

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES

25 March 2021

Report of the Director of Public Health

UPDATE ON CONTAIN OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT FUND

1. Purpose of the report:

This report seeks to:

- i. Provide an update to the Cabinet Member for Health and Communities on the Covid-19 Outbreak Management Fund funding allocations from 30 November 2020 to 20 February 2021.
- ii. Seeks approval for the following use of the fund that requires Cabinet Member approval:
 - a. £0.150m paid to care home providers in Derbyshire on a per registered bed basis to fund wellbeing activities whilst visiting restrictions remain in place.
 - b. £210,218 to a range of voluntary sector organisations to deliver the Community Champions scheme, noting the full breakdown of allocations as outlined in the financial considerations section.
 - c. £26,000 to the University of Nottingham for the evaluation of the asymptomatic COVID-19 community testing programme in Derbyshire
 - d. £0.279m to district and borough councils to fund Environmental Health teams to further support implementation of Derbyshire's COVID Outbreak Management Plan
 - e. £8,617 to Derby City Council to recruit an Associate Director of Inequalities (COVID19) to work across Derby City and Derbyshire County.

2. Information and analysis:

Derbyshire County Council has received additional funding from Central Government to support the ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic as part of the Contain Outbreak Management Fund, this is in addition to funding received by the Authority in early 2020.

Public Health Authorities in England have a lead role in protecting and improving the health of the population in relation to the pandemic. Within the Authority, the Director of Public Health has a responsibility for the Authority's contribution to

health protection matters, preparing for and responding to incidents that present a threat to public health.

In May 2020 the Government launched the NHS Test and Trace service, this would ensure that individuals who develop symptoms could access testing, and that high-risk contacts are identified and advised to self-isolate for 10 days. Public Health Authorities (local authorities responsible for Public Health functions) are central to the local Test and Trace programme and have an evolving function within the programme of work as a Local Tracing Partnership.

As part of the Contain Framework which sets out how the impact of COVID-19 will be managed and mitigated all local authorities in England, with a responsibility for Public Health, have received a funding allocation equivalent to £8 per head to support proactive containment and intervention measures. Derbyshire's initial allocation was £6.500m and further allocations have been received due to ongoing lockdown and tier restrictions being in place.

The funding will allow development of new, and extension of existing non-pharmaceutical interventions to manage and mitigate the impact of the pandemic in communities across Derbyshire in the coming months. Any interventions need to be targeted at specific vulnerable communities or populations and this would include children and families, older people and individuals at higher risk due to their health status.

Cabinet agreed the overall profile of spend when it met on 14 January 2021, and that delegated authority will be given to the Director of Public Health and Cabinet Member for Health and Communities to develop an implementation plan co-ordinate the delivery of the different workstreams described in this report. Where appropriate additional approvals from Cabinet Member would be sought in line with the Council's Constitution and Financial Regulations.

This is the first of these update reports and Cabinet Member approval is requested for the following activity.

Wellbeing support to care home residents

Funding allocations can be made to care homes to contribute towards activities and events that support resident wellbeing. However, as with the Infection Prevention Control Grant which is currently being allocated to providers via Adult Social Care consideration of state aid is a key consideration. The Government has advised Adult Social Care colleagues that the best way to protect from allegations of state aid was treat all providers the same so have suggested a payment per registered care bed model. This funding allocation would follow a similar approach to payment with payment per registered care beds across the PVI sector. Direct Care Homes operated by Derbyshire County Council do not access this funding and this would be replicated for this funding allocation.

There are currently 7,640 registered beds in Derbyshire and allocating the full £0.150m would result in a payment of £19.63 per bed.

There is currently a light touch approach to monitoring associated with the Infection Prevention Control Grant and a similar approach is proposed with this funding allocation. Public Health will issue care providers with some short guidance to outline how the wellbeing payment can be used and once activities are completed, we would encourage providers to share social media posts, newsletters and photos to evidence the spend.

