

Cabinet

12 September 2019

Early Intervention, Prevention and Community Capacity Fund 2019/20 – Tranche 2 Allocations

Recommendations

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- 1) Approve four projects to be funded from the Early Intervention, Prevention and Community Capacity Fund at a cost of £454,000 as follows:
 - Parents in mind (£74,000),
 - Development of a perinatal mental health Health Visitor cadre (£200,000)
 - Community capacity building (£100,000)
 - Community health champions (£80,000)
- 2) Note the approval, under delegated authority, of an allocation to support Community pop up hubs for visually impaired adults at a cost of £14,000.

1. Background

- 1.1. Cabinet approved the operational and governance process for the Early Intervention, Prevention and Community Capacity Fund (EIPCCF) at its meeting on 11 April 2019. The agreed process involves evaluation, against criteria agreed by Cabinet, by a Panel and the Revenue Gateway Group before applications are considered by Corporate Board who then recommend projects to Cabinet for approval.
- 1.2. The first tranche of bids, totalling £148,000, were approved in June 2019. The second round of bids have been received and have been through the agreed governance process. The projects recommended for approval are set out in Section 2 of this report.

2. Executive Summary and Analysis

2.1. Seven bids to the EIPCCF were received in Quarter 2 and have now been through the evaluation process. Following the evaluation process five of the seven bids are recommended, in part or in full, for approval, with a total call on the Fund of £468,000. The following paragraphs provide a description of each bid recommended for approval, the funding proposed and the views of the Evaluation Panel on the proposal.

2.2. Parents in Mind – Peer Support Groups in Warwickshire (NCT) - £74,000 (Approved – score 67.5%)

Parents in Mind is a peer-support perinatal mental health project designed and delivered by the National Childbirth Trust (NCT) to support women (and partners) with mild / moderate mental health difficulties who are pregnant or have children up to the age of two. Parents in Mind support aims to:

- Increase awareness, dispel myths and reduce stigma around mental health.
- Support women (and partners) to talk openly about emotional wellbeing and mental health, increasing their support and networks, and reducing isolation and loneliness.
- Promote engagement with other community, statutory and specialist services.

These objectives are achieved through delivering volunteer-led peer-support. Volunteers with lived experience of perinatal mental health difficulties are recruited and undertake a 25 hour course accredited with the Open College Network. Volunteers continue to receive supervisory, clinical and reflective support from the Service Delivery Manager who manages the local programme.

The estimated cost of the project is £74,000 (£37,000 a year for 2 years) plus a £26,000 contribution from NCT.

Parents in Mind is a currently active pilot providing peer support for mild to moderate mental health issues for women and their partners. The Panel noted that the pilot has started to evidence results and supported the need to continue building evidence over a longer period. If the pilot proves to be successful, then sustainability will be achieved by using the evidence base to influence future service commissioning, providing a sustainable source of funding. The funds will be used to provide a grant to the NCT for continuation of provision so there are no on-going costs to the Council and the outcomes will be measured as part of the Coventry University contract to provide data.

2.3. Developing a perinatal mental health specialist health visitor cadre for Warwickshire - £200,000 (Part approved – score 70%)

The project aims to increase parents-infant mental health and wellbeing (PIMHW) leadership, expertise and standards of practice within the Warwickshire health visiting workforce, through the development of a specialist cadre of mental health (health visitor) practitioners that will work to up-skill, supervise and sustain quality PIMHW support outcomes of their health visiting workforce.

The estimated cost of the project is £100,000 a year and equates to 3 x 0.6 full-time-equivalent specialist Health Visitors.

The original bid was for funding for 3 to 5 years and the Panel felt that supporting the project at this scale would use too much of the overall funding available. However, the proposal itself had merit, particularly the emphasis on the role of the specialist Health Visitor in embedding mental health expertise in the general midwifery and Health Visitor cohort. The Panel concluded that a two year allocation would be appropriate, as this would allow time to demonstrate the project is having the desired impact and the funding period would dovetail with the “Parents in Mind” allocation to enable future commissioning approaches to be aligned.

In making the recommendation the Panel propose that the funds allocated should be used initially in Year 1 to embed knowledge through the workforce. In Year 2 a sustainable training programme would then be established as moving forward the aim will be to make mental health awareness part of the core training package for all Health Visitors.

2.4. Community Capacity Building - £100,000 (Approved – score 83%)

The bid is seeking funding towards staffing costs associated with building and sharing knowledge about community capacity to create self-supporting, connected communities that enable people to be independent. The funding will be used to recruit Community Knowledge Workers who will capture and share existing information on community assets and social prescribing resources as part of the Information and Advice project.

Currently there are multiple sources of community information offered across the public and voluntary sector. Over time individual services and organisations have developed their own local solutions which has led to:

- Current systems becoming out of date and untrusted;
- Duplication of resources to maintain different systems;
- Confusion around where to access reliable community resource

information; and

- An inability of people to access community resource information held by services / external organisations.

The aim is to bring together multiple sources of community information offered across the public and voluntary sector.

The estimated cost of the project is £100,000. This will provide for 4 staff for 12 months.

