

Name of meeting: Cabinet
Date: Wednesday 18th November 2020
Title of report: Huddersfield Rural Place Partnership – proposal to boost schools’ capacity to support children and young people’s mental health and well-being

Purpose of report:

To consider allocating funding of £187,778 from the Place Partnership mental health themed budget to boost mental health support and capacity in the schools in the Huddersfield Rural Place Partnership area. This will support children and young people to maintain positive mental health and emotional well-being.

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?	Joh Chapman – 04/11/2020
Cabinet member <u>portfolio</u>	Cllr Cathy Scott, Housing and Democracy

Electoral wards affected: Denby Dale, Kirkburton, Holme Valley North, Holme Valley South

Ward councillors consulted:

Councillors Bill Armer, Paul Davies, Donald Firth, Charles Greaves, Terry Lyons, Nigel Patrick, Will Simpson, Richard Smith, John Taylor, Graham Turner, Michael Watson, Paul White

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.

'The Department for Education (DfE) recognises that: "in order to help their pupils succeed; schools have a role to play in supporting them to be resilient and mentally healthy". There is good evidence to support this assertion and Ofsted has highlighted that children and young people themselves say that they want to learn more about how to keep themselves emotionally healthy. Moreover, schools have a duty to promote the wellbeing of students.

Councillors in the Huddersfield Rural Place Partnership led by Cllr Bill Armer (Denby Dale, Kirkburton, Holme Valley North, Holme Valley South) are focusing their mental health theme work on children, young people and families in school settings. This was based on initial local profile data and information.

Year 9 well-being survey carried out in 2013/14:

A lower proportion of young people (66%) say that they feel well supported at school (2nd lowest area, Kirklees average was 72%); and

38% of young people worry most days, this is a worsening trend (compared to Kirklees average of 35%)

Insights from local engagement with GPs, schools and front-line services in February 2020:

Waiting lists for referral to counselling and other professional services from the area are too long.

There is a need for early access to local networks, support and information.

There is a need to build local capacity re resources, skills, and activities.

Thriving Kirklees received 60-70 requests per month for mental health support from GPs and schools across the 4 wards in the 6-month period September 2019 to March 2020, mainly for 10-14 year olds.

During Summer 2020 conversations took place between school well-being leads, school leaders, school community hub co-ordinators and professionals to understand how the schools access services, their capacity, and what the gaps are. And how they could assist children, young people and families *before* the stage of needing to make a referral to professional services.

Cllrs Armer, Davies and Lyons took part in the working party discussions. Representatives from a number of teams in Early Support and Learning, Public Health, primary care networks and the voluntary & community sector participated.

There was consensus on the need to build further capacity around early assessment and support in the 37 schools, which collectively support the wellbeing of 10,237 children, and their families (including post 16 provision at Shelley College). With a focus on:

A whole family approach (children's and adults services are not integrated)

A whole school approach

Building resilience

This proposal is seeking funding for a project that will entail two mental health professionals working across the 37 schools in the 4 wards (excluding nursery provision/ special schools) for 18 -30 months. It includes undertaking a full evaluation of the impact of the project.

The posts will provide schools with the tools they need to develop different ways to help their children and families. Key aims are to:

- Develop a relationship with key school professionals who make up a well-being team e.g. EWB (emotional well-being).
- Visit the school for regular meetings with the wellbeing teams and discuss any concerns regarding individual children, providing advice and guidance to school professionals.
- • Develop a relationship with community hub coordinators and explore community-based solutions for children and families when appropriate. (The Bridge, Holmfirth Family and Holme Valley North Hubs).
- Work with partners to improve the assessment process where necessary and oversee the referral process for children and families that require greater intervention.

- Ensure that standards of training and awareness raising is of a high standard, delivered by people qualified in mental health services.
- Support the emotional wellbeing preparation of young people for progression to post 16 education.
- Assist school management and mental health teams to develop whole school strategies to emotional and mental wellbeing.

The posts will not carry out one-one work with children and families, so they do not duplicate provision from existing services and teams.

The proposal meets the outcomes agreed by the partnership work over Summer 2020 to:

- Develop new ways of working e.g. help develop new communication structures with external partners & Council colleague, develop relationships and structures within the wider community.
- Reduce demand on mental health services, through supporting prevention and early intervention in school settings, as all have waiting lists, and struggle to keep up with demand.
- Develop a greater understanding of the mental health challenges within schools.
- Raise awareness across the whole school community, enabling them to establish more early intervention and prevention initiatives.
- Support early assessments of mental health within schools.
- Assist schools with the development of whole-family interventions.

At the end of the project schools will have a greater understanding of the mental health and well-being issues being experienced by children, young people and families in the Huddersfield Rural area. They will have the tools, resources, skills and networks to continue to provide early intervention help and support. The project will also leave a legacy of improved working relationships between schools and professionals and more effective working across the system.

The working party also recognised that capacity and needs vary across the schools in this area, and between secondary and primary. As a result, and in addition to this proposal, work is also being led by the school community hub co-ordinators with a view to making the existing local authority and partners support work better for these schools within existing capacity. Also, to improve communications and networking e.g. with the introduction of an on-line filtering system.

2. Information required to take a decision

Place Partnerships have been allocated a total budget of £1M to improve mental health outcomes using data, intelligence and insight gathered through stakeholder engagement, to propose interventions that will lead to better outcomes. Place Partnerships refer recommendations to Cabinet on how this budget will be spent.

Cabinet is asked to consider the funding options to appoint a host organisation for the 2 mental health and well-being posts including an evaluation over the timescales of 18 months, 24 months and 30 months.

