975 for the employment of a part-time mental health/wellbeing facilitator, as well as £29,000 to pay for 2 part-time 'outdoors' project workers. All hours will be devoted to activities within and across the three Dewsbury wards.

The Dewsbury Place Partnership would seek to allocate £52,857.00 from Mental Health Focus funding towards this cost. The balance of £12,118.00 would be met from members Local Project Funding, from across the three Dewsbury wards.

## **2.2 Improvements to greenspaces in key locations – one in each of the three Dewsbury wards.**

The 'Improving Access to Greenspace' 2020 report from Public Health England, included a recommendation that enhancing the local greenspace offer would encourage and attract more local people to use it.

The Place Partnership has brought together on a ward by ward basis; Environment Services (Parks & Greenspaces, Public Rights of Way), together with relevant Natural Kirklees members, Friends of Groups, TRAs, community growing groups, to identify a key greenspace location in each of the three Dewsbury wards, to develop proposals for, or to build upon previously existing plans and actions for improved facilities within and access to those spaces.

Participants in the S2R 'Mind, Health, Nature' project will potentially become involved in additional environmental maintenance works in these greenspaces, as well as the additional activities that will happen in these spaces, partly through the improvement works; for example through local walking groups, mapping of local networks of graded walks and cycle routes. This project also demonstrates how the impact of the project will last beyond the duration of the funding. It's not about a service, it's about changing the infrastructure for positive wellbeing to take place.

The locations for and details of the proposed enhancement works are as follows:

### **Dewsbury East Ward – Caulms Wood**

Led by the 'Friends of Caulms Wood group' and in partnership with the DPP and Environment Services, the works support the overall Friends group plans for improvements. In the last year, the group fund raised and built an 'outdoor classroom' in the park. These proposed works are included in their next stage plans to enhance the park.

Improvement works for the forthcoming year include:

- Wildlife pond
- Picnic areas x 2
- Memorial and other benches x 5
- Pathways and access route improvements
- Statue/public artwork
- Interpretation Boards x 2
- Memorial wood area/tree planting.

The total costs for these works are £67,675.00.



appropriate and necessary hardware, software, broadband connection, user agreement and ongoing maintenance requirements.

- Bring Your Own Device – using each respective centres’ WIFI – addressing data poverty
- Access to online courses around Coping with Covid, Mental Health First Aid etc (can also do Fit4Life, healthy eating and courses that consider climate change, as well as enabling the centres to shift some of the previous community centre provision online.)

Total cost	£ 88,000.00
Funding source – Dewsbury Town Advanced Funding	£80,000.00
Dewsbury South & East Members Local Project Funding	£8,000.00

‘Tech to Connect’ will be interlinked with the ‘Heart, Mind, Nature’ initiative – in that S2R provide, especially in times of Covid lockdown and tighter restrictions, online resource packs to support mental wellbeing for households. They also provide whatever mental health support workshop content they can online, when feasible, and are growing in capacity and strength in this. They have taken video footage of local walking routes with community walk groups for example and shared the footage and narrative online. They would want to link to the digital hubs to support them to increase their online offer of group and social activities.

#### **4. Implications for the Council**

- **Working with People**

Local community organisations and residents have contributed their experiences during the conversations with ward councillors across Dewsbury East, West, and South wards. A questionnaire went out to key services and local organisations in December 2019/January 2020. This asked about existing and planned activities across Dewsbury to address loneliness, as well as encouraging more people to access greenspaces on a regular basis.

A range of activities and groups were identified, however, a need to develop more joined up and innovative approaches was suggested, particularly in relation to working with residents facing barriers to using greenspaces on a regular basis, and to becoming more socially connected.

Their experiences have informed the agreed outcomes and priorities, and the proposals put forward.

- **Working with Partners**

The Dewsbury Place Partnership has worked collaboratively with Community Plus, Wellness Service, Public Health, S2R, Chickenley Community Hub, Thornhill Lees Community Centre, Thornhill Neighbourhood Nest, 20:20 Foundation, Ravensthorpe Community Centre, and local schools to better understand and map the existing offer to local communities as well as gaps and unmet need.

- **Place Based Working**

Place Partnerships involve a number of wards working together to address strategic issues and a place partnership lead Councillor has been identified for each of the seven place partnerships to lead the development of place-based working in their area. The success of the place partnerships is based on Councillors and key partners being engaged and working together effectively to share intelligence and deliver interventions.

The Dewsbury Place Partnership lead member has worked with ward Councillors and undertaken local discussions with communities, services and partners to share data and intelligence in order to better understand local needs and opportunities which has been used to shape and propose interventions that will lead to better outcomes.

