



FOR PUBLICATION

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES

17 April 2023

Report of the Director - Public Health

Covid-19 Community Fund Annual update
(Cabinet Member for Health and Communities)

1. Divisions Affected

County-wide

2. Key Decision

2.1 This is not a Key Decision

3. Purpose

3.1 To provide an update on organisations supported through the Public Health Covid-19 Community Fund for 2022-23.

3.2 To seek approval to further extend the Covid-19 Community Fund to March 2024 to provide financial support to community and voluntary sector organisations across Derbyshire to promote ongoing efforts to mitigate the ongoing impact caused by Covid-19

4. Information and Analysis

4.1 On 26 July 2022, the Cabinet Member for Health and Communities approved the continuation of a Public Health COVID-19 Community Fund to provide ongoing support to organisations impacted by the pandemic. The fund supports community and voluntary sector

organisations to continue their support to communities most affected by Covid-19 and to mitigate the risk of further infection. Applications must be in line with the 'Living with Covid-19' guidance. Constituted organisations and groups can apply for up to £2,000, and non-constituted organisations and groups can receive up to a maximum of £250.

4.2 The Public Health Covid-19 Community 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. This includes being able to meet at least one of the below criteria:

- support to increase COVID-19 vaccination uptake
- protect people most vulnerable to COVID-19
- increase mental health and wellbeing and support individual and community resilience
- promote safer behaviours to reduce future risk of infection

4.3 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 annual update covering all organisations who have received funding from 1 September 2022

4.4 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. Any organisations not meeting the criteria for funding, where appropriate, are signposted to other funding streams. This is one-off, non-recurrent funding. There is no ongoing commitment once funding has been utilised. The following organisations, have been approved for funding:

Organisation	Location	Application details	Criteria Met	Funding requested
Stanton Community	South Derbyshire	Activity sessions to encourage isolated and unsure community members to attend	Improved mental wellbeing	£1,560
New Hope Community Church	North East Derbyshire	Increased demand for the Freedom	Improved mental wellbeing	£2,000

		programme seen over COVID-19.		
Doe Lea Centre Arts Project	Bolsover	3 projects including intergenerational project to reduce loneliness felt during the pandemic.	Improved mental wellbeing	£2,000
Bolsover Woodlands Enterprise	Bolsover, NED, Chesterfield	Equipment to support safer behaviours in outside sessions and to encourage nervous attendees. Improved mental wellbeing	Protecting the most vulnerable improved mental wellbeing, safer behaviours	£1,360
Zink Project	High Peak, Derbyshire Dales	Increased use of the support offered around the foodbank during and after pandemic.	Improved mental wellbeing	£2,000
Carers Connecting SEND	High Peak	Support for families with SEN children who have been more isolated over the pandemic particularly with school closures and those with co-morbidities	Improved mental wellbeing, safer behaviours	£1,950
Elmton and Creswell Village Company	Bolsover	Equipment to support community café which could not start due to the pandemic. Providing a space for those who have felt most isolated	Protecting the most vulnerable improved mental wellbeing, safer behaviours	£1,990
Bailey Bears Sensory Den Covid Awareness Week	Derbyshire Dales	Holiday programme for families to come together. Focussing on IPC, vaccine awareness, hand hygiene, COVID-19 prevention etc	Vaccine uptake, Protecting the most vulnerable improved mental wellbeing,	£1,900

			safer behaviours	
Me, My Mind and I	Erewash	Increased demand for mental health support during/following the pandemic	Improved mental wellbeing	£250
Chesterfield Foodbank	Chesterfield	Foodbank essentials due to increased demand during/following covid and to help their signposting services	Protecting the most vulnerable improved mental wellbeing, safer behaviours	£2,000
Spiral Arts	Derbyshire wide	Participatory art workshops to reduce increased isolation and help people feel connected and comfortable to meet together. Art work will then be displayed to the community	Improved mental wellbeing	£2,000
Rhubarb Farm CIC	Bolsover, North East Derbyshire, Chesterfield	Short sessions to increase mental health and wellbeing and isolation felt during COVID-19 and to encourage volunteering. First session will focus on encouraging vaccine uptake	Vaccine uptake, Protecting the most vulnerable improved mental wellbeing, safer behaviours	£2,000
Spectrum Housing	South Derbyshire	Holistic support for homelessness population who have been more adversely affected by COVID-19	Improved mental wellbeing	£500
The Community Unity Project	North East	Bereavement counselling sessions for those who have been bereaved due to COVID-19. Also	Protecting the most vulnerable, improved	£2,000

		food parcels to support increase in demand from the pandemic	mental wellbeing	
Infinite Wellbeing	Amber Valley	Women and men's wellbeing sessions which have seen increased number since the pandemic	Improved mental wellbeing	£2,000
Community Growth CIC	Chesterfield	Working with residents who have retreated into their own homes during the pandemic and are reluctant to engage/socialise	Protecting the most vulnerable, improving mental wellbeing	£2,000
Derventio Housing	Erewash	Re-starting the Growing Lives project as it was unable to run in the pandemic and is now needed more than ever. Offering support to those who have faced homelessness, drug/alcohol issues, social exclusion.	Improving mental wellbeing	£1,846
Freedom Community Project	Bolsover	Better Health Bolsover project to help reduced the loneliness which increased due to isolation during the pandemic	Protecting the most vulnerable, improving mental wellbeing, vaccine uptake, safer behaviours	£2,000
Craft Wood	Amber Valley	Nature sessions for socially isolated individuals, particularly those with underlying health conditions to learn new skills and	Increased mental wellbeing	£2,000

