



**FOR PUBLICATION**

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**CABINET MEMBER**

**2 September 2021**

**Report of the Director of Public Health**

**Update on Public Health Covid-19 Emergency Fund  
(Health and Communities)**

**1. Divisions Affected**

1.1 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 Emergency Fund.

3.2 To provide an update on relaunching the fund to continue to provide support to communities affected by Covid-19.

**4. Information and Analysis**

**Approvals from Covid-19 Emergency Fund**

4.1 The ongoing response to the Covid-19 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, supporting the clinically extremely vulnerable, social isolation

and requirement for activities to comply with social distancing guidance have compelled many organisations to quickly adapt their service delivery model to operate within the guidance, often requiring additional resources to enable this.

- 4.2 On 24 June 2020, the Cabinet Member for Health and Communities approved the establishment of a Public Health Covid-19 Emergency Fund to support voluntary and community sector organisations in mitigating the impact of Covid-19 on local communities, and to work to improve the health and wellbeing of local populations. Funding of up to a maximum value of £2,000 was available for constituted groups and £250 for non-constituted groups.
- 4.3 The Public Health Covid-19 Emergency Fund from June 2020 to June 2021 was funded from the Public Health Grant. For this reason, all applications had to be linked to the current Public Health work programme, for example to support mental health and emotional wellbeing, increase social connectedness, or to prevent demand on statutory services. This allowed the Public Health Emergency Fund to run concurrently with other corporate grant schemes, whilst retaining a clear focus on improving public health outcomes.
- 4.4 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 fifth such quarterly update covering organisations who have received funding from 27 April 2021 to 30 June 2021.
- 4.5 In addition to the 108 organisations that have already been funded, additional applications, detailed below, have also been reviewed and approved for funding. Funding decisions are made by a panel comprising of an Assistant Director in Public Health, a Public Health Lead and a Health Improvement Practitioner, before ratification by the Director of Public Health. The following organisations have been approved for funding:

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Application details</b>	<b>Funding approved</b>
People Express	South Derbyshire	Virtual art workshops to promote positive mental health	£2,000.00
Friends of New Bolsover	Bolsover	Development of a local community food pantry	£2,000.00
Derbyshire Community Transport	Amber Valley and NE Derbyshire	COVID secure transport to local events and activities	£2,000.00
Limestone	Bolsover	COVID secure community transport	£1,960.00

House		to local activities for socially isolated	
WORTH	Chesterfield	Mental health support sessions for children living in a family impacted by domestic abuse	£2,000.00
15 <sup>th</sup> Long Eaton Sea Scout & Guide Group	Erewash	Support to purchase equipment to allow socially distanced outdoor activities.	£2,000.00
Long Eaton Silver Prize Band	Erewash	Purchase equipment to enable group to undertake rehearsals and event outside.	£1,500.00
The Derbyshire Federation for Mental Health	High Peak and Derbyshire Dales	Mental health support workshops for people who are struggling to manage COVID restrictions/ COVID secure arrangements.	£1,975.10
Jog Duffield	Amber Valley	Jog Derbyshire training for leaders due to increased uptake.	£250.00
Castle Striders	Bolsover	Jog Derbyshire training for leaders due to increased uptake.	£190.00
Hope House Chesterfield Ltd	Chesterfield	Equipment for Walking Group for individuals who are recovering from drug and alcohol addiction	£1,570.00
Jog Riddings	Amber Valley	Equipment to allow Jog Riddings sessions to resume safely	£83.92
Swadlincote Joggers	South Derbyshire	Support for qualified leaders to expand group due to demand following lockdown	£680.00
Ripley Infants PTA	Amber Valley	Outdoor learning hive	£2,000.00
Umbrella Derby and Derbyshire	Amber Valley, Erewash, South Derbyshire and South Dales	Support a mix of virtual and COVID safe outdoor activity for vulnerable children and carers	£1,724.00
Derby Mountain Rescue	County wide	Additional equipment to allow the group to operate in line with COVID guidance	£2,000.00
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£21,933.02</b>

### **Future arrangements for community funding to support ongoing response to the Covid-19 pandemic.**

- 4.6 It is proposed a further £0.100m is allocated to extend and reposition the fund from the Contain Outbreak Management Fund, so Public Health can continue to support local organisations.

