



Chester-le-Street District Council

Report to:	Executive
Date of Meeting:	12 th May 2008
Report from:	Director of Development Services
Title of Report:	Lifecheck Programme – Roll out funding
Agenda Item Number:	11

1. Purpose and Summary

- 1.1 To provide members with details of the Lifecheck programme and associated funding to roll out the programme across the District.
- 1.2 It is recommended that Members delegate responsibility to the Communities for Health Sub Group, to produce a programme of activity to support the rollout of the Life check programme and that the programme is brought back to the Executive for approval.

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 and Health Improvement Group Sub 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

There are no financial Implications arising from this report. In terms of Value for Money, the Lifecheck grant brings additional resources into the Council, allowing projects to be delivered at no cost to the Council.

4.2 Local Government Reorganisation Issues

4.3 Legal

There are no legal implications arising from this report

4.4 Personnel

There are no personnel issues arising from this report

4.5 Other Services

There are no implications for other services arising from this report

4.6 Diversity

The Lifecheck programme will provide opportunities for young people across the District, allowing all children and young people to access health information and assess their own health needs.

4.7 Risk

This funding has been granted specifically to roll out the Lifecheck Programme. The Department of Health will be monitoring expenditure to ensure that the Lifecheck programme has been supported within the District. There is a risk to the uptake on the programme, which depends greatly on partnership working and cooperation of local organisations and young residents. Every effort shall be made to engage local service providers and young people in this process so as to reduce this risk.

4.8 Crime and Disorder

The Lifecheck Programme equips young people with the information and knowledge to make positive life choices in respect to personal health. Engaging hard to reach young people and raising their self esteem and self confidence reduces the likelihood that they will engage in risk taking

behaviour, therefore impacting on levels of antisocial behaviour, youth nuisance and crime.

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 In 2007 the District Council were invited to take part in the Communities for Health programme and funding has been received for the delivery of projects to tackle public health priorities. A new, one off grant of £70000 has been made to the Council, to prepare for the rollout of NHS Lifechecks, planned for Summer 2008

5.3 The NHS Lifecheck is an online resource that is designed to offer advice and support on key areas of health. They are based around a straightforward questionnaire approach, which once completed, will provide the individual with information on supporting good health. There are 2 lifechecks due to be rolled out this summer, Early years Lifecheck and Teen Lifecheck.

Early Years Lifecheck

This online resource has been designed to help parents and carers of young babies, aged 5 – 8 months. It focuses on key areas that will aid the health of their baby, including safety, teething, learning, play and feeding.

Teen Lifecheck

This resource has been developed for use by young people aged 12 – 15 years. It concentrates on areas such as smoking, sexual health, emotional well being and physical activity.

- 5.4 The grant is to be used to promote the two new NHS Lifechecks, through local activity in the District. Suggestions of activity from the Department of Health include, supporting people to access internet enabled computers in locations such as children's centres, youth centres and community groups, promotional material and cascable training packages. However all activity must be targeted towards young people and parents and carers of young babies.
- 5.5 A subgroup has been developed to oversee the delivery of the Communities for Health Programme. Memberships includes representation from the District Council, including member representation, the Local Strategic Partnerships, the Health Improvement Group and the Primary Care Trust. As they are currently overseeing the wider Communities for health programme, this subgroup would be best placed to develop and deliver a programme of activity to support national roll out of Lifecheck. Plans for activity and progress updates would be reported to Executive for approval at future meetings.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1 It is recommended that Members delegate responsibility to the Communities for Health Sub Group, to produce a programme of activity to support the rollout of the Lifecheck programme and:
- 6.2 The programme when drafted is brought back to the Executive for approval

7. Background Papers/ Documents referred to

- 7.1 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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