- **Climate Change and Air Quality**

No change

- **Improving outcomes for children**

Yes – Children would benefit from adults in their family having better understanding of how anyone better understands, protects, and sustains their mental health.

- **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.

Place partnerships have been allocated a total budget of £1M to improve mental health outcomes and £400K to tackle domestic abuse.

This proposal is seeking funding of £142,857.00 to enable an overall investment of £298,840 across Dewsbury, to realise a Dewsbury wide pilot initiative for 12 months, that will work with at least 500 residents across Dewsbury to help them better understand, protect, and sustain their mental health. More people will get out into greenspaces on a regular basis, they will enjoy enhanced greenspaces, and they will be better able to access on a digital basis the information and contacts they need to help them better connect.

#### **Do you need an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)?**

Yes.

#### **5. Consultees and their opinions**

All nine Dewsbury ward councillors as well as the services/ partners involved in delivery or identifying the target groups in the place partnership area, have been consulted on the specific proposals in this report and these proposals are welcomed.

Rebecca Elliott, Public Health Manager- Mental Health, Public Health, and Tony Bacon, Partnership Commissioning Manager, Mental Health have both been involved and consulted in the development of these proposals.

They advised that the 'Mind, Health, Nature' proposal 'takes a good public mental health approach'. They liked the way that S2R commented on targeting or working with those most impacted by Covid-19, and on how important this would be from a health inequalities perspective. Public Health advised they would be keen to be involved with these projects going forward.

From previous knowledge of Council led commissioning of S2R, Tony Bacon advised S2R have a 'hands on' approach, working very closely with communities.

The proposal would sit well with S2R current contracted provision and would link well.



Nadine Littlewood, Project Lead for Community Learning and Digital Inclusion, is the Council lead in the partnership development of the digital hub's initiative, and Mark Hollingdale and Charles Crossland are involved in the development of the proposals from IT Services.

Patrick Boosey, Wellbeing Service Lead and Karen Wilby, Community Plus Manager, Dewsbury have been consulted.

Martin Dearnley, Head of Risk Corporate and Corporate Procurement and Commissioning has advised on the approach to take when commissioning activity with the place partnership funding.

## **6. Next steps and timelines**

Following an Expression of Interest process, in which three organisations were invited to take part, S2R will be commissioned to deliver the 'Mind, Health & Nature' element of the proposals.

They have proposed a number of quantitative and qualitative outcomes, based on the brief provided by the Dewsbury Place Partnership. These will be included in the commissioning contract. A quarterly monitoring report will be provided to the Place Partnership, as well as a quarterly meeting between S2R and the Partnership on the monitoring return and next quarter steps and focus. It is anticipated that delivery will be from early January 2021, to December 2021. A Covid-19 lockdown and/or restrictions may well have an impact, however there will be ongoing discussions about project impact and response.

The greenspaces enhancement proposals have been developed in partnership with Kirklees Environment Services and a range of Friends Of/TRA and environmental groups. The works proposed will go out to tender as soon as possible after funding is approved, and the works should start in February/March 2021. There will be regular reports on progress on works to the DPP, Services, and community partners.

The digital inclusion hubs will benefit from funding secured through the Dewsbury Town Board funding and Members Local Project Funding, and the funding will be allocated by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021. Adult Learning has appointed a project manager for the initiative, and they will work with each of the community hubs to agree the hub by hub specifications, outcomes, timelines, and monitoring processes.

## **Officer recommendations and reasons**

The Cabinet is asked to approve funding of £142,857.00 from the Place Partnership Mental Health theme budget to realise the 'Better Connected Dewsbury' project which will support adults to 'better understand, protect and sustain their mental health'.

More adults will use greenspaces on a regular basis for the purpose of supporting their mental health, and less residents will feel lonely and socially isolated.

S2R will deliver a 12 month 'Mind, Health and Nature' pilot project at a cost of £64,975. The amount sought from the Place Partnership mental health theme allocation for this project is **£52,857.00**. The balance of £12,118.00 would be met from members Local Project Funding, from across the three Dewsbury wards.

Environment Services will put out works to tender for greenspace enhancements in each of the three Dewsbury Wards; most specifically in Caulms Wood, Dewsbury East ward, Lees Holm Recreation Ground in Dewsbury South ward and Holroyd Park, Dewsbury West ward. The amount sought from Place Partnership mental health theme allocation is **£90,000**. The balance

will be met from Members Local Project Funding and other match funding sources, as detailed in Appendix 1 of this report.

Members Local Project Funding as well as Dewsbury Town Centre Investment funding will provide the £88,000 required to enable community hubs in Dewsbury Town Centre, Dewsbury East, West and South wards to provide capacity for community groups to upskill the digitally excluded within the respective communities in the use of hardware and software; to loan devices for those who are digitally excluded and don't have access – reducing social isolation and supporting the improvement and sustainability of good mental health.

