

Notice of Non-key Executive Decision

Subject Heading:	Community Chest Grant Programme
Decision Maker:	Barbara Nicholls, Strategic Director of People
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Gillian Ford – Lead Member for Health
SLT Lead:	Barbara Nicholls, Strategic Director of People
Report Author and contact details:	Sandy Foskett, Senior Commissioner and Project Manager
Policy context:	The Health Inequalities Fund will support Havering’s Health and Wellbeing Strategy priority
Financial summary:	The project will be funded by NHS North East London (NEL). Total funding assigned to the project is £73,113 for the year 2023/24.
Relevant Overview & Scrutiny Sub Committee:	Health
Is this decision exempt from being called-in?	The decision will be exempt from call in as it is a Non key Decision

Non-key Executive Decision

The subject matter of this report deals with the following Council Objectives

People - Things that matter for residents X

Place - A great place to live, work and enjoy

Resources - A well run Council that delivers for People and Place.

Part A – Report seeking decision

DETAIL OF THE DECISION REQUESTED AND RECOMMENDED ACTION

This report seeks approval from the Strategic Director of People to carry out an open procedure procurement for the Community Chest grant programme in Havering. A total funding of £53,775 has been allocated for the project. The project was initiated by the Havering Placed Based Partnership Board and is fully funded by NHS North East London (NEL). This grant funding will be made available to the successful bidders by end of February 2024.

AUTHORITY UNDER WHICH DECISION IS MADE

Havering Constitution

3.4 Powers of Second Tier Managers

Contract powers

(a) To approve commencement of a tendering process for, and to award all contracts below a total contract value of £500,000 but above the EU Threshold for Supplies and Services.

STATEMENT OF THE REASONS FOR THE DECISION

Background

Havering launched the Community Chest Grant Programme in 2022/23. A total of 15 voluntary sector and faith community organisations (VSCFES) were awarded funding to deliver activities that benefited the community. The fund was designed to support community groups, as well as constituted organisations to design and deliver activities for specific cohorts within the borough, that social prescribers, local area coordinators and community engagement staff identified as a need. The Community Chest in this context is linked to social prescribing, but also recognises that the residents engaging with health and wellbeing coaches and local area coordinators can also benefit from the process.

A total of 941 residents benefited from activities delivered through the community chest projects. 163 participants filled in feedback forms. See feedback below of those accessing activities:

- 27% had a disability, the majority of people were female (75%) and white or white British (86%)
- 25% would have accessed the GP surgery without the service

Non-key Executive Decision

- Nearly 10% would have done nothing, gone without support or would not have known where to turn
- All residents would recommend the activities to a friend
- All but two participants felt their health and wellbeing improved as a result of

Community Chest – 2023/24

On 13th September 2023 the ICB allocated funding of £73,113 to run a second round of Havering's Community Chest Grant Programme. This figure includes £19,338 underspend from community chest in 22/23 plus £53,775 from the 23/24 allocation. The criteria for the funding will work in the same way as the previous process, awarding small grants from £500 up to maximum of £10,000 to micro Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) sector that meet the specific criteria. See Background section.

The aim of this fund is to support the existing community engagement services in Havering to refer residents onto activities taking place in the community. This fund is for organisations which do not typically access Council or NHS funding. It aims to build collaborative working between the below systems, VCFSEs, and community groups.

The projects will be specifically designed to support the process of community support functions that exist in Havering (e.g. social prescribing, health and wellbeing and local area coordination referrals).

The funding themes and population groups in need that were identified through a priority setting process during the last round will still apply, however we will welcome applications from new and innovative ideas that do not fit within an example activities.

Applicants that cannot be funded will include the following:

- Applications that do not meet the programme eligibility criteria.
- Retrospective applications – when the project has already taken place.

Evaluation Process

Following eligibility checks, applications will be reviewed by a group of stakeholders from within the Council and those representing the VCFSE sector. Applications will take into account key considerations such as equalities, how the proposed work fits into the fund priorities, spread around the borough and sustainability.

Project Timeline

- October- November 2023 – Project Group to review criteria and priority themes
- December 2023 – Community Chest to open for bids
- February 2024 - Roll out of Community Chest Projects
- Monitoring and Project Evaluation at the end of each project

Award of Grants

Non-key Executive Decision

Successful grant applications will be provided a simple monitoring template that they will need to fill out when they complete the activities.

The types of questions asked in the grant monitoring and valuation template will include a set of simple questions including:

- 1) Who attended the activity? (demographics, geography)
- 2) Where were they referred from? E.g. self-referred, social prescribing, self-referral, local area coordination,
- 3) How many times did they attend?
- 4) Would the beneficiary recommend this project to a friend or family member?
- 5) Did this activity improve the beneficiary's health and wellbeing?