- 4.7 Bids over the past year frequently identified challenges relating to loss of income and the need to purchase additional equipment to ensure activities are undertaken safely. Safe operating arrangements are critical to ensuring that case rates remain low and the spread of the disease is disrupted/ minimised. Over the next 12 months community groups across Derbyshire will require ongoing additional support to ensure that they are able manage the continued impact of Covid-19 on their activities. This will be especially important should the case rate increase again into the autumn and winter months.
- 4.8 The extension of the fund will enable the following activity to take place, which is in line with the grant conditions from Government for the Contain Outbreak Management fund:
- Support organisations to reopen safely in line with current guidance.
  - Deliver and coordinate virtual/ digital events and activities where there is a need to do so (Covid-secure).
  - Promote positive mental health and wellbeing and resilience so people have the skills in place to self-isolate and cope with any further periods of lockdown or enhanced restrictions.
  - Strengthen local networks of support and community resilience to ensure local support is available to work alongside statutory services.
  - Support groups that have been disproportionately impacted by Covid-19 and are considered to be at greater risk if there are any subsequent outbreaks (e.g. Black and minority ethnic communities, clinically extremely vulnerable, domestic violence, low income, homeless populations).
- 4.9 Therefore, it is proposed that the small grants scheme continues in 2021/22 and a further £0.100m is allocated to provide small one-off grants of £2,000 for constituted organisations and £250 for non-constituted groups to support activity that meets the outcomes above.
- 4.10 The existing criteria for the fund will be amended to reflect these changes, and will also require that groups and organisations
- be known to the Public Health department through previous partnership working, be known to our 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.
- 4.11 Groups who have previously applied to the Emergency Fund up to 30 June 2021 will be able to apply again recognising that many of the initial projects funded will be coming to an end. Funding would not be provided

to those groups who were looking to extend or further fund activity that has already received £2,000 funding.

- 4.12 The fund will also be renamed to the Covid-19 Community Response Fund to acknowledge the longer lasting impact of the pandemic and the ongoing response required.
- 4.13 The panel considering the grant applications will also make sure decisions are in line with the corporate policy in relation to grants.

## **5. Alternative Options Considered**

- 5.1 Options considered included:
- Ending the grant funding on 30 June 2021 and potentially missing an opportunity to utilise the Contain Outbreak Management Fund available to the authority to further support this activity. If the fund did end local organisations and voluntary groups who are continuing to undertake vital work supporting local communities would have to seek funding from other sources, or if this was not available, not be able to undertake activity.
  - Continuing to fund the grant from the Public Health Reserve, but this was not affordable.

## **6. Implications**

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

## **7. Background Papers**

- 7.1 [Update on Covid-19 Emergency Fund – Cabinet Member for Health and Communities Cabinet Member Committee report](#)
- 7.2 [Establishing a Public Health Emergency Fund to support the response to Covid-19 – Cabinet Member for Health and Communities Cabinet Member Committee Report.](#)
- 7.3 [Update on Covid-19 Emergency Fund – Cabinet Member for Health and Communities Cabinet Member report \(February 2021\)](#)
- 7.4 [Update on Covid-19 Emergency Fund – Cabinet Member for Health and Communities Cabinet Member report \(March 2021\)](#)
- 7.5 [Update on Covid-19 Emergency Fund – Cabinet Member for Health and Communities Cabinet Member Report \(3 June 2021\)](#)

## **8. Appendices**

- 8.1 Appendix 1- Implications.

## **9. Recommendation(s)**

- 9.1 The Cabinet Member for Health and Communities is asked to:
- a) Note the allocation of the Public Health Covid-19 Emergency Fund to date.
  - b) Agree to continue to delegate authority to the Director of Public Health to approve awards of no more than £2,000 to individual organisations.
  - c) Agree to receive details of further recipient organisations on a quarterly basis
  - d) Allocate £100,000 to the Covid Community Response Fund from the Contain Outbreak Management Budget to extend the funding arrangements currently in place via the Covid Emergency Fund,
  - e) Note the revisions to the eligibility criteria to align with the Contain framework

## **10. Reasons for Recommendation(s)**

- 10.1 The Cabinet Member is required to review the allocations to the Covid-19 Emergency Fund to date.
- 10.2 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 throughout the pandemic.
- 10.3 Quarterly update reports to the Cabinet Member will provide a timely review of the activity approved by the fund.
- 10.4 Allocating a further £0.100m to the relaunched Covid Community Response Fund will allow the authority to distribute one-off funding from the Government to groups and organisations across Derbyshire to mitigate against the ongoing impact of the pandemic and enable organisations to undertake preventative action to reduce the likelihood of local outbreaks.
- 10.5 Revising the eligibility for the fund will ensure that it operates within the broader grant criteria of the Contain Outbreak Management Fund which will be the funding source for 2021/22.

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

- 11.1 No

**Report Author:** Ellen Langton, Public Health Lead - Policy

**Contact details:** [ellen.langton@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:ellen.langton@derbyshire.gov.uk)

**Appendix 1****Implications****Financial**

- 1.1 The overall value of the Emergency Fund is £0.200m and to date £196,271 has been awarded to Derbyshire organisations. Funding has been met from the Public Health Reserve for the grants summarised in this report and where appropriate from COVID-19 Contain Framework funding.
- 1.2 Moving forward, the additional £0.100m for the Covid-19 Community Response Fund will be funded from the Contain Outbreak Management Fund. For 2021-22, based on allocations carried forward from 2020/21 and new allocations received in 2021-22, there is £23.000m available from the Contain Outbreak Management Fund.

**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.