

Report to the Cabinet

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 2 March 2023

Report of the Director of Public Health

Part I

Electoral Division affected:
West Lancashire North;

Corporate Priorities:
Caring for the vulnerable;

Community Voice Pilot Project - West Lancashire Northern Parishes

Contact for further information:

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Brief Summary

Lancashire County Council's Community Projects Team proposes to contribute £10,000 towards a grant fund to be managed through a 'Participatory Budgeting' process, acting as a pilot project to tackle social isolation and loneliness in the Northern Parishes of West Lancashire.

This will be in partnership with West Lancashire Borough Council and the NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board. The Integrated Care Board will contribute a further £7,766 to the fund and West Lancashire Borough Council will contribute by providing staff resources and time.

It is proposed that Lancashire County Council acts as the responsible authority for this grant funding.

Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to:

- (i) Approve the creation of a grant fund for a pilot participatory budgeting process in the Northern Parishes of West Lancashire, aimed at tackling social isolation and loneliness.
- (ii) Approve a contribution of £10,000 from the Community Project Team budget to the grant fund.

- (iii) Approve that Lancashire County Council acts as the responsible authority for the grant funding, which will be one off funding to the total of £17,776.
- (iv) Authorise the Head of Health Equity, Welfare and Partnerships, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Community and Cultural Services to approve the allocation of funds.

Detail

Lancashire County Council, West Lancashire Borough Council, the NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board and West Lancashire Community Voluntary Service have worked together to develop a proposal as a pilot project to tackle social isolation and loneliness in the Northern Parishes of West Lancashire through a participatory budgeting approach, which involves the community in decision making linked to grant funding.

The proposal was developed based on data highlighting a higher prevalence of older people and young adults living alone in the Northern Parishes of West Lancashire and is guided by the recommendations made in the 2016 Lancashire County Council report, *Hidden from View: Tackling Social Isolation and Loneliness in Lancashire*. The project will be evaluated, with a view to developing a model for sharing with partners across Lancashire.

The initial plan has been updated to account for changes to the roles and responsibilities of some partners.

It is proposed that £10,000 from the county council's Community Projects Team budget be contributed to the grant allocation, with the Integrated Care Board contributing £7,766 from their "Community Voice" budget. West Lancashire Borough Council will contribute 'in kind' with staff time and resources, providing project support going forward.

It is proposed that Lancashire County Council acts as the responsible authority for the grant funding.

Process

The eight key stages of the process are outlined below:

1. Securing Funds:

This stage is complete with contributions to the grant fund coming from Lancashire County Council and West Lancashire Integrated Care Board.

2. Form a Steering Group:

The Community Voice Steering Group, comprising representatives from local voluntary and community organisations, public sector and statutory services and



residents has been established. This group will make the key decisions and includes on its membership the Lead Member for Community and Cultural Services.

3. Outreach Inform and Engage:

West Lancashire Borough Council and Lancashire County Council officers will engage residents and community organisations in the process.

4. Receive and sift applications:

The steering group will review and sift applications and support successful applicants through the process.

5. Participatory Budgeting Event:

This is the decision or voting day, residents cast their vote with the top projects receiving a portion of the grant pot.

6. Monitoring and Scrutiny:

Successful projects will be reviewed at three, six and nine months, using case studies, surveys, visits and social media.

7. Evaluation:

Edge Hill University will be undertaking the evaluation for this pilot project.

8. Celebrate the successes:

At the end of the pilot project there will be an example of best practice, alongside a tool kit should other public sector organisations wish to undertake the process.

Consultations

Consultation will be managed through the Community Voice Steering Group which will be formed from statutory partners and members of the community.

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

The contribution from the Integrated Care Board is only available in the financial year 2022/23.

Financial

The contribution from Lancashire County Council will be made from the 2022/23 Community Projects Team budget.



List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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None

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A

