

Report of:	Director of Public Health, Mark Adams
Submitted to:	The Mayor and Lead member for Children’s safeguarding, Adult social care and Public Protection- 27 May 2021
Subject:	<p>Project: Prevention and Promotion Fund for Better Mental Health and Wellbeing 2021-22</p> <p>Council is eligible to submit an Expression of Interest (EoI) to Public Health England (PHE) to receive funding which will be distributed as a section 31 grant (Local Government Act 2003) subject to appropriate approvals.</p>

Summary

Proposed decision(s)
<p>That Executive approves:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The progression of an Expression of Interest to receive funding from PHE – Prevention and Promotion Fund for Better Mental Health for the period of June 2021 to March 2022. ii. That the Director of Public Health and Director of Finance, receives delegated authority to allocate available grant for Middlesbrough of £273,214.00

Report for:	Key decision:	Confidential:	Is the report urgent? ¹
Decision	Yes	No Funding launched nationally in the week of 10 th May 2021	Yes - in order to take advantage of the eligible funding allocation for 2021/22, an urgent decision is requested. EoI has to be submitted by 28 May 2021.

¹ Remove for non-Executive reports

Contribution to delivery of the 2020-23 Strategic Plan		
People	Place	Business
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve mental health outcomes for children and young people • Address causes of vulnerability and inequalities and support the vulnerable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place based approaches that support protective factors for mental health within our communities 	

Ward(s) affected
All wards are affected by this proposal

What is the purpose of this report?

1. To seek approval for the receipt of national investment via an Expression of Interest submission to support Public Mental Health Interventions and to request delegated powers for the Director of Public Health, in the future delivery of interventions to the value of £273,214.00.

Why does this report require a Member decision?

2. This decision is a key decision, affecting all wards in Middlesbrough and with financial implications over the key decision threshold of £150,000.00

Report Background

3. On 27 March 2021, the Department of Health and Social Care published 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. To support implementation of this Plan, national funding of £15 million has been allocated to preventing mental ill health and promoting good mental health in the 40 most deprived upper tier local authorities in England.
4. Middlesbrough has been selected as an area eligible to submit an Expression of Interest to receive funding which will be distributed as a section 31 grant (Local Government Act 2003) subject to appropriate approvals. An Expression of Interest form together with a project plan and proposed budget must be submitted to Public Health England by 11.59pm Friday 28 May 2021.
5. This single year fund is designed to incentivise investment in prevention and promotion interventions for better mental health in the most deprived local authorities. Specifically, to mitigate mental health impacts arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, reduce widening mental health inequalities by targeting at risk and vulnerable groups and ensure adequate distribution of funding to support minority ethnic communities. 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.

6. This grant can be used to expand or continue to fund existing, evaluated public mental health programmes for the purpose of increasing impact, equity and reach as well as the development of community engagement infrastructure. This should be over and above activities already planned and funded as part of existing funding streams such as the public health grant.
7. A rapid impact assessment undertaken locally on the impact of covid-19 shows that there has been an increase in demand for mental health and wellbeing support during the pandemic. This impact has disproportionately affected children and young people, people from minority ethnic groups, people who live alone, single parents and people who live in the most deprived areas of our borough. The grant from PHE will be used to improve capacity and access to interventions with a determined focus to reduce inequalities.
8. Restrictions to funding - It will not be possible for the council to fund community grants programme with this fund.
9. The funding allocated to financial year 2021/22 must be spent in this financial year and cannot be rolled over; therefore, the timescales are extremely tight.
10. In setting out plans for use of the funding PHE would like local authorities to consider the broad principles underpinning the local public mental health response to COVID-19 :
 - Whole system prevention approach
 - People and community centred
 - Good communication, collaboration and partnership
 - Tackling inequalities
 - Life course and whole household approach
 - Building on existing arrangements
 - Applying learning from first and second wave of the pandemic
11. The grant will be monitored under Section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003 and will be monitored by PHE on a quarterly basis in accordance with an agreed set of metrics. The Director of Public Health is responsible to PHE for ensuring that the grant is discharged effectively and the relevant activity is delivered by Middlesbrough Council.
12. Proposed interventions and associated finance are aligned to the services that Tees Ersk and Wear Valley (TEWV) mental health trust and Tees Valley Clinical Commissioning Group (TVCCG) are developing as part of the Covid-19 Mental Health Recovery Plan. In summary, the proposal will support additional public mental health resilience and capacity to develop and deliver:
 - Programmes to support emotional health and wellbeing of children young people and families
 - A Wellbeing Network to connect mental wellbeing assets, frontline practitioners and activities
 - Perinatal and maternal wellbeing
 - Peer mentorship programmes in schools and communities

- Building the capacity and capability across our workforce to prevent mental health problems and promote good mental health within their everyday practice.
- Promoting wellbeing in the workplaces
- Promoting parental resilience

What decision(s) are being asked for?

