

Report of:	Director of Public Health South Tees.
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Relevant Executive Member:	Mayor of Middlesbrough and Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health
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Submitted to:	Executive
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Date:	20 December 2023
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Title:	South Tees Changing Futures Programme – Extended Funding
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Report for:	Decision
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Status:	Public
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Strategic priority:	Vulnerability
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Key decision:	Yes
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Why:	Decision(s) will incur expenditure or savings above £250,000 and have a significant impact in two or more wards
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Subject to call in?:	Yes
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Why:	Not Urgent
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Proposed decision(s)

That Executive approves:

- a. Accepting the boost funding.
- b. That Middlesbrough Council are to continue as lead organisation of the Changing Futures South Tees Programme.
- c. Middlesbrough Council will accept and hold monies, regarding South Tees Changing Futures Programme Boost Funding.
- d. Delegation for the allocation of monies for activities required to deliver the programme and management of associated procurement processes to the Director of Public Health, as advised by the South Tees Changing Futures Board, for the allocated period of April 2024-March 2025.

Executive summary

The purpose of this report is to seek approval to accept external grant funding that will enable the extension of the South Tees Changing Futures (STCF) programme for an additional year: 2024/25. In summary:

- Additional 'boost funding' to extend the STCF programme by a further year is now available. We had to bid for this funding, and South Tees Changing Futures Programme was one of ten (of the 15 programmes) to secure funding;
- Approval to pursue and secure the original funding and Middlesbrough Council hosting the STCF Programme was approved by Executive in April 2021;
- STCF covers both Middlesbrough and Redcar & Cleveland local authority areas in full and the incoming funds are above £0.250m;
- The recommendation to accept these funds and extend the programme to 31 March 2025 allows more time to further develop and increase the activities and interventions to improve outcomes for local people affected by multiple vulnerabilities;
- Changing Futures area status presents opportunity to attract further external funding, which would enable the sustainability of good practice and create a legacy from STCF;
- There will be additional activities that can be undertaken with the boost funding, some of which will be above the procurement threshold for direct award. The STCF programme team propose to work closely with corporate commissioning and procurement colleagues, and other relevant departments to develop and commission these activities;
- Securing the funding to extend the STCF programme will have a positive impact on local people who are affected by multiple vulnerabilities and continue to provide additional capacity to support them directly. It is not anticipated to have any negative impact on Middlesbrough Council and presents a compelling opportunity to continue delivering a programme of activity that is already delivering positive work;
- Additional information is set out in the main body of the report;
- The STCF Programme Board, DMT and LMT have reviewed and approved the proposed recommendations within this paper and endorse this request for Executive approval.

Purpose

1. To seek approval for Middlesbrough to accept 'boost funding' to enable the continuation, as lead organisation, for the South Tees Changing Futures Programme for the period of one additional year – from April 2024 – March 2025.

Background and relevant information

2. Following the Executive approval to bid for funding, Middlesbrough were awarded £3.1m via the funding bodies: the Department for Levelling Up Communities and Housing (DLUHC) and the National Lottery Community Fund (NLCF), for the South Tees Changing Futures (STCF) programme in 2021. This programme supports adults experiencing multiple disadvantages in both Middlesbrough Council and Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council areas. Further roll of out funding has become available, which the South Tees Changing Futures programme have successfully been awarded. A funding amount of £0.850m from April 2024 – March 2025 will be awarded.
3. There will be additional activities that can be undertaken with the boost funding, some of which will be above the procurement threshold for direct award. The STCF programme team propose to work closely with corporate commissioning and procurement colleagues, and other relevant departments to develop and commission:
 - Improving the lived experience and system consultation wider recovery support £0.150m;
 - Supporting Women who have experienced and/or are at risk of exploitation £0.124m;
 - Improved housing support for people with multiple vulnerabilities, including a pilot of a Housing First-style model (or similar). The budget for this work is yet to be finalised but it will be supplemented by TEWV NHS Trust 'Transforming Communities' funding, which has been aligned to the STCF programme objectives. STCF funding has been identified from the existing VCS workstream and the final amount will be agreed by the STCF Board.
4. Changing Futures will continue to work in partnership with the other 14 local areas, coordinate and share best practice, innovative approaches and improve outcomes for people experiencing multiple disadvantages, including a combination of: homelessness; substance misuse; mental health issues; domestic abuse and contact with the criminal justice system.
5. The boost funding will continue to support those in Changing Futures and demonstrate the following.
 - a. Addressing the needs of the whole person;
 - b. A system-wide approach;
 - c. Trauma-informed practice;
 - d. Meaningful lived experience input in the design and ongoing delivery;
 - e. Additionality, evidence based and targeted – not substituting universal, statutory or mainstream (existing) services.
6. In addition, some new areas of work, including to procure and deliver two new projects focused on sexually exploited woman and lived or living experience. These projects were included in the bid given the groundwork already undertaken across the Changing Futures Programme.

7. The original programme was due to cease on 31st March 2024, but DLUHC/National Lottery Community Fund agreed that the original funding (£3.1m) could be extended over a longer period, to 31st March 2025. The original STCF programme workstreams will continue, in line with the attached Boost Funding Programme Schedule at Appendix 1.

What decision(s) are being recommended?

8. That Executive approves:
 - e. Accepting the boost funding.
 - f. That Middlesbrough Council are to continue as lead organisation of the Changing Futures South Tees Programme.
 - g. Middlesbrough Council will accept and hold monies, regarding South Tees Changing Futures Programme Boost Funding.
 - h. Delegation for the allocation of monies for activities required to deliver the programme and management of associated procurement processes to the Director of Public Health, as advised by the South Tees Changing Futures Board, for the allocated period of April 2024-March 2025.