The working party took the view that the optimum timescale for the project would be 30 months in order for the posts to bed in and for full evaluation and learning to take place.

Advice from the Council's Procurement and Commissioning Support Team also indicates that a 2-year timescale is best practice for undertaking and evaluating the impact of the project and determining next steps.

Option 1 – cost over 18 months

Two individuals employed by a team that can provide professional support, on fixed term contracts for 18 months with all oncosts, travel costs and materials. Total budget = £109,026

Option 2 – cost over 24 months

Two individuals employed by a team that can provide professional support, on fixed term contracts for 24 months with all oncosts, travel costs and materials. Total budget = £148,226

Option 3 – cost over 30 months

Two individuals employed by a team that can provide professional support, on fixed term contracts for 30 months with all oncosts, travel costs and materials. Total budget = £187,778

In accordance with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules a procurement exercise will be undertaken to appoint a host organisation for the project.

3. Implications for the Council

- **Working with People**

Schools, GPs and professionals shared the experiences of local young people and families in the 4 wards during the engagement and conversations with ward councillors. These have informed the agreed outcomes and priorities, and the proposals put forward.

- **Working with Partners**

The place partnership has worked collaboratively with the 3 school hubs across the 4 wards: The Bridge, Holmfirth Family and Holme Valley North Hubs. Emotional health and well-being are a priority and there have been ongoing discussions including at the hub meetings. Representatives on the school hubs include local GPs, frontline staff in services, community organisations and ward councillors.

The working party in Summer 2020 included school well-being leads, school leaders, school community hub co-ordinators and professionals (teams in Early Support and Learning, Public Health, primary care networks and the voluntary & community sector).

- **Place Based Working**

Cllr Bill Armer, Huddersfield Rural Place Partnership lead member has worked with ward councillors and local discussions have taken place 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 put forward this proposal.

- **Climate Change and Air Quality**

No change

- **Improving outcomes for children**

This proposal impacts on the Kirklees shared outcomes:

- Ensuring children have the best start in life, by ensuring the schools and families are better equipped with the tools they need to support the children's emotional and mental wellbeing.
- Helping people in Kirklees to live well, by supporting families to maintain or improve their emotional and mental wellbeing.
- Helping people to be independent by providing them with the tools they need to build personal resilience and take control of their own lives.
- Encouraging people in Kirklees to have aspirations and ambitions, by providing them with greater personal resilience, confidence and self-belief.

- **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 to support a local mental health initiative which will supporting and building capacity in local schools and impact positively on local communities.

Do you need an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)?

A stage one assessment has been carried out. This indicated a positive impact and no detriment to the protected categories, and that a stage two assessment is not necessary.

4. Consultees and their opinions

Conversations between ward councillors, front line services, schools, GPs, and community organisations informed the desired outcomes and priorities for improving mental health and well-being among children and families.

All 12 ward councillors, schools in the place partnership area and GP representatives of the primary care networks have shaped and been consulted on the specific proposals in this report and these proposals are welcomed.

The Senior Leadership Teams in Education and Early Years welcome the proposal and are keen that the posts link with what is already available to schools and families.

Discussions have taken place with a number of teams in the Early Support and Learning Service. To ensure the roles will be complementary with existing provision and that professionals will work with the roles. Similar discussions have taken place with Locala teams 0-19 and Thriving Kirklees.

Public Health/ Commissioning leads – Stewart Horn, Head of Joint Commissioning Children and Families has advised that it is really important from a commissioning perspective to state that we will ensure that any provision aligns with currently commissioned services and the Mental Health in schools teams. It is really important for us to maintain a consistent approach and this can be done whilst retaining a local focus.

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.

Stacey Gilman, Strategic Category Manager (Adults, Childrens and Public Health) has advised that CPR's state that all procurement spend between £25k and the EU threshold (currently £189,330 for supplies and services) must be advertised and a competitive procurement exercise carried out.

5. Next steps and timelines

Subject to funding being agreed by Cabinet a procurement exercise to commission a host organisation for the project will be undertaken over the next 8 weeks with a view to appointing a contractor in January 2021. The contractor will recruit and appoint 2 workers to be in post in March/ April 2021. Depending on the funding agreed by Cabinet the project including evaluation will last for 18 -30 months.

The evaluation will inform development of next steps to build mental health and well-being capacity in the schools in the place partnership area working with local services, partners and communities which link in with the Kirklees wide offer.

6. Officer recommendations and reasons

Cabinet is asked to consider funding option 3 as outlined below from the Place Partnership mental health theme allocation for 2 posts to boost mental health capacity and support in schools in the Huddersfield Rural Place Partnership area.

Option 1 - 18 months - £109, 026

Option 2 - 24 months - £148,226

Option 3 - 30 months - £187,778

Reasons for the recommendation – to meet Huddersfield Rural place partnership's agreed outcome to improve mental health support and capacity in the 37 schools in the 4 wards with a focus on early intervention and prevention.

7. Cabinet Portfolio Holder's recommendations

The Cabinet Portfolio Holder, Councillor Cathy Scott, supports the proposal in this report and would ask Cabinet to approve funding based on the maximum budget the Huddersfield Rural place partnership has available, with the balance contributed through ward budgets and/or match funding.

Reasons for recommendation – to meet Huddersfield Rural place partnership's agreed outcome to improve mental health support and capacity in the 37 schools in the 4 wards with a focus on early intervention and prevention.

8. Contact officer

Julie McDowell, Active Citizens & Places Officer, email julie.mcdowell@kirklees.gov.uk Tel 01484 221000

9. Background Papers and History of Decisions

Annual Council 22nd 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