



FOR PUBLICATION

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES

01 June 2023

Report of the Executive Director - Adult Social Care and Health

Contain Outbreak Management Fund spend for 2023/24 and 2024/25
(Cabinet Member for Health and Communities)

1. Divisions Affected

1.1 County-wide.

2. Key Decision

2.1 This is a Key Decision.

3. Purpose

3.1 To seek Cabinet Member Approval for the elements of the grant expenditure plan for the Contain Outbreak Management Fund for 2023-24 and 2024-25, as listed in Appendix 2 of this report, with a combined value of £1.047m.

4. Information and Analysis

4.1 The Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) is a government grant intended to enable local authorities to fund the management of COVID-19 transmission and impact. The latest grant conditions and guidance received in December 2022 confirm that the main scope of the fund remains the control of COVID-19 transmission and dealing with its management and consequences. This extends to measures to address the resulting impact on health outcomes and health inequalities caused by the pandemic and includes economic hardship and mental health

impacts. The latest guidance also confirms further flexibility to carry over any unused funding into 2023/24.

4.2 A range of pandemic-recovery projects with clear Public Health outcomes have been identified and reviewed by the Director of Public Health, as per the COMF grant conditions. At the beginning of 2023/24, the Council was holding £11.137m unspent COMF. Approval is requested for a number of proposals, as listed in full in Appendix 2, with a combined value of £1.047m:

- Extension of the community approach to support emotional wellbeing of children and young people
- Extension and evaluation of the Thr1ve mental health in young people project
- Extension of funding for housing advice
- Extension of winter homelessness support

5. Consultation

5.1 No public consultation is required.

6. Alternative Options Considered

6.1 Do Nothing. The ongoing impact of the pandemic on population health outcomes and health inequalities has resulted in additional service and financial pressures on the public sector. There are few alternative funding sources to mitigate this. Grant conditions set out in 16th December 2022 letter from the UK Health Security Agency prescribe legitimate uses of the funding and encourage Directors of Public Health to identify relevant schemes and to draft an expenditure plan to ensure that the funds are used in line with grant conditions.

7. Implications

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

8. Background Papers

8.1 None identified.

9. Appendices

9.1 Appendix 1 – Implications

9.2 Appendix 2 – Schedule of proposed uses of the COMF grant

10. Recommendation(s)

That the Cabinet Member for Health and Communities:

- 10.1 a) approves the elements of the grant expenditure plan for the Contain Outbreak Management Fund for 2023-24 and 2024-25, as listed in Appendix 2 of this report, with a combined value of £1.047m.

11. Reasons for Recommendation(s)

- 11.1 To authorise the Cabinet Member for Health and Communities to apply the grant funding in accordance with the updated guidance and address some of the most significant ongoing impacts of the pandemic on residents of Derbyshire.

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

- 12.1 No

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Implications

Financial

- 1.1 The proposed uses of the COMF grant reflect the updated grant conditions and flexibilities. The funding is time-limited and non-recurrent and so appointments, contracts and funding arrangements reflect this.
- 1.2 Monitoring of schemes' use of funding and associated outcomes will ensure that any unused funds are identified, clawed back and re-applied.
- 1.3 The schemes set out in Appendix 2 do not represent the total amount of available funding; further schemes will be presented in the future for approval under delegated authority or by seeking Cabinet approval.
- 1.4 The projected amount of COMF remaining at the start of the 2023/24 financial year is £11.137m
- 1.5 The combined value of the proposals as listed in Appendix 2 of this report is £1.047m.

Legal

- 2.1 The Council has power to provide grants to voluntary and community sector organisations under the general power of competence set out in section 1 of the Localism Act 2011
- 2.2 The Council's Financial Regulations state that grants up to £0.100m require Cabinet Member authorisation.
- 2.3 The Council's standard grant agreement will be used to set out the terms and conditions for which the grants are made and will include terms that provide for clawback of funding in certain circumstances and will also state that the Council is not liable for any employment liabilities.

Human Resources

- 3.1 The Council accepts no employment or future redundancy liability within the conditions of the grants awarded, with all employment and related matters to be managed by the grant recipients. This is also stipulated in the grant agreement documentation.

Information Technology

4.1 There are no Information Technology implications identified with the proposed use of COMF.

Equalities Impact

5.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment has not been undertaken.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

6.1 Continue to deliver the ongoing COVID-19 response and recovery in relation to health protection alongside wider partnership action to tackle health inequalities, contributing towards Council priorities including Resilient, healthy, and safe communities and All people in Derbyshire are enabled to live healthy lives.

Other (for example, Health and Safety, Environmental Sustainability, Property and Asset Management, Risk Management and Safeguarding)

7.1 None identified