

**Report to :** STRATEGIC COMMISSIONING BOARD

**Date :** 25 August 2021

**Reporting Officers:** Tracy Morris – Assistant Director Children’s Services

**Subject :** **GRANT NO. 31/5110: LOCAL AUTHORITY EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE GRANT FOR FOOD AND ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES**

**Report Summary :** The report requests a variation to the allocations agreed in September 2020 by the Strategic Commissioning Board of the ‘*Local Authority Emergency Assistance Grant for Food and Essential Supplies*’ fund provided by Defra (Grant No. 31/5110). The requested variation is for the £5,000 allocation to Caring & Sharing to be changed to Active Tameside. Despite support from the council Caring & Sharing have been unable to provide sufficient banking arrangements as per regulations for funding allocations. Active Tameside will use the £5,000 for the essentials supplies as follows to provide food within term time where families are in COVID hardship – gas and electric; sportswear / uniforms to support emotional well-being through physical activity. Through casework within the Early Help offer baby safety equipment, baby essentials (nappies, toys, milk, clothing etc.) and school uniform and where approved household equipment.

**Recommendations :** Agree the change of provider from Caring & Sharing to Active Tameside to the value of £5,000.

**Links to Corporate Plan:** A key aim of the Corporate Plan is to assist to those in the community in greatest need of support, both in the immediate term and in a sustainable way for the future. The proposals outlined in this report support that aim in the area of poverty and financial hardship.

**Policy Implications :** Complies with current policy.

**Financial Implications :** This change will see no additional financial implications to the council, these funds have been set aside in a Covid earmarked reserve. The report requests an amendment to agree a change of provider of the allocation of £5,000 from the Local Authority Emergency Assistance grant for food and essential supplies from Caring and Sharing to Active Tameside.

**(Authorised by the statutory Section 151 Officer & Chief Finance Officer)**

**Legal Implications :** The legal implications in relation the grant generally are set out in the earlier report presented to Cabinet.

**(Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)** The project clearly needs to proceed at pace to ensure that the benefits of the grant are realised hence the proposed recommendation.

The project officers need to ensure that they take advise from STaR to ensure that Active Tameside it engaged compliantly.

**Risk Management :**

The approach and activity outlined in the report ensures that Tameside Council meets its obligations with regards to spending of Grant No. 31/5110.

**Access to Information :**

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting Lorraine Hopkins, Head of Early Help, Neighbourhoods and Early Years' Service.



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## **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 The government announced an emergency fund of £63 million to be distributed to local authorities in England to help those who are struggling to afford food and other essentials due to Covid-19. *Grant No. 31/5110: Local Authority Emergency Assistance Grant for Food and Essential Supplies* was a one-off contribution and was made under Section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003. The allocation for Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council was £331,533.64.
- 1.2 At their meeting on 30 September 2020 the Strategic Commissioning received a report to agree how the grant would be distributed in Tameside and which organisations would receive funds from it as a local provider of assistance.
- 1.3 This report requests a variation of one of the providers from Caring & Sharing to Active Tameside. The variation is to the value of £5,000.

## **2. PROPOSAL FOR RE-ALLOCATION OF £5,000**

- 2.1 Despite support from the council Caring & Sharing have been unable to provide sufficient banking arrangements as per regulations for funding allocations. Without the relevant banking details and for audit purposes we are unable to make the allocation to Caring and Sharing in relation to this funding for this grant.
- 2.2 Active Tameside will use the £5,000 for the essentials supplies as follows to provide food within term time where families are in COVID hardship – gas and electric; sportswear / uniforms to support emotional well-being through physical activity. Through casework within the Early Help offer baby safety equipment, baby essentials (nappies, toys, milk, clothing etc.) and school uniform and where approved household equipment.

## **3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 As outlined on the front of the report.