#### **7. Cabinet Portfolio Holder's recommendations**

The Cabinet Portfolio Holder, Cllr Cathy Scott, supports the recommendation in this report and would ask Cabinet to approve funding of £142,857 from the Place Partnership mental health theme budget as outlined in section 6 of this report.

Reasons for recommendation - the allocation of £142,857 from the Place Partnership mental health theme budget, plus additional funding from other sources of £155,983, will realise an overall investment of £298,840. This will provide preventive approaches for addressing mental health issues for the residents of Dewsbury by increasing the number of adults accessing greenspaces on a regular basis, as well as reducing the number of adults feeling lonely and socially isolated.

#### **8. Contact officer**

Jackie Ingham , Active Citizens & Places Officer, email [jackie.ingham@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:jackie.ingham@kirklees.gov.uk) Tel 01484 221000

#### **9. Background Papers and History of Decisions**

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

#### **10. Service Director responsible**

Rachel Spencer- Henshall, Strategic Director Corporate Strategy, Commissioning & Public Health

Full guidance for writing Cabinet reports is here -

<http://modgovdb01vm:9070/ecSDDisplay.aspx?NAME=SD2066&ID=2066&RPID=131247>

## Appendix 1

<b>Dewsbury Place Partnership – ‘Better Connected Dewsbury’</b>	<b>Costs</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Sources of Funding</b>	<b>Amount Contributed</b>
<b>‘Mind, Health, Nature’ – commission of S2R for 12-month pilot</b>	Staff	£ 43,975.00	Place Partnership MH budget (PP MH Budget)	£43, 975.00
	Travel costs	£ 1,500.00	PP MH budget	£1, 500.00
	Workshop materials	£ 4,000.00	PP MH budget	£4, 000.00
	Volunteer training and expenses	£ 3,000.00	PP MH budget	£3, 000.00
	Room Hire/group set up	£ 3,000.00	PP MH budget	£382.00
			Members Local Project Funding (MLPF)	£2,618.00
	Consultation/networking	£ 2,000.00	MLPF	£2, 000.00
	Administration/monitoring	£ 3,000.00	MLPF	£3, 000.00
	Insurance	£ 2,000.00	MLPF	£2, 000.00
	Information packs	£ 1,500.00	MLPF	£1, 500.00
	Marketing /promotion	£1,000.00	MLPF	£1,000.00
			Total PP MH budget	£52,857.00
			Total MLPF	£12,118.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 64,975.00</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 64,975.00</b>	
<b>Greenspace Enhancements - 1 in each Dewsbury ward</b>				
<b>Dewsbury East Ward - Caulms Wood</b>	Wildlife Pond	£ 1,800.00	PP MH budget (Total £30,000)	£1,800.00
	Path and access improvements	£ 55,000.00		£20,000.00
	Benches x6	£ 1,725.00		£1,725.00
	Picnic benches x3	£ 1,710.00		£1,710.00
	Interpretation Board	£ 1,440.00		£1,440.00
	Sculpture	£ 6,000.00		£3,325.00
	Path and access improvements		Dewsbury Town Fund Advanced Funding	£35,000.00
			MLPF	£2,675.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 67,675.00</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>£67,675.00</b>	

## Appendix 1

<b>Dewsbury South - Lees Holm Recreation Ground</b>	Walking Path - 253 m tarmac	£ 27,830.00	PP MH budget	£ 27,830.00
	Wildflowers - 450sq m	£ 6,500.00	PP MH budget MLPF	£ 2,170.00 £ 4,330.00
	Community Woodland	£ 2,500.00	Woodland Trust allocation	£ 2,500.00
	Total	£ 36,830.00	Total	£36,830.00
<b>Dewsbury West - Holroyd Park</b>	Walking Path - 367m	£ 41,360.00	PP MH budget	£30,000.00
			MLPF	£11,360.00
	Total	£ 41,360.00	Total	£41,360.00
<b>Dewsbury Hubs - Digital Inclusion</b>				
4 x hubs infrastructure – Dewsbury Town Centre On hub/community centre per ward	Hardware, software, licences, insurance	£ 80,000.00	Dewsbury Town Fund Advanced Funding	£80,000.00
	Google Chrome books for lending- contribution	£ 8,000.00	MLPF	£8,000.00
	Total	£ 88,000.00	Total	£88,000.00
	<b>'Better Connected Dewsbury' Overall Project Total Cost</b>			£ 298,840.00
			PP MH budget	£ 142,857.00
			Other Sources /Match Funding	£ 155,983.00