Community Partner scheme

The community partner scheme aims to build on existing relationships and structures to develop an integrated and multidisciplinary framework to support a community response to COVID-19 in Derbyshire. Working with local communities is identified as a key principle for the introduction of non-pharmaceutical intervention (NPI) in the Association of Directors of Public Health report [Protecting our communities: Pulling together to achieve sustainable suppression of SARS-CoV-2 and limit adverse impacts](#)

Community partners, local groups and leaders will be invited to recruit to or join a network of 'champions' who will lead in disseminating timely and relevant information to local communities, and also act as a conduit for capturing and feeding back local intelligence to the network.

The network will be supported by resources and messages, including guidance on symptoms, current restrictions in place, advice on personal and community actions that can be taken. All content will include further information on the public health "science" behind the messages. A "space" will be created to support two-way interaction between Public Health, Communications and lead partners. Local intelligence can be discussed at these forums and fed back into the central resource, in addition to conversations being had regarding current messages and how best to apply them to local communities.

Oversight will be maintained on the process through the Community Group of the Derby and Derbyshire Local Resilience Forum, while overarching delivery and response prioritisation will be led by the Public Health Locality Leads

The community and voluntary sector, and other local partners will be asked to lead the identification and recruitment of champions, who may undertake a range of activities from simply passing on information to actively challenging misinformation and directing local activities.

Local networks will be strengthened in the longer-term through this scheme, and it is therefore expected to have continued utility beyond the COVID-19 response, offering opportunities to disseminate broader health messages and respond to a wider range of local needs once the pandemic has come to an end.

Community testing evaluation by the University of Nottingham

The Derbyshire County COVID-19 community testing programme aims to reduce the spread of the virus, protect the most vulnerable and drive down the infection rate across the county by identifying asymptomatic cases through Lateral Flow testing (LFT).

Community Testing sites have been operating in various locations since December 2020, it is therefore necessary to undertake a series of evaluations to learn about what works in the design and implementation, what can be improved and the overall impacts of the programme.

In order to gain learning at pace to inform future developments, the University of Nottingham was engaged to submit an evaluation outline. A formative process evaluation has been proposed, using qualitative (semi-structured) interviews with two groups: those who attend for testing and those who do not. The University of Nottingham will provide an evaluation report with recommendations for process improvements to maximise engagement with testing and improve the experience of individuals who attend and prepare for a collaborative journal publication.

The aim of the evaluation is to understand the strengths and weaknesses of the testing process and reasons for attendance and non-attendance, and to make recommendations for process improvements that can both maximise engagement with testing and improving the experience of individuals who attend.

Financial support to Environmental Health teams

On 10 September 2020 Cabinet approved funding to support district and borough environmental health teams to support their enforcement activity in relation to Covid-19 response. Funding of £0.05m was allocated to each council for both of the financial years 2020-21 and 2021-22.

Environmental Health teams have demonstrated they provide a much-needed resource to the implementation of the local Outbreak Management Plan, delivered through qualified Environmental Health officers (EHOs), and additional posts employed specifically to support the response to COVID-19. Roles undertaken by Environmental Health teams as part of the Outbreak Management Plan has included:

- Virtual and on-site investigations, compliance audits and interviews with businesses following notification of a possible COVID-19 outbreak.
- Attending meetings and reporting within Derbyshire's COVID-19 outbreak management governance structure.
- Investigating complaints and working with the Health and Safety Executive and other regulatory agencies where further investigation or enforcement is required.
- Maintaining regular contact with larger employers to monitor case numbers.

- Collating and sharing local intelligence with the Council's Public Health team and other partners.
- Education, engagement and enforcement linked to business activities and restrictions applicable at a given point in time.
- Providing a visual presence and advice to members of the public of the need to comply with the requirements in place, including maintaining social distancing and use of face coverings, especially in areas with greater footfall such as retail parks and popular visitor locations.
- Responding to complaints and enquiries from the public and businesses.
- Reviewing Temporary Events Notices in line with COVID-19 legislation.