13. That Executive approves:

- i. The progression of an Expression of Interest to receive funding from Public Health England – Prevention and Promotion Fund for Better Mental Health for the period of July 2021 to March 2022.
- ii. That the Director of Public Health and Director of Finance, receives delegated authority to allocate available grant for Middlesbrough of £273,214.00

Why is this being recommended?

14. PHE Prevention and Promotion Fund for Better Mental Health presents an opportunity to build on existing programmes that we have across the borough to improve the mental health outcomes for those at risk of poor mental health.

15. Spending on public mental health is not currently mandated in the public health grant and its importance can be overlooked locally. However, mental health prevention, promotion and early intervention can reduce pressures on NHS services, social care, education, criminal justice and employers, resulting in economic benefits even in the short term.

16. Mental well-being is fundamental to achieving a healthy, resilient and thriving population. Mental health and well-being are inextricably linked as both a cause and a consequence of physical health, educational attainment, employment and productivity, relationships, community safety, community cohesion and quality of life. Factors that protect mental well-being include; Individual control and community ownership; Individual resilience and community assets; Participation and inclusion. It is likely that all of these factors may have been impacted upon as a result of our national response to COVID-19.

17. There are particular challenges in relation to mental health for Middlesbrough. The baseline assessment for Middlesbrough (Mental Health and Wellbeing PHE JSNA data, 2019) has highlighted that mental health disorders (including suicides) are poor when compared to rates across the North East and England. This includes a range of risk factors such as children in low-income families, inability to work, and poverty. Protective factors for mental health, including level of employment and physical activity are also lower than average rates. Most, if not all of these factors can be envisaged to be exacerbated under conditions linked to the coronavirus response. Simultaneously, the ability to maintain key protective factors for mental health will also be challenged. The funding could save lives and contribute to improving the mental health and wellbeing of the population and for those at greatest risk of poor mental health.

Other potential decisions and why these have not been recommended

18. Retaining the status quo and not accepting this funding would deny Middlesbrough residents the opportunity for significant investment to improving the levels of mental

health and wellbeing of the population, to mitigate the mental health impacts of Covid-19 for those at greatest risk of poor mental health and prevent further harm.

Impact(s) of recommended decision(s)

Legal

19. There are no identified legal implications in relation to this funding.

Financial

20. The funding for PHE Better Mental Health is non-recurring and does not impact on the Council's baseline financial position. The additional income will fund new or additional activity and there will be no adverse impact on existing Council services.

21. There are no formal match funding requirements from the Council and full project management costs have been built into the draft proposal. There would be a draw on corporate staff time to contribute to the project; therefore, the 8% for council overheads has been fully applied to the costed delivery plan in order to cover this support.

22. Whilst there is the real, potential for this funding there will be an expectation to demonstrate how the promotion and prevention work can be sustained in the longer term.

Policy Framework

23. Approval of the recommendations will not affect any part of the Council's Policy Framework.

Equality and Diversity

24. An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been completed. This has found that the proposal does not negatively impact on any protected groups nor is it likely to have any negative impacts as a whole.

25. The EIA is attached to this report at Appendix 1.

Risk

26. No significant risks that would negatively impact on the strategic risk register have been identified.

27. This funding will help us implement interventions that will have a positive impact on improving the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people and the most vulnerable in our population and reduce demand for safeguarding support.

Actions to be taken to implement the decision(s)

28. The costed delivery plan will be further developed to ensure that the recommended decisions to enable PHE Better Mental Health funding to be successfully delivered. This will be overseen by the DPH and Responsible Officer

Appendices

Appendix 1- Equality Impact assessment



Promotion of public
mental health and well

Background papers

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

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