

Name of meeting: Cabinet
Date: 16th February 2021
Title of report: Place Partnerships - WEvolve Community Support Programme

Purpose of report:

To consider allocating £140,000 funding from the Place Partnership mental health themed budget to deliver the WEvolve Community Support Programme in the Huddersfield North and Central Place Partnerships.

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 – 08/02/2021
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?	Eamonn Croston – 08/02/2021
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?	Julie Muscroft – 02/02/2021
Cllr Cathy Scott Housing & Democracy	Cllr Cathy Scott – Housing & Democracy

Electoral wards affected: Almondbury, Ashbrow, Crosland Moor and Netherton, Dalton, Greenhead and Newsome

Ward councillors consulted: Cllrs Alison Munro, Bernard McGuin, Paola Davies, Amanda Pinnock, Harpreet Uppal, James Homewood, Erin Hill, Manisha Kaushik, Mohammad Sarwar, Peter McBride, Musarrat Khan, Naheed Mather, Sheikh Ullah, Carole Pattison, Mohan Sokhal, Andrew Cooper, Karen Allison, Susan Lee-Richards.

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 seven Place Partnerships in Kirklees to support local mental health initiatives whilst also supporting and building local voluntary/community capacity.

Councillors in the Huddersfield Central and Huddersfield North Place Partnerships wish to allocate a proportion of their budget to develop support to improve the mental health and resilience of local residents and young people by ensuring VCSE and other partner organisations (including those organisations who support Schools) are able to continue to provide and adapt their existing services / activities or by being proactive in providing new initiatives where there is identified needs and gaps so that their current and new users can come together to take part in a safe and effective way to aid their mental health and wellbeing.

Evidence suggests that a range of low-level intervention and prevention activities can promote good mental health. The Place Partnership acknowledges that VCSE, Schools and partner organisations are uniquely placed to support communities, identify issues early on and address them with early intervention support, to prevent problems escalating. With knowledge and understanding of their communities, they can tailor interventions to suit the specific needs within their areas, responding in a place-based way or working.

Supporting the VCSE and partner organisations infrastructure costs will enable them to sustain the continuation of their services and activities that they offer. It will also support them with the capacity to increase their services and activities through the development of outreach sessions and opportunities locally. We will therefore be ensuring the longevity of these organisations into the future, post Covid. We envisage that post Covid demand for their services will increase and we need to put them in a position where they have the security and resources to meet the demands and increase their offer of activities and services.

It is important to note that this programme of support will not be an open funding pot for organisations to apply to. It will be targeted to commission those organisations that provide locally based services that support mental health, wellbeing and help reduce isolation. The Place Partnership will work with VCSE and partner organisations to co-produce services and commission activities within and across both place partnership areas that help meet identified needs and priorities.

This proposal has been influenced by a number of engagement sessions pre Covid, with elected members, a range of officers and third sector partners. This has highlighted that groups and organisations felt that support was needed that would enable them to be in a position where they can continue and thrive with their support services and activities.

In addition, anecdotal information gleaned by ward councillors, services and third sector partners from local communities is that the Covid 19 lockdown has had an impact on stress and anxiety caused by loneliness and depression as a result of isolation/shielding, job insecurity, redundancies being furloughed, loss of income and worrying about the future.

The proposal meets the partnership's agreed outcomes to **socially connect adults** and **building community resilience** in order to have a positive impact on residents and young people's mental health and wellbeing this will be done by: -

1. **Supporting our local grass root groups** – to provide the local support where trust and continuing connections are made. To link in with other services/networks where appropriate.

