



FOR PUBLICATION

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES

13 January 2021

Report of the Director - Public Health

Update on Public Health Covid-19 Community Response Fund

1. Divisions Affected

1.1 All

2. Key Decision

2.1 No

3. Purpose

3.1 To provide an update on organisations supported through the Public Health Covid-19 Community Response Fund.

4. Information and Analysis

4.1 The ongoing response to the Covid-19 pandemic has seen many organisations across Derbyshire continue to work to ensure the basic needs of local residents are met, and it is apparent that a number of community and voluntary sector organisations require additional resources to provide this support to those most impacted by the pandemic. In addition, while the majority of COVID19 restrictions are no longer in place, supporting the most vulnerable residents, as well as staff and volunteers, means that community and voluntary sector organisations continue to implement COVID-safe measures, often requiring additional resources to enable this.

- 4.2 On 2 September 2021, the Cabinet Member for Health and Communities approved the establishment of the Public Health Covid-19 Community Response Fund to support voluntary and community sector organisations in mitigating the ongoing impact of Covid-19 on local communities, and to work to improve the health and wellbeing of local populations. Funding of up to a maximum value of £2,000 was available for constituted groups and £250 for non-constituted groups. This fund builds from the Covid-19 Emergency Fund which was approved by Cabinet Member on 24 June 2020 and allocated a total of £0.196m to local groups and organisations.
- 4.3 The Public Health Covid-19 Community Response Fund is funded from the Contain Outbreak Management Fund, a specific grant from central Government to enable local authorities to continue to support ongoing outbreak management activity in relation to Covid-19. For this reason, all applications need to be linked to the grant conditions. Examples of activities include:
- Supporting organisations to reopen safely in line with current guidance.
 - Delivering and coordinating virtual/ digital events and activities where there is a need to do so (Covid-secure).
 - Promoting positive mental health and wellbeing and resilience so people have the skills in place to self-isolate and cope with any further periods of lockdown or enhanced restrictions.
 - Strengthening local networks of support and community resilience to ensure local support is available to work alongside statutory services.
 - Supporting groups that have been disproportionately impacted by Covid-19 and are considered to be at greater risk if there are any subsequent outbreaks (e.g. Black and minority ethnic communities, clinically extremely vulnerable, domestic violence, low income, homeless populations).
- 4.4 Authority for approval of applications was delegated by the Cabinet Member to the Director of Public Health, with quarterly update reports in respect of organisations funded to Cabinet Member meetings. This is the first such quarterly update covering organisations who have received funding from 1 September 2021.
- 4.5 The applications, detailed below, have been reviewed and approved for funding. Funding decisions are made by a panel comprising of a Public Health Lead and members of the Health Protection Team, before ratification by the Director of Public Health. The following organisations, detailed in the table on the next page, have been approved for funding:

Organisation	Location	Application details	Funding requested
PC refurb	High Peak	Equipment used by volunteers which supports wellbeing, PCs then used to support vulnerable groups,	£1,141.92
Friends of Hurst Farm	Derbyshire Dales	Setting up a Community Pantry. Building on initial Covid response and allowing volunteering ops and isolation support	£2,000.00
Derbyshire Community Hub	Chesterfield	Additional food to create meals to add to food bags – addition to existing covid response with high demand. Reduction of isolation	£2,000.00
Youth Matters, New Mills	High Peak	Activities for young people and families to support poor mental health following lockdowns. School support for young people	£2,000.00
Start2Jog	High Peak	Support for qualified leaders to expand group due to demand following lockdown	£1,050.00
Whitfield Parish, St James and St Luke's Church	High Peak	Increased demand for food bags, expanding deliveries into community café to support isolation and job seekers	£2,000.00
People Potential Possibilities (P3)	Erewash	Community mental health sessions for people who are homeless or at risk of and wider community who have been affected by the pandemic	£1,980.00
Zink Food Bank	High Peak	Increase in demand due to Covid – self isolation, increase in unemployment, change to universal credit.	£2,000.00
Elephant Rooms (Draycott) CIC	Erewash	Running 'Capacitar' mental wellbeing courses increase in demand from GP and self-referrals	£1,944.00
Good News Family Care (Homes)	High Peak	Supported accommodation for vulnerable men fleeing domestic abuse or homelessness - increased demand during pandemic and after	£2,000.00
Derbyshire Cancer Buddies	Derbyshire wide	Increase in demand for support for isolation / loneliness has increased due to pandemic.	£2,000.00
Freedom Community Project	North East Derbyshire	Increase in demand for services supporting homelessness including mental and physical health	£2,000.00
South Derbyshire Mental Health Association	South Derbyshire	Increase support to vulnerable isolated people unable to attend the hub and a covid recovery support group	£2,000.00
Chesterfield FC Community Trust	Chesterfield	Support to re-integrate older, socially isolated and vulnerable people into physical and mental wellbeing project	£2,000.00

