

## **DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

### **CABINET MEMBER MEETING – HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES**

**24 June 2020**

#### **Report of the Director of Public Health**

#### **Establishing a Public Health emergency fund to support the response to COVID19**

##### **1. Purpose of the Report**

To seek Cabinet Member approval to establish an emergency fund of up to £50,000 to support community and voluntary sector organisations to continue their involvement in the community response to COVID19.

##### **2. Information and Analysis**

The response to the COVID19 pandemic has seen many organisations across Derbyshire working to ensure the basic needs of the most vulnerable residents are met, and it has become apparent that a number of community and voluntary sector organisations have insufficient resources to maintain their current level of response. In addition, the national shielding, social isolation and social distancing requirements have compelled many organisations to quickly adapt their service delivery model to operate within the guidance, often requiring additional resources to enable this.

It is proposed that a Public Health Emergency Fund is created that will support voluntary and community sector organisations with funding up to a maximum value of £2,000 for constituted groups and £250 for non-constituted groups, to allow them to play a key role in the local response. Organisations will be eligible to receive funding if they meet the criteria below.

Formally constituted means that organisations must have a bank account with at least two independent signatories, a governing document or list of governing members, a purpose, and a set of rules. In addition, many mutual aid groups have been established as a part of the support mechanisms within communities. By definition, these groups are self-organised and led by volunteers, and will not be formally constituted. However, to recognise the role that they are playing in the response to COVID 19, it is proposed that mutual aid groups and other non-constituted organisations are eligible for funding up to £250.

Organisations with an existing contractual arrangement in place with the Public Health department will not be eligible to access the Emergency Fund, as additional support will be provided, where appropriate, to these

organisations through contract variations and amendments, in line with the Council's Financial Regulations.

To be eligible for funding, organisations must:

- not have an existing contractual agreement in place with the Public Health department
- be supporting the response to COVID19
- be known to the Public Health team through previous partnership working, be known to the Council's Community Response Unit, or be known to the network of District Forums that support the work of the Community Response Unit
- provide a minimum level of detail, including geographic area covered, contact details for lead individual, and bank details for transfer of funding.

The Public Health Emergency Fund will be funded from the Public Health Reserve. For this reason, any proposed use of the Emergency Funding must be linked to an existing Public Health work programme, for example to support mental health and emotional wellbeing, increase social connectedness, or to prevent demand on statutory services. This will allow the Public Health Emergency Fund to run concurrently with other corporate grant schemes, whilst retaining a clear focus on improving public health outcomes.

To apply for Emergency Funding, organisations will provide details to the Director of Public Health or an Assistant Director of Public Health of the funding they require, and its purpose, as well as confirmation that they meet the eligibility criteria.

It is proposed that the Cabinet Member delegates authority to the Director of Public Health to determine whether organisations should receive funding, using the criteria stipulated above. All recipient organisations will be recorded, and reported to Cabinet Member meetings on a quarterly basis.

The fund will operate for a period of 12 months, and then be reviewed by the Cabinet Member in conjunction with the Director of Public Health as to whether the Fund should continue. If the fund is fully allocated prior to the 12 month review then the Cabinet Member, in conjunction with the Director of Public Health will determine whether to extend the value of the Emergency Fund.

### **3. Financial Considerations**

The overall value of the Emergency Fund will be £50,000 and this will be met from the Public Health Reserve.

### **4. Human Resources Considerations**

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.

## **5. Legal Considerations**

The Council's Financial Regulations allow grants of up to £100,000 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.

## **6. Other Considerations**

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: equality of opportunity, health, environmental, transport, property and crime and disorder considerations.

## **7. Background Papers**

None

## **8. Key Decision**

Yes

## **9. Is it required that the Call-in period be waived in respect of the decisions being proposed within this report?**

No

## **10. Officer's Recommendation**

That the Cabinet Member:

- approves the establishment of a Public Health Emergency Fund of £50,000 to support the response of the community and voluntary sector to the COVID19 pandemic
- delegates authority to the Director of Public Health to approve awards of no more than £2,000 to individual organisations
- receives details of recipient organisations on a quarterly basis

**Dean Wallace**  
**Director of Public Health**