2. **Increasing outreach/reach across our wards** – larger local organisations don't routinely do outreach services in wards & neighbourhoods – we need to identify how we can support them to do more of this and help build capacity/skills in partnership with our local grass root groups. Especially those that are, in the main, run by elderly volunteers, to come out of covid and deliver their activities in different ways (e.g. when buildings re-open and moving them on line by providing relevant support, IT equipment, training, confidence building etc).
3. **Tackling social isolation and loneliness** - Coming out of lockdown – resources to help people adapt to the 'new normal' and access services and support.
4. **Developing support packages and training opportunities to meet the needs of local residents (including young people)** – support and funding to local groups/organisations across the wards to help them continue to run, re-start existing or develop new mental health and wellbeing activities (in community settings/buildings and online).
5. **Creating intergenerational and health and wellbeing opportunities** by working with our local Schools to engage families and extended families to support their mental health needs. E.g. fun activities, holistic support, sharing stories/ memories lived experiences, therapeutic sessions, and counselling.

Proposals will be invited by Councillors to VCSE, partner organisations and Schools to come forward to the place partnerships with ideas/proposals for consideration. All proposals will need to evidence how they will meet the above criteria and help improve mental health and wellbeing outcomes, demonstrate impact, increase capacity, and make a difference. All proposals will be assessed by Active Citizen officers, Public Health and Mental Health leads. It is recognised that some proposals will be delivered across both partnership areas (Huddersfield) some maybe bespoke place partnerships areas (Huddersfield Centre and or Huddersfield North) and relevant wards where appropriate and deemed necessary based on evidence of need.

It is expected through this funding that as well as supporting organisations to meet the outcomes as above this will be done by; maintaining capacity of the organisations through funding for essential costs such as staffing, infrastructure, equipment, resources and developments/sustainability, recognising that for many organisations operating during and post Covid they will need this to maintain and or expand their services / activities. Through this funding we want to ensure the growth and development of the VCSE sector given the current climate and future challenges that lay ahead post Covid.

All 18 Councillors will have the opportunity to discuss and consider proposals that come forward through both Place Partnership (specific process framework to be put in place to ensure transparency and fairness). The leads from both place partnerships will then consider all Members recommendations and the leads will then confirm next steps regarding the commissioning of activity.

2. Information required to take a decision

The Mental Health WEvolve Community Support Programme broadly consists of the elements below.

Objective

To develop a place-based approach to supporting the VCSE, partners and Schools ability to support adults and young people in communities facing low level mental health challenges.

Project Details

To focus on locally based lead groups and organisations who have a proven track record of delivering on mental health outcomes and the ability to work in a place-based way through outreach and engagement to be able to extend their offer and reach to deliver mental health support to community across the Place Partnership areas.

Place Partnership Area Community Support Approach

Across each Place Partnership area, groups and partner organisations will be identified from previous engagement activities who can provide services and activities needed which meet the above outcomes and criteria.

Councillors from across all the Place Partnership areas with their local knowledge, leadership roles and support from officers, feel the best approach is to work collaboratively with community groups and partner organisations and allocate funding so they can put provision in place to deliver their activities/services relating to the needs of local people as they arise.

Should funding of £140,000 be approved by Cabinet, the specific allocation from each place partnership will be used to commission VCSE, partner organisations and Schools where appropriate. Detailed proposals will be finalised setting out associated costs, expected mental health outcomes, evaluating impact and sustainability plans. Measures will be put in place to ensure other existing funding streams are aligned this funding to avoid duplication and to give added value to Community interventions. Projects will commence as soon as is feasible given the current climate and Covid-19 guidance.

Additional expected impact and outcomes: -

- Sustaining local providers to be able to give the support needed. Ensuring people find the right support, at the right time, in the right place.
- Linking people to the most local and appropriate mental health activities and support. People who access local provision are supported into appropriate local service and community programme.
- Improving access to Mental Health opportunities in communities.
- Reducing the need for GP and Service interventions. People being able to find the right mental health and wellbeing support locally, leading to a reduction in accessing services at a higher level.
- By providing early intervention and prevention opportunities this will support our overarching outcome to socially connect adults and build community resilience.

3. Implications for the Council

- **Working with People**

VCSE and partner organisations have informed the need for this programme of support. Through engagement with them their experiences have informed the agreed outcomes and priorities set out in this report.