Bolsover Mental Health Carers Support Group	Bolsover	Additional support to carers who have additional mental health support needs particularly around isolation – need has increased significantly due to the isolation felt by carers over the pandemic in particular lockdowns	£2,000.00
SISU	County Wide	Members of the group who were shielding are reluctant to attend social events – the funding will be used to hold events to support people to attend events safely and reduce social isolation and improve mental health	£1,990.01
Derbyshire Gypsy Liaison Group	County Wide	'Life After Covid' project to support a long covid project alongside uptake of Covid vaccinations and improving mental health	£1,650.00
Building Lives Around Shirebrook Town (BLAST)	Bolsover	Building on initial support work to the community – expanding mental health support and reducing social isolation, wider signposting, support to those who initially relied on furloughed friends and family who now have no support	£2,000.00
Lighthouse Homes	Chesterfield	Activities to reduce social isolation and improve mental wellbeing of homeless residents. Will also improve physical wellbeing with physical activity and healthy eating projects	£2,000.00
Rhubarb Farm	North East Derbyshire, Bolsover, Chesterfield	Food distribution project supporting people in food poverty. Increase in demand due to covid – particularly older residents who are more vulnerable. Funding will increase number of people who can access the project	£1,972.00
Total for approval			£37,727.93

7. Implications

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

8. Background Papers

8.1 [Update on Covid-19 Emergency Fund – Cabinet Member for Health and Communities Cabinet Member Committee report](#)

8.2 [Establishing a Public Health Emergency Fund to support the response to Covid-19 – Cabinet Member for Health and Communities Cabinet Member Committee Report.](#)

- 8.3 [Update on Covid-19 Emergency Fund – Cabinet Member for Health and Communities Cabinet Member report \(February 2021\)](#)
- 8.4 [Update on Covid-19 Emergency Fund – Cabinet Member for Health and Communities Cabinet Member report \(March 2021\)](#)
- 8.5 [Update on Covid-19 Emergency Fund – Cabinet Member for Health and Communities Cabinet Member Report \(3 June 2021\)](#)

9. Appendices

- 9.1 Appendix 1- Implications.

10. Recommendation(s)

That the Cabinet Member:

- a) Notes the allocation of the Public Health Covid-19 Community Response Fund to date, which totals £37,727.93.
- b) Agrees to continue to delegate authority to the Director of Public Health to approve awards of no more than £2,000 to individual organisations.
- c) Agrees to receive details of further recipient organisations on a quarterly basis.

11. Reasons for Recommendation(s)

- 11.1 The Cabinet Member is required to review the allocations to the Covid-19 Emergency Fund to date.
- 11.2 Continuing to provide delegated authority to the Director of Public Health for grant allocations will ensure that the grants are issued in a timely manner to groups and organisations throughout the pandemic.
- 11.3 Quarterly update reports to the Cabinet Member will provide a timely review of the activity approved by the fund.

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

- 12.1 No

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Implications

Financial

- 1.1 The overall value of the Public Health Covid-19 Community Response Fund is £0.100m and to date £0.026m has been awarded to Derbyshire organisations. Funding has been met from the Contain Outbreak Management Fund for the grants summarised in this report.
- 1.2 For 2021-22, based on allocations carried forward from 2020-21 and new allocations received in 2021-22, there is £23.000m available from the Contain Outbreak Management Fund.

Legal

- 2.1 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.