



FOR PUBLICATION

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES

2 December 2021

Report of the Director - Public Health

Extension to COVID Community Champions scheme utilising the Contain Outbreak Management Fund.

1. Divisions Affected

1.1 All

2. Key Decision

2.1 No

3. Purpose

3.1 Approve £0.211m to a range of voluntary sector organisations to extend the delivery of the Community Champions scheme, noting the full break down of allocations as outlined in the financial considerations section.

4. Information and Analysis

4.1 As part of the Contain Framework which sets out how the impact of COVID-19 will be managed and mitigated, all local authorities in England with a responsibility for Public Health have received a funding allocation to support proactive containment and intervention measures.

4.2 The funding has enabled the development of new, and extension of existing non-pharmaceutical interventions to manage and mitigate the impact of the pandemic in communities across Derbyshire in the coming months. Any interventions need to be targeted at specific vulnerable communities or populations and this would include children and

families, older people and individuals at higher risk due to their health status.

- 4.3 Cabinet agreed the overall profile of spend when it met on 4 January 2021, and that delegated authority will be given to the Director of Public Health and Cabinet Member for Health and Communities to develop an implementation plan to co-ordinate the delivery of the different workstreams described in this report. Where appropriate additional approvals from Cabinet Member would be sought in line with the Council's Constitution and Financial Regulations.
- 4.4. The Cabinet Member for Health and Communities approved on 25 March 2021 the establishment of a Covid Community Champion scheme. Over the last year the community partner scheme or Covid Community Champions has been building on existing relationships and structures to develop an integrated and multidisciplinary framework to support a community response to Covid-19 in Derbyshire. Working with local communities the scheme has identified as a key principle the introduction of non-pharmaceutical intervention (NPI) in the Association of Directors of Public Health report [Protecting our communities: Pulling together to achieve sustainable suppression of SARS-CoV-2 and limit adverse impacts](#)
- 4.5 Community partners, local groups and leaders have recruited to or joined together a network of 'champions' who lead in disseminating timely and relevant information to local communities, and also act as a conduit for capturing and feeding back local intelligence to the network.
- 4.6 The network has been supported by resources and messages, including guidance on symptoms, restrictions in place at the time, advice on personal and community actions that can be taken. All content includes further information on the public health "science" behind the messages.
- 4.7 A Forum has been created to support two-way interaction between Public Health, our NHS Communications and lead partners. Local intelligence is discussed at these forums and fed back into the central resource, in addition to conversations being had regarding current messages and how best to apply them to local communities. The forums ran weekly earlier in the response to the pandemic and are now running fortnightly.
- 4.8 Oversight has been maintained on the process through the Derbyshire Local Resilience Forum, while overarching delivery and response prioritisation is led by the Public Health Locality Leads

- 4.9 The community and voluntary sector, and other local partners have successfully led the identification and recruitment of champions, who undertake a range of activities from passing on information to actively challenging misinformation and directing local activities through many different activities such as newsletters and local Facebook pages. The development of local communication channels through the scheme has broadened the reach of communications and engagement undertaken by the Council and statutory sector partners.
- 4.10 It is proposed that the scheme is extended in all localities across Derbyshire to 31 December 2022 to provide ongoing support to local communities and to share key information relating to Covid-19 in Derbyshire, vaccinations and booster vaccinations, ongoing health protection advice and wider health messages that promotes wellbeing. The Forum is still very active with questions coming from communities and so extending support to those networks for a further 12 months is appropriate in light of an ongoing high case rate across the county.
- 4.11 An in-house evaluation of the Community Partner scheme is planned, and this will inform delivery of the project over the course of the next 12 months.
- 4.12 Local networks will be strengthened in the longer-term through this scheme, and it is therefore expected to have continued utility beyond the COVID-19 response, offering opportunities to disseminate broader health messages and respond to a wider range of local needs once the pandemic has come to an end.