		socialise in a safe environment.		
Edge Ministries	Chesterfield	Support worker within Staveley to build connections between people, co-ordinate groups to reduce isolation still felt from the pandemic and to increase vaccination uptake	vaccine uptake, protecting most vulnerable, increased mental health and wellbeing, safer behaviours	£2,000
Inspiring Inkersall Community Group	Chesterfield	Reducing isolation project within Inkersall including supplies for clubs and a laptop to reach people unable to visit the centre	vaccine uptake, protecting most vulnerable, increased mental health and wellbeing, safer behaviours	£2,000
Dronfield Woodhouse Community Support Hub	Derbyshire wide	Support group for those with Long Covid including resources, increasing vaccination rates and mental wellbeing	vaccine uptake, protecting most vulnerable, increased mental health and wellbeing	£1540
YMCA Derbyshire	Erewash	'Resilience Builder' project for 16-24yr olds attending Key College who are anxious post covid to attend or travel to larger colleges. Project will offer a range of visits to improve confidence and mental wellbeing	Increased mental health and wellbeing	£1,864

Swadlincote and District Youth for Christ	South Derbyshire	Working with schools to provide mental health and wellbeing courses for young people who have adversely affected by COVID-19.	. Improved mental wellbeing	£1,890
River Network Charity	Derbyshire Dales	Befriending programme linked to foodbank delivery for isolated people	Vaccine uptake, protecting most vulnerable Improved mental wellbeing, safer behaviours	£2,000
Belper Youth Sport	Amber Valley	Support workers to encourage young people with emotional or behavioural needs to access a range of physical activity sessions within the community in the school holidays	Improved mental wellbeing	£2,000
Youth Matters New Mills CIC	High Peak	Family support for children and families which has increased since/due to the impact of COVID-19	Improved mental wellbeing	£2,000
Amber Valley Voices Community Choir	Amber Valley	IT equipment to support performing with communities including older people to reduce isolation and improve mental wellbeing	Improved mental wellbeing	£489
			Total	£49,139

4.5 It is proposed a further £100,000 is allocated to the fund from the Contain Outbreak Management Fund for 2023-24, so Public Health can

continue to support local organisations to mitigate the impacts of the COVID-19 within local communities. This will enable community groups to have a robust approach in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and support recovery and address health inequalities arising from the pandemic.

5. Alternative Options Considered

- 5.1 Not supporting the approval of the Covid-19 Community Fund grants as recommended, would result in local organisations and communities being less resilient and not being able to sufficiently support those who have been more adversely impacted by the pandemic. This would result in a decrease in the ability of communities to practice safer behaviours in relation to infections, less support for mental health and wellbeing and a decrease in support from those more vulnerable to the effects of COVID-19.

6. Implications

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

7. Background Papers

- Update on Covid-19 Emergency Fund – Cabinet Member for Health and Communities Cabinet Member Committee report (12 December 2022) <https://derbyshireintranet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s17971/Covid-19%20Community%20Fund%20Quarterly%20update.pdf>
- Report of the Director - Public Health Covid-19 Community Fund (July 2022) <https://derbyshireintranet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s15787/Covid-19%20Community%20Fund.pdf>
- Update on Covid-19 Emergency Fund – Cabinet Member for Health and Communities Cabinet Member report (February 2021) <https://derbyshireintranet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s5838/Update%20on%20Public%20Health%20COVID-19%20Emergency%20Fund.pdf>
- Update on Covid-19 Emergency Fund – Cabinet Member for Health and Communities Cabinet Member report (March 2021) <https://derbyshireintranet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s6285/Public%20Health%20Covid-19%20Emergency%20Fund.pdf>
- Update on Covid-19 Emergency Fund – Cabinet Member for Health and

Communities Cabinet Member Report (June 2021)

<https://derbyshireintranet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s8783/Covid-19%20Emergency%20Fund.pdf>

- Establishing a Public Health Emergency Fund to support the response to Covid-19 – Cabinet Member for Health and Communities Cabinet Member Committee Report.

<https://derbyshireintranet.moderngov.co.uk/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=3456&ISATT=1>

8. Appendices

- a. Appendix 1 – Implications

9. Recommendation(s)

That the Cabinet Member for Health and Communities:

- a) Agree to continue the funding for 2023/24 via the Contain Outbreak Management Fund and in line with the 'Living with COVID-19' guidelines to support those communities most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and to support safer health protecting behaviours, with an overall value of funding of £0.100m.

- b) Note the allocation of the Public Health Covid-19 Community Fund to date, which totals £49,139.

- c) Agree to continue to delegate authority to the Director of Public Health to approve awards of no more than £2,000 to individual organisations.

- d) Agree to receive quarterly updates on the activity approved by the fund

10. Reasons for Recommendation(s)

- 10.1 To allow the Council to continue to provide financial support to community and voluntary sector organisations across Derbyshire to provide support to those most impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic, and mitigate the future risk of infection

- 10.2 The Cabinet Member is required to review the allocations to the Covid-19 Fund to date.

- 10.3 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.

10.4 Quarterly update reports to the Cabinet Member will provide a timely review of the activity approved by the fund

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

a. No

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Implications

Financial

- 1.1 The overall value of the Public Health Covid-19 Community Fund is £0.100m and to date £49,139 has been awarded to Derbyshire organisations. Funding has been met from the Contain Outbreak Management Fund for the grants summarised in this report and £100,000 will be made available for 2023/24.

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.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 4.1 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.