- **Working with Partners**

Throughout the development of the programme, elected members have engaged with VCSE and partner organisations have contributed to this work. The place partnership has worked collaboratively with the relevant Ward Partnership Forums. Councillors from the respective six wards and the Active Citizens and Places Officers have met to discuss the design of the programme. Councillors are aware of need and demand in their wards/ place partnership areas

and socially connecting adults, building community resilience, and supporting people who present a mental health condition is a key priority for both place partnership. Where possible interventions commissioned from this programme of support will have a whole family/individual approach to addressing their needs.

- **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.

This proposal has been informed by public health intelligence/data, feedback from engagement with communities, services and partners and also elected members in the respective place partnership areas.

- **Climate Change and Air Quality**

No change

- **Improving outcomes for children**

All locally based community organisations/providers working with young people, families and adults will be able to participate and receive appropriate support and sign posting. Appropriate services will be on hand to support this i.e. Schools.

- **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. This proposal is seeking funding to support this initiative in order to meet identified mental health priorities whilst also supporting and building local voluntary/community capacity at a place-based level.

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

This proposal covers a number of place partnership areas. The lead councillors for each area have consulted and involved their respective ward councillor colleagues about this proposal which has been recommended in full at their place partnership meeting on 20th January 2021.

VCSE and partner organisations are in support of this proposal to develop a programme of support for the community sector.

Rebecca Elliot from public Health welcomes the proposal to utilise this funding at local level with VCS organisations and schools who know their areas best. I would support the use of the place-based data intelligence packs to support the decision-making framework in allocation of funds. I would encourage those applications that consider the risk and protective factors for public mental health.

5. Next steps and timelines

Subject to Cabinet decision, VCSE groups and partner organisations including relevant School hubs will be invited to submit proposals demonstrating how they meet the outcomes/criteria highlighted in this report above. It is envisaged that proposals will be submitted and implemented from March 2021 onwards (dependant on Covid/local restrictions). The Active Citizens and Place officers will put in place agreed processes to ensuring proposals are considered, recommendations are made, and decisions are agreed with the members from both place partnership areas and lead Councillors. Relevant funding contracts will then be put in place to ensure delivery, monitoring and evaluation is in place.

6. Officer recommendations and reasons

The Cabinet is asked to approve funding of £140,000 in total from the Place Partnership mental health budget for the Kirklees Mental Health WEvolve Community Support Programme

The Cabinet is asked to approve a delegation to the Democracy Manager (Active Citizens and Places) in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Democracy and Lead Members for Huddersfield North and Huddersfield Central Place Partnerships to finalise the details of how proposals for funding will be determined.

The allocation from each place partnership is based on £70,000 per place partnership for the following Place Partnerships: -

Huddersfield Central
Huddersfield North

Reasons for recommendation:

Covid 19 and lockdown has had an adverse impact, right across community mental health. As our community groups begin to rebuild and start to see people again, people presenting with mental health issues is going to be challenging for our groups.

Huddersfield Central and North Place Partnerships wish to see an allocation of funding to improve the mental health and resilience of local residents and young people by ensuring VCSE, Schools and other partner organisations are able to continue to provide and adapt their existing services / activities or by being proactive in providing new initiatives where there is identified needs and gaps so that their current and new users can come together to take part in a safe and effective way to aid their mental health and wellbeing.

Providing them with support and resources will reduce risk to both the individuals and the groups and provide the most appropriate help at the right time. This funding will ensure where appropriate that it will align and enhance other funding streams (internal and external) to ensure value is added and resources are maximised locally.

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 total funding of £140,000 from the Huddersfield North and Huddersfield South Place Partnerships mental health theme budget (£70,000 each) as outlined in section 6 of this report.

Reasons for recommendation - to meet Huddersfield North and South Place Partnership's agreed outcome to socially connect adults and build community resilience in order to have a positive impact on residents and young people's mental health and wellbeing

8. Contact officer

Cheryl Reid, Active Citizens & Places Officer, Email: Cheryl.reid@kirklees.gov.uk
Claire Howe, Active Citizens & Places Officer, Email: Claire.howe@kirklees.gov.uk
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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, email rachel.spencer-henshall@kirklees.gov.uk