5. Alternative Options Considered

- 5.1 Not extending the scheme for a further 12 months has been considered, but this would result in the authority not maximising the use of the Contain Outbreak Management Fund and leaving communities unsupported whilst the Covid case rate remains high in many parts of the county.

6. Implications

- 6.1 Appendix 1 sets out the relevant implications considered in the preparation of the report.

7. Background Papers

- 7.1 [Cabinet Member for Health and Communities Report 25 March 2021: Update on Contain Outbreak Management Fund.](#)

7.2 [Investment of the Contain Outbreak Management Fund – Cabinet: 14 January 2021](#)

8. Appendices

8.1 Appendix 1- Implications.

9. Recommendation(s)

That the Cabinet Member:

- a) Approves the allocation of grant funding totalling £0.211m to a range of voluntary sector organisations to extend the delivery of the Community Champions scheme until 31 December 2022, noting the full break down of allocations as outlined in the financial considerations section.

11. Reasons for Recommendation(s)

11.1 Extending the grant funding will enable the continuation of the Covid Community Champions schemes whereby key public health messages related to Covid are shared across local communities as part of the ongoing outbreak management response.

12. Is it necessary to waive the call in period?

12.1 No

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Implications

Financial

- 1.1 For 2020-21 DCC has been allocated a total Contain funding grant of £20.182m of which £19.058 m has been rolled over to 2021-22. A further £3.958m of Contain funding has also been allocated via a grant funding arrangement from the Department of Health and Social Care for 2021-22. Expenditure associated with the delivery of the Local Outbreak Management Plan will utilise the Contain framework grant funding.
- 1.2 It is proposed that the £0.211m is allocated as the following grant awards to voluntary sector organisations across Derbyshire to allow the Covid Community Partner to continue until December 2022. As approved by Cabinet Member for Health and Communities on 25 March 2021, all partners received 12 month funding to establish the programme, however there were staggered start dates across partners. Allocation of funding as follows will allow all partners to deliver the programme until December 2022:
- £54,166 to Derbyshire Voluntary Action to further develop a Community Advocate Project across North East Derbyshire and Chesterfield for a 13-month period.
 - £27,083 to Bassetlaw CVS to further develop a Community Advocate Project across Bolsover for a 13-month period.
 - £17,754 to The Bureau to further develop a Community Messengers project across Glossopdale for a 13-month period.
 - £22,916 to South Derbyshire CVS to further develop and deliver the Community Partner Scheme in South Derbyshire for a 11-month period.
 - £18,333 to High Peak CVS to further develop and deliver the Community Partner Scheme in High Peak for a 11-month period.
 - £27,083 to Shift CIC to further develop and deliver the Community Partner Scheme in Amber Valley for a 13-month period.
 - £22,916 Derbyshire Dales CVS to further develop and deliver the Community Partner Scheme in Derbyshire Dales for a 11-month period.
 - £20,833 to Erewash Voluntary Action to further develop and deliver the Community Partner Scheme in Erewash for a 10-month period.

Legal

- 2.1 Cabinet agreed the overall profile of spend when it met on 4 January 2021 and that delegated authority will be given to the Director of Public Health and Cabinet Member for Health and Communities to develop an implementation plan to co-ordinate the delivery of the different

workstreams described in this report. Where appropriate additional approvals from Cabinet Member would be sought in line with the Council's Constitution and Financial Regulations.

- 2.2 The Council's Financial Regulations allow grants of up to £0.100m to organisations to be approved by Cabinet Member. The Council's Constitution allows for Cabinet Members to delegate authority to officers to undertake the powers afforded to them by the Constitution. The Council's standard grant agreement shall be used to set out the terms and conditions for which the grants are made, which provides for clawback of funding in certain circumstances and shall also provide that the Council is not liable for any employment liabilities.

Human Resources

- 3.1 The funding will enable local providers to deliver projects and services. Derbyshire County Council accepts no employment or future redundancy liability, with all employment and related matters to be managed by the providers