

Report to: STRATEGIC COMMISSIONING BOARD

Date: 28 July 2021

Executive Member: Cllr Eleanor Wills, Executive Member for Health, Social Care and Population Health

Clinical Lead: Dr Jeanelle De Gruchy, Director of Population Health

Reporting Officer: Debbie Watson, Assistant Director of Population Health

Subject: PREVENTION AND PROMOTION FUND FOR BETTER MENTAL HEALTH 2021/22 – GRANT FUNDING

Report Summary: The report outlines a proposal to spend the £317,623.00 provided to Tameside Council as part of the government's 'Prevention and Promotion Fund for Better Mental Health 2021/22' grant. The proposals are one off schemes due to the non-recurrent nature of the grant from government.

Recommendations: To agree the spending proposals outlined in the report.

Financial Implications:
(Authorised by the statutory Section 151 Officer & Chief Finance Officer)

Budget Allocation (if Investment Decision)

CCG or TMBC Budget Allocation	TMBC Allocation
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The proposal is to spend £295,000 on five mental health initiatives, plus £20,000 in evaluation costs. The total cost is fully funded by an external grant of £317,623 from the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), and there will be no overall budget impact to the Council. £75,000 of the costs will be internal to the Council, with the remainder disbursed to third-sector partners co-ordinated by the CCG.

Care should be given to comply with the grant conditions, especially as multiple partners are now involved. Arrangements should be put in place to ensure that expenditure is properly monitored and accounted for, and in particular, the grant requires:

1. that expenditure falls within the definition of 'eligible expenditure' set by the DHSC, and is 'over and above' activities already planned and funded by the Council
2. that the Council complies with the regular monitoring and reporting requirements set by the DHSC, including signature by the relevant Directors
3. That expenditure takes place only within the specified grant period, for most purposes within the financial year 21/22.

Advice and guidance has been taken from STAR Procurement, although some quotes are still to be obtained.

The £75,000 spend within the Welfare Rights team (see Appendix 1) implies recruitment to additional fixed-term posts. To avoid a budget pressure once the grant ends, either their contract should be aligned to the grant term or alternative funding must be identified to cover any extension. The project may be expected to produce indirect cost reductions against

mental health activities elsewhere in the Strategic Commission.

**Legal Implications:
(Authorised by the Borough
Solicitor)**

The Council and health are moving swiftly to utilise this one off funding. Compliant procurement routes still need to be followed hence support being provided by STAR, which should be followed by the project officers to ensure that not only the procurement regulations but also that internal contract procedure rules are complied with.

Despite potentially being a one off funding opportunity robust contract management is still required to ensure that best value is achieved for council and health together with the delivery of a valuable service for the residents of Tameside.

**How do proposals align with
Health & Wellbeing Strategy?**

The proposal supports all elements of the life course, and seeks to reduce inequalities.

**How do proposals align with
Locality Plan?**

The proposal aligns with the locality plan as it seeks to increase support for residents regarding mental health.

**Recommendations / views of
the Health and Care Advisory
Group:**

The paper has not been presented to Health and Care Advisory Group.

Quality Implications:

All projects proposed will be monitored and performance managed to ensure quality.

**How do the proposals help
to reduce health
inequalities?**

The proposal supports people who are most at risk and exposure to further inequalities due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**What are the Equality and
Diversity implications?**

The proposal supports people who are most at risk and therefore promote equality and diversity.

**What are the safeguarding
implications?**

All providers who will deliver the projects will follow safeguarding procedures.

**What are the Information
Governance implications?
Has a privacy impact
assessment been
conducted?**


N/A

Risk Management:

The approach and activity outlined in the report ensures that Tameside Council meets its obligations with regards to spending of the 'Prevention and Promotion Fund for Better Mental Health 2021/22' grant.

Access to Information:

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer, Debbie Watson, Assistant Director of Population Health

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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1. The impact of coronavirus (COVID-19) and the social and economic consequences of the pandemic have meant that tackling mental health at a population level has never been more important. COVID-19 has been recognised as a public mental health emergency that exacerbates existing mental health inequalities.
- 1.2. Existing need: key facts about mental health
 - 1 in 6 adults experience a common mental health disorder such as anxiety or depression. This increases to 1 in 4 for those living in deprived areas and 1 in 5 women.
 - 1 in 8 children (5-19 years) have a mental health disorder.
 - Those facing social disadvantage and poverty are most at risk as are young women⁷ and those experiencing multiple disadvantage and discrimination.
 - Most mental health disorders are more common in people who are living alone, in poor physical health, and/or not employed.
 - Around half of all mental health problems start before the age of 14, with the early years being particularly important in setting the foundations for good mental health.
 - Risk factors for children include vulnerable family background involving parental domestic violence, substance misuse or severe mental health problems.
 - Children living in poverty are over three times more likely to suffer from mental health problems.

2. PREVENTION AND PROMOTION FUND FOR BETTER MENTAL HEALTH 2021/22 GRANT

- 2.1. On 27 March 2021 the Department of Health and Social Care announced the COVID-19 Mental Health and Wellbeing Recovery Action Plan for 2021 to 2022 to mitigate and respond to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on mental health. At this time, the government announced a *Prevention and Promotion Fund for Better Mental Health* of £15 million to be distributed to the most deprived (IMD) upper tier local authorities in England to preventing mental ill health and promoting good mental health. The *Prevention and Promotion Fund for Better Mental Health Grant* is a one-off contribution for the 2021/22 financial year and is made under Section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003.
- 2.2. The grant guidance is relatively short and provides some flexibility for local discretion. The key points from the grant guidance are summarised below:
 - Be used to support people with risk factors heightened by the pandemic, such as grief, financial insecurity etc.
 - Be used to support people at risk and vulnerable groups e.g. isolated men.
 - Be used to expand, continue or develop new interventions.

2.3. The allocation for Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council is £317,623.00

3. PROPOSAL FOR ALLOCATION OF THE GRANT

- 3.1. The table at **Appendix 1** summarises the spending proposal for the grant and has been developed with colleagues in the Clinical Commissioning Group, and Policy Directorate. Each investment seeks to achieve one or more of the following key principles of the grant guidance – use a whole system prevention approach; Be people and community centred; Build on good communication, collaboration and partnership; Tackle inequalities; Use a lifecourse and whole household approach; Build on existing arrangement and apply learning from the COVID-19 pandemic. More detail of the proposals can be found in the copy of the grant application in **Appendix 2**.
- 3.2. All investment is one-off in the financial year 2021/22 (albeit the provision and final spend could

run over into 2022/23 where funding is as a grant to a third party).

- 3.3 The spending proposals are summarised in the table below and in more detail at **Appendix 1**. The procurement management of these projects will be led by the CCG where existing arrangements are known but all managed in collaboration with Public Health.

PROVISION	£
Project A: Engagement and Support for Underserved Groups	£60,000
Project B: Financial Wellbeing	£75,000
Project C: Bereavement and Loss	£40,000
Project D: Men's physical and emotional health	£70,000
Project E: Peer Support Network Development	£50,000
Evaluation and Communication	£20,000
TOTAL	£315,000

- 3.4 All the above elements have been supported by STAR Procurement in terms of advice and guidance.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 As set out at the front of the report.