The past few months have seen an increase in community transmission with a range of local restriction tiers and national lockdown. The nature of the work has therefore seen an increase in activity and greater variation in the nature of the response required, with a focus being on workplaces with critical workers when many businesses are closed by law. The increased availability of both symptomatic and asymptomatic testing has resulted in an increasing number of workplaces with clusters of cases that need a response. Re-opening of closed businesses will increase the number of statutory inspections required, and additional funding will allow Environmental Health teams to maintain their COVID-19 response.

The use of additional posts to support qualified EHOs is a cost-effective use of the resources and if not utilised, will place additional demands on the qualified EHOs, and, currently there are challenges in recruiting qualified EHOs to time-limited COVID-19 work; the market is limited and agency costs are rising. The additional posts provide a visible presence and report to the EHOs who assign their tasks based on complaints, data and other intelligence shared by partners, as well as proactive patrols in key locations.

The demographic and economic profiles of the districts is highly variable, and the workload of Environmental Health teams has been broadly driven by these factors:

- Presence of large employer(s) especially in high-risk settings and/or 24/7 operations such as food factories.
- Areas with industrial estates and large warehousing and distribution sites, where homeworking is not possible.
- Supported and assisted living settings which began routine testing in December.
- Homecare / domiciliary care providers where the employing office base (for test and trace) is within their area. These agencies can have over 500 staff.
- Early-years settings i.e. pre-school nurseries caring for children of critical workers.
- Retail parks with multiple businesses and indoor/outdoor shared spaces and potential crowd control concerns (notably before Christmas).

- Visitor attractions / destinations that attract large numbers of people such as country parks (weather dependent).

Due to this variation, proposals were invited for additional funding on a case-by-case basis where Environmental Health teams could demonstrate their spending would be above the initial allocation made. All bar one of Derbyshire's Environmental Health teams submitted proposals for additional funding, which have been assessed by staff in the Public Health team. The Environmental Health Team at Derbyshire Dales District Council indicated that they did not need additional funding above the original allocation. Further details of the proposals are held by the Outbreak Management team within Public Health.

The majority of additional funding is requested for 2021-22, and this is due to the need for Environmental Health teams to undertake a greater number of non-COVID-19 statutory inspections as premises re-open, the increasing number of outbreaks forecast to require a response as further COVID-19 testing programmes are implemented, and providing additional deployment of EHOs at weekends and evenings. The additional funding will allow teams to maintain their response as part of Derbyshire COVID-19 Outbreak Management Plan, as well as increase the number of statutory inspections undertaken. Of note, is the recruitment difficulties in securing a suitably qualified EHO, on a fixed-term contract. There is national demand for such staff, and this has meant using agencies and the market is driving up hourly rates.

The following allocations are proposed for the 2020-21 and 2021-22 financial years:

District/Borough	Additional allocation 2020/21 (£)	Additional allocation 2021/22 (£)
Amber Valley	0	53,000
Bolsover/NE Derbyshire (joint bid)	0	35,000
Chesterfield	0	58,000
Erewash	0	53,000
High Peak	11,000	21,000
South Derbyshire	8,000	40,000
Total	19,000	260,000

Recruitment of an Associate Director of Inequalities (COVID-19)

This post will work with both Directors of Public Health (DPH) in Derby City and Derbyshire, Public Health, health and social care colleagues and will lead on reducing the health inequalities experienced by the population of Derby and Derbyshire, particularly those inequalities created or widened by the impact of COVID-19.

The postholder will provide specialist technical and professional public health leadership, advice and support to the Derby and Derbyshire health and care system to reduce health inequalities across the population based on evidence. This post will take responsibility for the development, implementation and delivery of actions to reduce inequalities in health outcomes. The Director will also consider how inequalities impacts on access to health and care provision, specifically to respond to and mitigate the impact of COVID-19, such as testing and vaccination.

This post is funded jointly between Derby City Council (employer) and Derbyshire County Council for 2 days per week for 6 months.

3 Social Value considerations:

The proposals outlined in the report will help build community resilience to COVID-19 and facilitate the further development of networks of support which people can access throughout the pandemic response. The funding allocation to care homes will enable residents to undertake new activities and maybe delivered in conjunction with local volunteers and community groups.