To conclude, the grants will be managed by London Borough of Havering Senior Commissioning Manager with engagement with key stakeholders from the NHS and the Council.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Option - Do Nothing

This option was rejected. The Community Chest for Social Prescribing aims to respond to community intelligence, and provides specific support to residents to enhance their independence and wellbeing. Depending on the success of the grant funded services, there may be opportunity for longer term funding.

PRE-DECISION CONSULTATION

There was engagement with the Integrated Care Board Sub Committee.

NAME AND JOB TITLE OF STAFF MEMBER ADVISING THE DECISION-MAKER

Name: Sandy Foskett

Designation: Senior Commissioner and Project Manager

Signature: *S foskett*

Date: 5 December 2023

Part B - Assessment of implications and risks

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

The Council must provide or arrange for the provision of services, facilities or resources, or take other steps, which it considers will contribute towards preventing or delaying the development by adults in its area of needs for care and support; contribute towards preventing or delaying the development by carers in its area of needs for support; reduce the needs for care and support of adults in its area and reduce the needs for support of carers in its area in accordance with section 2 of the Care Act 2014. The Council is making a decision to carry out a procurement for a grants program for that purpose.

The Council has the power to provide grants for that purpose through section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972, which allows the Council to do anything which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the discharge of any of its functions, or through its general power of competence under section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 to do anything that individuals generally may do. There are limitations on the general power of competence, but the limitations do not apply to this decision.

The grant agreements will contain requirements for the micro voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise which will receive the grant money to use the grant money only for the purposes for which it is awarded, and to repay the grant money to the Council if it is not used for the purposes for which it is awarded. These requirements will ensure that the Council does not accidentally unlawfully subsidize any undertakings.

The value of the grants is below the applicable public procurement threshold for the light touch regime stipulated in the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 ("PCR") of £663 540. Therefore, these grants are not subject to the full PCR regime.

For these reasons, the Council can start the procurement process.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

This paper seeks approval to carry out an open procedure procurement for the Community Chest grant programme in Havering. £53,775 has been allocated from the Section 256 – North East London Health Inequalities Funding Allocation 2023/24 for this project. All projects funded from this agreement have been agreed at the Havering Place Partnership Board.

The total funding allocation covered by this agreement is £492,000 and the agreement is for the period 1st August 2023 until 31st March 2027 or until the funds have been depleted.

£100,000 was allocated to this project from the 2022/2023 North East London Health Inequalities Funding allocation and successful bids amounted to £80,662 leaving an underspend of £19,338. All parties have agreed for this amount to be added to the 2023/2024 allocation, making the total funding available £73,113.

Non-key Executive Decision

Following the open procedure procure, applications will be evaluated against the criteria and successful bidders will be awarded small grants from £500 up to maximum of £10,000. Grants will only be allocated up to the maximum funding available.

The community chest project will be fully funded from the NEL Health Inequalities Funding and therefore approval of this project will not have an adverse impact on the council's financial position.

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS (AND ACCOMMODATION IMPLICATIONS WHERE RELEVANT)

The recommendations made in this report do not give rise to any identifiable HR risks or implications that would affect either the Council or its workforce.

EQUALITIES AND SOCIAL INCLUSION IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

The Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 requires the Council, when exercising its functions, to have 'due regard' to:

- (i) The need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010;
- (ii) The need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share protected characteristics and those who do not, and;
- (iii) Foster good relations between those who have protected characteristics and those who do not.

Note: 'Protected characteristics' are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnerships, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex/gender, and sexual orientation.

The Council is committed to all of the above in the provision, procurement and commissioning of its services, and the employment of its workforce. In addition, the Council is also committed to improving the quality of life and wellbeing for all Havering residents in respect of socio-economics and health determinants.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

1 There are no direct implications relating to the environment or climate change relating to this report.

2. The Council will embrace the Environment and Climate Agenda both strategically and globally through its development of footprint reduction initiatives, Climate Action plans and externally delivered services. The council will strive to minimise negative impacts and optimise positive opportunities delivering our Climate change action plan.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Non-key Executive Decision

None

APPENDICES

None

Non-key Executive Decision

Part C – Record of decision

I have made this executive decision in accordance with authority delegated to me by the Leader of the Council and in compliance with the requirements of the Constitution.

Decision

Proposal agreed

Delete as applicable

Details of decision maker

Signed



Name: Barbara Nicholls

Cabinet Portfolio held:
ELT Member title: Strategic Director of People
Head of Service title
Other manager title:

Date: 14.12.23

Lodging this notice

The signed decision notice must be delivered to Committee Services, in the Town Hall.

For use by Committee Administration

This notice was lodged with me on _____

Signed _____

Non-key Executive Decision