



Chester-le-Street District Council

Report to:	Executive
Date of Meeting:	12 th May 2008
Report from:	Director of Development Services
Title of Report:	Communities for Health – Grant aid for 2008-2009
Agenda Item Number:	12

1. Purpose and Summary

- 1.1 To provide members with details of the Communities for Health Grant aid for 2008 -2009 and proposed areas of expenditure.
- 1.2 It is recommended that Members approve the proposed expenditure of the additional Communities for Health grant, allowing the continuation of the health trainer programme and the mental health awareness programme for another year.

2. Consultation

- 2.1 The Director of Development Services and members of the Communities for Health sub group have been consulted on this matter and believe it appropriate that Members consider it. Consultations with members of the Health Improvement Group will take place once a decision has been made about the proposed areas of expenditure.

3. Transition Plan and People and Place Priority

- 3.1 The proposed programme supports the Transition plan and People and Place priority, particularly strengthening partnerships and partnerships for the future, as it aims to meet the needs of the community by working

towards reducing health inequalities and improving the health and the wellbeing of the District.

4. Implications

4.1 Financial Implications and Value for Money Statement

The financial implications arising from this report are dealt with in section 5. In terms of Value for Money, the Communities for Health grant brings additional resources into the Council, allowing projects to be delivered at no cost to the Council. Moreover, the suggested expenditure of the grant allows the continuation of established services, which will expand on the health improvement work that is currently being undertaken, without any additional internal funding.

4.2 Local Government Reorganisation Issues

4.3 Legal

There are no legal implications arising from this report

4.4 Personnel

The personnel implications arising from this report are dealt with in section 5.

4.5 Other Services

There are no implications for other services arising from this report

4.6 Diversity

The proposed programme of expenditure will provide opportunities for local residents by reducing health inequalities and improving health in the District. The programme will be open to all members of the community, including young people and residents will be actively encouraged to participate, therefore improving community cohesion and social inclusion.

4.7 Risk

The additional funding could be used to further support the original projects, developed from the initial Communities for Health grant in 07/08. If the proposed expenditure of the additional grant is not supported, these projects will end after 1 year, limiting the number of people who can access these projects and reducing the impact on the improvement of health within the District. In addition, a new programme of expenditure will

have to be agreed for the additional £50000, which may result in a delay in implementation. This delay may result in the grant not being used as effectively as it could be, but moreover it would reflect poorly on the Council in performance reports to the Department of Health.

4.8 Crime and Disorder

As the Communities for Health grant works towards reducing health inequalities through community involvement, there is a possibility that projects will impact on matters of Crime and Disorder. Providing activities/projects and engaging the community to take ownership often reduces anti social behaviour and crime, especially if such projects are aimed at specific populations such as young people and those currently not engaged with services.

4.9 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.

4.10 Other Implications

There are no other implications from this report.

5. Background, Position Statement and Option Appraisal

5.1 Communities for Health was launched in 2005, shortly after the publication of the Choosing Health White Paper. The aim of the programme is to support local authorities and their partners to encourage the involvement of the local community to take action against reducing health inequalities and improving the health of the District.

5.2 Chester-le-Street is a health inequality spearhead area and in 2007 the District Council were invited to take part in the programme, receiving £100000 of funding for the delivery of projects to tackle public health priorities. An additional sum of £50000 has been granted for use in 08/09.

5.3 The initial sum of money (£100000) has been used largely to support 2 projects,

- The health trainer programme
- The Communities for Health, Mental Health Awareness project.

Project 1 - Health trainer Programme

- 5.4 The Health Trainer programme is being developed and delivered in partnership with the Primary Care Trust. Health Trainers will work with members of the community to support them to work towards behaviour change and manage their health needs. Support, advice and guidance can be given on a range of health topics and tailored support plans/action plans will be drafted to help the individual progress. Referrals into specialist services can also be made.
- 5.5 Money from the Communities for health grant was used to recruit a dedicated health trainer for Chester-le-Street (PCT staff work across the North PDA, Durham, C-I-S and Derwentside). In addition, the health trainer employed by the Council has a focus on working with young people and issues that they face, such as sexual health. This differs slightly from the PCT health trainers who work solely with adults.
- 5.6 The Health Trainer programme is currently being developed but should be delivering in the coming months. Staff are awaiting the final installment of essential training, which should take place at the end of May, when they will be fully skilled to start working with clients. A mapping exercise of all local providers has been conducted and links have been made with key agencies/organisations. Local venues and facilities have also been mapped, with the view to setting up drop in sessions in key areas. A great deal of interest has been shown in the project and names of prospective clients are already being collected. It is expected that this project will have a significant impact on engaging hard to reach people, who do not generally access traditional health services.

Project 2 – Communities for Health, Mental Health Awareness Project

- 5.7 As agreed in a previous report, a portion of the initial grant was to be used in conjunction with partners. The LSP were consulted including members of the Health Improvement Group, a policy group of the LSP. It was agreed that there was a gap in provision in terms of mental health and that this should be the focus of the new project. A sub group consisting of representatives from the District Council, the LSP and the HIG was set up to oversee the development of the project. Chester-le-street Mind were commissioned to deliver the project.
- 5.8 The project works with local employers, support groups and voluntary and community sector organisations in the Chester-le-Street District, to increase knowledge and awareness of mental health issues. Chester-le-Street Mind work with these organisations to deliver education and training on mental health issues that are specific to their needs. Part of this training includes the delivery of Mental Health First Aid, a new national

training programme which provides people with the skills to identify and help people with mental health problems.

- 5.9 The project has proved to be very successful. To date, over 150 local services providers have been contacted to take part in the project, over 70 of which have engaged and received training, information and support (across all sectors). 15 training sessions have been delivered to date, with more planned for the future. From the training that has been delivered, over 90% of attendees have rated it as excellent or good, with 100% of people saying that information will be cascaded throughout their organisation and will be used to further address mental health in policies and procedures.

Proposals for the 2008/09 funding

- 5.10 The £50000 additional grant could be used to continue supporting both of the above projects for an additional year. If not, both projects will terminate at the end of the 1 year contract.
- 5.11 The Health trainer programme could be extended for an additional year, allowing the project to have a greater impact on the reduction of health inequalities in the District. The Health Trainer employed by the Council currently has a temporary 1 year contract, which could easily be extended in line with the additional funding. To extend the project for 1 year will cost approx £35000
- 5.12 The remaining £15000 could be used to support the continuation of the Mind project. Although a reduction on the amount of money received in 07/08, this funding could help to continue the project in a number of ways,
- Continuing the existing project at reduced hours. A reduction in hours should be sufficient as a large number of organisations have already engaged with the project, so numbers should reduce as the project continues, therefore reducing the workload.
 - The money could be used for Mind to carry out more detailed work (developing policies, procedures etc) with the smaller number of organisations who are interested in further addressing mental health in the workplace
 - This sum of money could be used as match funding so that Mind could attract additional grants to continue running the project at the same capacity as it has been delivered throughout 07/08

6. Recommendations

6.1 Members approve the proposed expenditure of the additional Communities for Health grant, allowing the continuation of the health trainer programme and the mental health awareness programme for another year.

7. Background Papers/ Documents referred to

7.1 People and Place Local Government Reorganisation Transition Plan 2008

7.2 Communities for Health Programme, Report to Executive April 2007

7.3 Choosing Health: Making healthy choices easier, Public Health White Paper, Department of Health, 2004

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Version 1.0

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