4. Legal considerations:

Cabinet agreed the overall profile of spend when it met on 4 January 2021 that delegated authority will be given to the Director of Public Health and Cabinet Member for Health and Communities to develop an implementation plan co-ordinate the delivery of the different workstreams described in this report. Where appropriate additional approvals from Cabinet Member would be sought in line with the council's constitution and financial regulations.

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.

5. Finance considerations:

The Council has received additional payments of £6.500m to support local interventions from the Contain Outbreak Management Fund, and all costs identified in this report will be resourced from this fund. Approval is sought for a total of £673,835 to be funded, with the allocation as follows:

- £0.150m paid to care home providers in Derbyshire on a per registered bed basis to fund wellbeing activities whilst visiting restrictions remain in place.

- £50,000 to Derbyshire Voluntary Action to establish a Community Advocate Project across North East Derbyshire and Chesterfield for a 12-month period.
- £25,000 to Bassetlaw CVS to establish a Community Advocate Project across Bolsover for a 12-month period.
- £15,218 to The Bureau to establish a Community Messengers project across Glossopdale for a 12-month period.
- £25,000 to South Derbyshire CVS to establish and deliver the Community Partner Scheme in South Derbyshire for a 12-month period.
- £20,000 to High Peak CVS to establish and deliver the Community Partner Scheme in High Peak for a 12-month period.
- £25,000 to Shift CIC to establish and deliver the Community Partner Scheme in Amber Valley for a 12-month period.
- £25,000 Derbyshire Dales CVS to establish and deliver the Community Partner Scheme in Derbyshire Dales for a 12-month period.
- £25,000 to Erewash Voluntary Action to establish and deliver the Community Partner Scheme in Erewash for a 12-month period.
- £26,000 to the University of Nottingham for the evaluation of the asymptomatic COVID-19 community testing programme in Derbyshire.
- £53,000 to Amber Valley Borough Council to further support implementation of Derbyshire's COVID Outbreak Management Plan
- £35,000 to Bolsover District Council/North East Derbyshire District Council to further support implementation of Derbyshire's COVID Outbreak Management Plan
- £58,000 to Chesterfield Borough Council to further support implementation of Derbyshire's COVID Outbreak Management Plan
- £53,000 to Erewash Borough Council to further support implementation of Derbyshire's COVID Outbreak Management Plan
- £32,000 to High Peak Borough Council to further support implementation of Derbyshire's COVID Outbreak Management Plan
- £48,000 to South Derbyshire District Council to further support implementation of Derbyshire's COVID Outbreak Management Plan
- £8,617 to Derby City Council to fund the employment of an Associate Director of Inequalities (COVID-19)

6. Other considerations:

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

7. Background papers:

[Cabinet Report - COVID-19 Funding allocation to District and Borough Councils to support the Derbyshire response to COVID-19](#)

Cabinet Report – Investment of Contain Outbreak Management Fund (14 January 2021)
The Contain Framework

8. Key Decision:

No

9. Call-in:

Is it required that call-in be waived for any decision on this report?

No

10. Officer's Recommendation:

The Cabinet Member for Health and Communities is asked to:

- i. Note the update to the Cabinet Member for Health and Communities on the COVID-19 Outbreak Management Fund funding allocations from 30 November 2020 to 18 January 2021.
- ii. Approves the following funding allocations:
 - a. £0.150m paid to care home providers in Derbyshire on a per registered bed basis to fund wellbeing activities whilst visiting restrictions remain in place.
 - b. £210,218 to a range of voluntary sector organisations to deliver the Community Champions scheme, noting the full break down of allocations as outlined in the financial considerations section.
 - c. £26,000 to the University of Nottingham for the evaluation of the asymptomatic COVID-19 community testing programme in Derbyshire.
 - d. £0.279 to district and borough council Environmental Health teams to further support implementation of Derbyshire's COVID Outbreak Management Plan
 - e. £8,617 to Derby City Council to employ an Associate Director of Inequalities (COVID-19)

Dean Wallace
Director of Public Health