

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET MEMBER MEETING – HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES

5 November 2020

Report of the Director of Public Health

UPDATE ON PUBLIC HEALTH COVID19 FUND

1. Purpose of the Report

To provide an update on organisations supported through the Public Health COVID19 fund, and seek Cabinet Member approval for allocating an additional £50,000 towards the fund.

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.

On 24 June 2020, the Cabinet Member for Health and Communities approved establishment of a Public Health COVID19 Fund to support voluntary and community sector organisations in mitigating the impact of COVID19 on local communities, and work to improve the health and wellbeing of local populations. Funding of up to a maximum value of £2,000 is available for constituted groups and £250 for non-constituted groups.

The Public Health COVID19 Fund is funded from the Public Health Grant. For this reason, all applications 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.

Authority for approval of applications was delegated by the Cabinet Member to the Director of Public Health, with quarterly updates on organisations funded reported to Cabinet Member meetings.

To date, a total of 30 applications have been reviewed and approved for funding, initially by a panel comprising of an Assistant Director of Public Health and a Health Improvement Practitioner, before ratification by the Director of Public Health. In the period up to 5 October, the following organisations have been approved for funding:

Organisation	Location	Application details	Funding approved
RJ Weston	Amber Valley	PPE and other equipment allowing centre to re-open in covid19 secure manner and in line with relevant national guidelines	£2,000
Oscari	Amber Valley	Request for PPE, hand sanitiser stations and cleaning materials allowing premises to re-open in covid19 secure manner and in line with relevant national guidelines	£595.61
Helping Hooves Derbyshire	Erewash	Request for PPE and cleaning materials allowing premises to re-open in covid19 secure manner and in line with relevant national guidelines	£153.91
Derbyshire Autism Services	Derbyshire-wide	Request for PPE and materials to develop support resources for autistic students as they return to educational settings	£2,000
Age Concern Chesterfield and District	Chesterfield, Bolsover and NE Derbyshire	Additional hours for volunteer coordinator post for period of 15 weeks to manage increase in demand for telephone befriending service. Role assesses new users prior to allocation to a volunteer and supports wellbeing checks for volunteers,	£1,905
Smalley Road Runners	Amber Valley	PPE to support return to club sessions	£332
Release Financial Charity	Bolsover	Establishment of Release Community Money Advice Centre to provide money and debt advice	£2,000

Crich Area Mutual Aid Group	Amber Valley	Community display of art completed by local residents during COVID19	£250
Cotmanhay Community Network	Erewash	Supply of food parcels to vulnerable local residents and establish a community shop	£2,000
Relate – Chesterfield and NE Derbyshire	Chesterfield and NE Derbyshire	Support sessions for local volunteers	£2,000
Callum's Voice	Amber Valley	Well-being packs to children and young adults with autism, in lieu of family wellbeing workshops	£1,950
Parenting Additional Needs	Derbyshire	Support to siblings of disabled children – updating website and delivery of art therapy and outdoor activity programme	£2,000
Asian Association of Chesterfield	Chesterfield and NE Derbyshire	Continuation of Saffron Kitchen project providing hot meals to elderly and vulnerable members of the community; delivery of online yoga sessions	£1,938
Crags Radio	Bolsover	PPE to allow station to begin broadcasting	£250
Derbyshire Community Hub	Chesterfield	Establishing a community café (volunteer training, equipment, promotion and food supplies)	£2,000
Morton Village Hall	North East Derbyshire	Establishing a community café (equipment, food supplies and PPE)	£2,000
Hillstown Miners Welfare Trust	Bolsover	To offer all non-profit groups that use the centre free room hire for at least a month	£2,000
St John Ambulance	Chesterfield	Support the emotional welfare of young volunteers, and support recruitment of new volunteers	£2,000
Whitfield Parish, St James' and St Luke's Church	High Peak	Supplies for food bags provided through Grace Kitchen project, and IT equipment to support job	£2,000

		seekers project	
Emmanuel Church	South Derbyshire	Replacement and purchasing of new kitchen equipment to support community food project	£2,000
St Johns Church and Community Hall	Erewash	Establishment of affordable food box project	£2,000
Marlpool United Reform Church	Amber Valley	Continuation of supply of food bags to families in need	£1,544
New Hope Community Church	Bolsover and NE Derbyshire	IT equipment to support expansion of befriending project and provision of Freedom course resources	£1,498
Riddings Park Community Centre	Amber Valley	PPE to support safe re-opening of Community Centre	£2,000
Rhubarb Farm	Bolsover, Chesterfield and NE Derbyshire	New facility for packing of food parcels for local community	£2,000
Rural Action Derbyshire	County-wide	Extension of Rural Hardship Fund	£2,000
Helen's Trust	Derbyshire Dales, NE Derbyshire and High Peak	Respite care for carers of those with a terminal illness	£2,000
Holmewood and Health Healthy Futures Group	Chesterfield	Room hire and food provision to support food hub	£2,000
Breakthrough Community Enterprise CIC	Bolsover	Equipment and seeds to develop old land for food production to supply local community and community groups	£1,630
The Zink Project	High Peak and Derbyshire Dales	Additional space for food bank to enable social distancing, volunteer expenses, promotion of local support available	£2,000

The fund was established with an initial allocation of £50,000. To date, a total of £50,047 has been awarded. It is therefore proposed that the fund is extended by a further £50,000.

3. Financial Considerations

The overall value of the Emergency Fund was established at £50,000 and this is being met from the Public Health Reserve. To date, a total of £50,047 has been awarded to Derbyshire organisations. It is proposed to extend the fund by an additional £50,000, and this will also 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 £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.

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:

- Notes the allocation of the Public Health COVID19 Fund to date.
- Approves the extension of the fund by an additional £50,000.
- Continues to delegate 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