



**Chester-le-Street**  
District Council

**Report to:** Executive Committee

**Date of Meeting:** 3 December 2007

**Report from:** Director of Development Services

**Title of Report:** Communities for Health – Action Plan

**Agenda Item Number:**

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## **1. PURPOSE AND SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to update Member on the commissioning process for an Intervention Programme under the Department of Health's Communities for Health Programme.
- 1.2 The programme will meet gaps in current provision and build on awareness of mental health issues within the District. It is proposed that the organisation commissioned will secure matched funding to extend the life of the programme, ensure awareness of use of evidence based best practice and seek to influence/establish the policies of organisations with whom the programme works.
- 1.3 Expressions of Interest were sought on the open market and a preferred provider selected was Chester-le-Street MIND. A Service Level Agreement has been produced and signed by both parties.
- 1.4 The revised S.M.A.R.T Action Plan/Work Programme will be provided to members of the Executive under separate cover the week beginning Monday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2007 for consideration and approval by the Executive at its meeting of Monday 3rd December 2007.
- 1.5 It is recommended that :
- Members note the attached report
- Agree the revised detailed Action Plan/Work Programme sent under separate cover.

## **2. CONSULTATION**

- 2.1 A consultation exercise has been carried out with the Corporate Management Team, the District Partnership; the Chairs of each of the Policy Groups of the Local Strategic Partnership and the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Services. All of whom were supportive of the process.

### **3. CORPORATE PLAN AND PRIORITIES**

- 3.1 The proposal particularly supports Priority 2 “*Working in Partnership to Deliver a Sustainable Community Strategy*” by addressing a number of the specific actions contained within the strategy itself and by adopting a partnership approach to delivering the programme.

### **4. IMPLICATIONS**

#### **4.1 Financial Implications and Value for Money Statement**

The council is in receipt of £50,000 grant aid from the Department of Health for support of the partnership element of its Communities for Health programme. There will be no additional cost to the District Council for funding the programme.

The programme represents value for money for the council because we are confident that the commissioned organisation will be able to attract match funding to extend the programme beyond March 2008. The training of volunteers in the community will increase capacity to ensure continued delivery of the programme beyond the employment of the Officer post. The officer will seek to embed good working practices and transferable skills within the organisation and staff as part of the programme. The Officer and the commissioning organisation will also seek to influence partner organisations policies and training plans to ensure that the programme is sustainable beyond the March 2008.

#### **4.2 Legal**

A Service Level Agreement has been produced and signed for the Communities for Health programme.

#### **4.3 Personnel**

There are no personnel implications.

#### **4.4 Other Services**

The proposed programme will work closely with staff from the Community Health Development Team in addressing the issues of mental health within the District.

#### **4.5 Diversity**

The primary focus of the Communities for Health Programme is to address health inequalities in the District and as such will be working with some off the most volunteer members of local communities. The focus on mental health has been specifically highlighted in the report of the Direct of Public Health, as an area for particular attention in Chester-le-Street.

#### 4.6 Risk

Should Members choose not to support the proposed programme the grant of £50,000 would be refundable to the Department of Health and is likely to jeopardise any consideration for future funding in the District. It would also mean that some of the actions in the Sustainable Community Strategy may not be achieved.

#### 4.7 Crime and Disorder

Some aspects of mental health issues, particular around substance and alcohol misuse can lead to associated crime and disorder issues. The Communities for Health Programme in helping to address the issues around substance and alcohol misuse and employability may help to reduce the incidences of crime and disorder.

#### 4.8 Data Quality

Every care has been taken in the development of this report to ensure that the information and data used in its preparation and the appendices attached are accurate, timely, consistent and comprehensive. The Council's Data Quality Policy has been complied with in producing this report.

### **5. BACKGROUND**

5.1 At its meeting of Monday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2007 members of the Executive considered the Action Plan/Work Programme for the Communities for Health Programme produced by MIND.

5.2 Members approved the commissioning process and the selection of MIND as the preferred bidder and recommended that the Action plan be revised to be more Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time framed (S.M.A.R.T) and that the revised action plan be brought back to the Executive for information.

5.3 Officers of the council have met with Officers from MIND on a number of occasions and have agreed changes to the Action Plan to make it more S.M.A.R.T.

5.4 Officers have also entered into a Service Level Agreement with MIND and the Chester-le-Street Communities for Health Mental Health Project commenced on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2007.

### **6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

6.1 Members note the attached report

6.2 Agree the detailed Action Plan/Work Programme sent under separate cover.

## **7. BACKGROUND PAPERS / DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO**

### **7.1 Report to the Executive of October 2007**

**AUTHOR NAME:** Tony Galloway  
**DESIGNATION:** Director of Development Services  
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**AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS:** Telephone: 0191 387 2100  
E-Mail: [tonygalloway@chester-le-street.gov.uk](mailto:tonygalloway@chester-le-street.gov.uk)