Rationale for the recommended decision(s)

9. Since successfully attaining Changing Futures area status in 2021, an opportunity has arisen to extend the programme and further invest into the community and services, for those with complex multiple disadvantages. The additional funding enables Changing Futures more time to make a positive impact for those experiencing these challenges, particularly in the current climate where demand on services is at an all-time high. It provides the opportunity to extend the programme management function, and key workstreams for the year 2024/25.
10. Being provided additional time to continue working with partner organisations and stakeholders creates better chances for the longevity of Changing Futures and to sustain new ways of past the programme end date. It also demonstrates the confidence of DLUHC and National Lottery Community Fund in the approach so far and facilitates ongoing conversations about future needs.
11. Accepting this funding will not only help those with multiple disadvantages, continued involvement in the Changing Futures Programme will give Middlesbrough (and South Tees) a further opportunity for ongoing research and evaluation of the programme, strengthening our relationships with DLUHC and National Lottery Community Fund and could increase the likelihood of further funding and support.
12. Additional activities will need to be undertaken to build on work undertaken to date and to address gaps identified in research, such as the A Way Out report on women facing multiple disadvantages – see Appendix 2. These activities will require procurement processes to be undertaken. The STCF team will work with corporate commissioning and procurement colleagues to ensure that the appropriate policies and procedures are followed for all such activities.

Other potential decision(s) and why these have not been recommended

13. Middlesbrough Council are the lead organisation for this programme and this request is to both continue the status of Middlesbrough Council being lead organisation and to accept the boost funding.
14. An alternative option would have been to not accept the funding and let the programme end – this would deny South Tees the opportunity for continued investment and ongoing improvement to benefit some of our most vulnerable residents, therefore, it is not deemed to be a worthy option.
15. A further option would have been to drastically alter the STCF workstreams, potentially making them much smaller in scope. This was not considered to be feasible as a network of support and relationships has been developed since the STCF programme was implemented in 2021. The application for extended/boost funding was based on the continuation of the existing programme. To deviate significantly from the current workstream would have likely impact the award of these funds and would not be a suitable recommendation.
16. The final alternative would have been for Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council (RCBC) to take on the role of lead organisation for STCF - given that Middlesbrough Council has been the lead organisation since the outset of the programme, RCBC now assuming that responsibility would risk disruption and delay to the objectives that we have been provided funding to deliver.
17. Part of the proposed plan includes a procurement process of two projects. These are to be procured and implemented ready for the funding commitment period, April 1st 2024 – March 31st 2025. Delayed funds could impact negatively, and implementation of service in a timely manner. This could delay/lower service provision and restrict opportunity to improve the lives of those with multiple disadvantages.

Impact(s) of the recommended decision(s)

Legal

18. There are no identified legal implications in relation to the extension of funding and to continue delivery of the programme up until March 2025.
19. Any contract extensions or new activity required to deliver the objectives that the boost funding has been awarded for will be consistent with Middlesbrough Council commissioning and procurement policies.

Strategic priorities and risks

20. No significant risks that would negatively impact on the strategic risk register have been identified.
21. Please see attached Risk Assessment carried out for the original proposal March 2021 as appendix 3.

Contribution to delivery of the 2020-23 Strategic Plan		
People	Place	Business
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> work to address the causes of vulnerability and inequalities in Middlesbrough and safeguard and support those made vulnerable. Tackle crime and anti-social behaviour head on, working with our partners to ensure local people feel safer. Working with communities and other public services in Middlesbrough to improve the lives of local people. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creating positive perceptions of our town on a national basis

Human Rights, Equality and Data Protection

22. Equality impact assessments were carried out for original Changing Futures proposal and found no negative impacts on any protected groups, nor was it likely to have any negative impact as a whole.

23. The EIA can be found, attached as appendix 4.

Financial

24. There are no formal match funding requirements from Middlesbrough Council or local partner organisations. Costs for programme management capacity were built into the original budget for Changing Futures and will be continued within the boost funding. A management fee has not been included, as it was not an option within the grant funding arrangements.

25. The STCF grant is subject to quarterly grant reporting processes with the funding bodies: Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC) and the National Lottery Community Fund. It is essential that any expenditure is in line with the grant conditions and that reporting requirements are met to ensure no risk arises.

26. There may be a small element of redundancy liabilities in the final year of the programme, however, the grant funding can be utilised to cover these costs.

27. **Actions to be taken to implement the recommended decision(s):**

Action	Responsible Officer	Deadline
South Tees Changing Futures Programme: Boost Programme Schedule is agreed by the funders and Transfer of associated monies to Middlesbrough Council.	Jonathan Bowden / Chris Barlow	October – December 2023
Sign off boost funding schedule planned for 2024-2025	Mark Adams via STCF Programme Board	December 2023
Start procurement processes for specific projects – out to quote	Danielle Hall / Sam Haran	November – December 2023
Transfer relevant workstream/activity funding to Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council	Danielle Hall / Finance	March 2024
Implement procured projects	Danielle Hall/Chris Barlow	March 2024

Appendices

1	Boost Funding Programme Schedule
2	A Way-out research paper – Women experiencing multiple disadvantage
3	Executive Committee March 21 - Changing Futures Risk Assessment
4	Executive Committee March 21 - Changing Futures EIA level 1

Background papers

The Boost Funding Schedule for the Changing Futures delivery elements for 2024/25 is attached as Appendix 1. A research report, developed on behalf of STCF by A Way Out, providing an insight and greater understanding of the experiences of women who experience multiple disadvantages is Appendix 2. Finally, both Risk Assessment and Equality Impact Assessments are attached as appendices 3 and 4 respectively. These were developed to secure approval for the original round of Changing Futures funding in March 2021.

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