The Panel agreed this was an important bid which should deliver a hugely valuable centralised resource which is pivotal to the Warwickshire service offer. The production of a database of community assets and social prescribing tools fits with the strategic objectives in relation to demand management. Therefore, the benefits to the scheme should be wide reaching. To ensure sustainability the Panel felt this piece of work should be linked with the re-design of the Localities Service so that capacity to maintain the database is available at the end of the fixed term period.

2.5. Community Health Champions bid - £80,000 for proof of concept only (Part Approved – score 69%)

The purpose of this bid is to provide additional resource to trial new ways of preventing ill-health and promoting mental wellbeing, working via a proof of concept for an infrastructure model to recruit and support Community Health Champions across Warwickshire. Community Health champions will engage with people in their communities to improve health literacy and the understanding of what people in communities can do to support their own health and well-being.

In its pilot phase the project will consider:

- How Community Health Champions can be recruited across Warwickshire but in particular where health inequality is at its highest.
- What infrastructure is required to recruit, support and maintain Community Health Champions across Warwickshire.

The estimated cost of the initial investment is £80,000. The longer-term costs are estimated to be in the region of £100,000 a year.

The view of the Panel is that the bid is approved but for the initial scoping funding of £80,000 only (i.e. with future costs of £100,000 a year omitted). This staged approach would allow the project to demonstrate how it could operate and the benefits that could be delivered and therefore how to pursue permanent resources for its continuation, if warranted.

The key issue for the Panel was in recommending funding for a pilot where there is no funding for its continuation after the initial investment phase. Ultimately the Panel felt the bid did meet the organisation's objectives well and that the possibilities for creating a network of health champions was worth investigating as a proof of concept, but in doing so it needs to be recognised that sustainability remains a risk.

2.6. As part of approving the governance arrangements for the EIPCCF Cabinet delegated authority to approve bids of less than £20,000 to the Chief Executive, to ensure small projects could be delivered at pace. This quarter has seen the first scheme approved under this delegation. The details are set out below for information and to ensure Cabinet have a complete view of all schemes approved.

2.7. Community pop-up hubs for visually impaired adults - £14,000 (Approved – score 78%)

The aim of the proposal is to support the creation of community pop-up hubs to address the social isolation faced by adults and older people living with a visual impairment, particularly within rural communities in Warwickshire. The community pop up-hubs will provide advice, information and guidance to anyone with a visual impairment (or their partner/carer) living in the remote towns across Warwickshire. The purpose of the pop-up hubs is to reach out to individuals in locations that currently do not have easy access to the regular community hubs within the main towns in Warwickshire.

The estimated cost of the proposal of £14,000 will provide for 52 hubs at £175 each, training costs and promotion.

The Panel felt this was a good bid which would provide much needed local support to the visually impaired. It is intended that library staff and volunteers would continue to roll out information after the hubs have ceased so localised support should be self-sustaining.

2.8. Whilst five bids have been or are being recommended for approval this quarter, the Panel did consider two other bids. Cabinet asked to be informed of bids that are not being recommended for support and this information is outlined below.

- ***Fire break / citizenship course (Rejected – score 32%)***

The purpose of this re-designed fire break course was to provide another pathway for young people to access learning through a course that is designed to help provide young people with a positive start in life and guide them towards positive destinations. The estimated cost of the project was £200,000 a year. The reasons the project has not been

recommended for support is that the proposal was not sufficiently developed to allow the Panel to understand how the programme would operate or how the benefits or impact would be demonstrated for individuals and/or the wider community, so preventing any assessment of whether future Council investment to make the project sustainable, on an invest-to-save basis, would be worthwhile.

- **Healthy South Warwickshire (Prevention and Self Care bid) (Rejected – score not applicable)**

The £60,000 bid requested funding to enhance the Healthy South Warwickshire grants programme which supports community-centred approaches to promoting preventative, health promotion approaches, in line with local population needs and building on local assets. The Panel considered that this was not a suitable bid because the request was for a pot of money which would allow another organization to give grants to front line providers for projects delivering the same objectives as the EIPCCF. It was felt any grant requests for suitable schemes should come forward to the Fund directly rather than going through a third party.

3. Financial Implications

3.1. The EIPCCF initially consisted of a £2.0 million allocation, of which £0.5 million is recurring, made as part of the 2019/20 budget. If Cabinet agree to the recommendations in this paper, then the financial position of the Fund will look as follows:

	£
Allocations Approved at Quarter 1	148,000
Community pop up hubs for visually impaired adults	14,000
Schemes recommended for approval Q2:	
• Parents in mind – peer support NCT	74,000
• Developing a perinatal mental health Health Visitor cadre	200,000
• Community capacity building	100,000
• Community Health Champions	80,000
Quarter 2 Total	454,000
Agreed Allocation	2,000,000
Remaining Funding	1,384,000

3.2. Several other bids are in the pipeline to be considered for the next sitting of the Panel and these will come forward to Cabinet for approval in November.

4. Environmental Implications

4.1. There are no specific environmental implications as a result of the information and decisions outlined in the report.

5. Background Papers

5.1. None.

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No Elected Members have been consulted in the preparation of this report.