

ADULTS AND HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL

5 April 2018

HEALTHY RUTLAND SMALL GRANT SCHEME

Report of the Director for People

Strategic Aim:	Meeting the health and wellbeing needs of the community	
Exempt Information	No	
Cabinet Member(s) Responsible:	Cllr Walters, Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health	
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DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Panel:

1. Endorses the use of the Public Health Grant and Better Care Fund Programme funding to establish a Healthy Rutland Small Grants Scheme to improve health and wellbeing within local communities as set out in Section 3.
2. Recommends to Cabinet the proposed option for managing the Healthy Rutland Small Grants Scheme.

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This report outlines proposals to bring together funding from both the Public Health Grant and the BCF to establish a Healthy Rutland Small Grants Scheme to pump-prime health and wellbeing activity within local communities prompt tangible local action, support people in their own communities as close to home as possible, and help boost community activity in local areas and villages.
- 1.2 Scrutiny Members are requested to endorse the proposal to establish the scheme, and to offer views on the proposed management of it.

2 BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS

- 2.1 The Council receives a ring-fenced grant for public health activity. The core condition of this grant is that it should be used only for the purposes of the public health functions of local authorities. The local authority statutory duties for public health services are outlined in the Health and Social Care Act 2012 legislation.

- 2.2 In addition a range of public health services are commissioned in line with the Public Health Outcomes Framework, the local Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
- 2.3 The Rutland Better Care Fund (BCF) is a joint health and social care integration programme funded by the Department of Health and managed by the Council, in conjunction with the East Leicestershire and Rutland Clinical Commissioning Group (ELRCCG). Prevention is a key strand of the programme: helping people to remain well whenever possible and reducing risk factors through primary prevention activities.
- 2.4 The grants scheme will help meet a number of key priorities for Rutland. These include the priorities set out in Rutland's Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JH&WS):
- a) **Extending healthy life expectancy** (the years lived in good health) and particularly targeting those aged 45 to 65 to help ensure they enter older life healthier and stay healthier for longer. We will also assist our communities in supporting one another.
 - b) **Reduce inequalities** as some groups in our community have poorer health or are likely to have poorer health than the majority. Limiting long term conditions are for example more common amongst our routine and manual workers
 - c) **Health and Social Care Integration** - to make sure that those who are most at risk are provided with the right combination of care and support in the right place at the right time. This also helps us use limited resources to the best effect.

3 OPERATION OF THE GRANTS SCHEME

- 3.1 The scheme will invite applications from local community groups and organisations against a clear set of outcome and criteria specifically to improve health and wellbeing within their communities. The criteria will be set to ensure that funding meets the wider requirements of Public Health Grant and/or the BCF funding and that projects are truly community-based. Projects would need to be evidence-based or innovative and demonstrate community support for their proposal. It is proposed that there are two levels of grant: small grants up to £1k; and larger grants up to £10k.
- 3.2 All applications for grant funding must be able to demonstrate how they will meet the grant criteria and how they will measure the impact of their project.
- 3.3 The scheme will aim to achieve ongoing sustainability by pump-priming new activity or by supporting existing community activities to expand or improve through additional resources e.g. new equipment. It is therefore expected that some bids might focus on purchase of equipment that will provide ongoing impact whilst others might enable local community capacity building.
- 3.4 Proposals will be more likely to be funded if they can demonstrate working in partnership, match or plans for future funding, and scope for sustainability beyond the lifetime of the scheme or have an exit strategy. The scheme provides an opportunity to test and pilot innovative projects which local groups and parishes

may wish to extend through Parish funds where they provide benefit to local parishioners.

- 3.5 A number of options have been considered for administration of the scheme, all of which would include: a simple application form; set of criteria and of outcomes to be met; and the establishment of an Award Panel comprising of representatives from RCC at both officer and Member level.
- 3.5.1 The preferred option would be to devolve management, administration and promotion of the grants scheme to Rutland Access Partnership (RAP) as the contracted voluntary sector infrastructure organisation. This would include both administering the scheme, and supporting community organisations to develop and submit applications.
- 3.5.2 It is proposed that a small proportion of the funding would be used for RAP to recruit a part-time officer on a fixed term basis to offer additional capacity to community organisations to develop projects in their local area, thus supporting the ability of local community groups both to bid and to sustain the projects on a longer-term basis.
- 3.5.3 RAP have already established links with the Parish Councils and a number of smaller community organisations to promote community-based wellbeing activity, and this scheme would align with that.
- 3.5.4 Alternative options considered were:
- i) To site the funding and administration of the grants scheme with the Leicestershire and Rutland Association of Local Councils (LRALC) for them to administer for a fee. This would then move the funding via the Parish Councils to local community organisations.
 - ii) To devolve the grant fund to those parish councils with a General Power of Competence to hold and manage funds on behalf of other Parish Councils to administer in their own areas.
 - iii) To oversee the grants scheme within the Council, requiring additional officer capacity to manage and administer the scheme, and working with RAP and the Parish Councils to access local community organisations.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Public Health Grant has been managed within a reducing envelope with proactive work undertaken to reduce recurrent costs, and consequently a level of reserves has been built up. Public Health England have requested that Councils do not retain Public Health Reserves and that the Grant is fully spent each financial year. This scheme will enable the Council to make use of the reserves during 2018/19 in a constructive manner which meets local health and wellbeing priorities.
- 4.2 The BCF funding allocation includes a small amount to support the delivery of health and wellbeing activity in local communities and the addition of this to the Public Health funding enables a wider scope of projects to be considered for the grants, given the restrictions in place on Public Health spend.

4.3 The proposed allocation for this scheme is £100,000, including the costs of a fixed-term post to support the scheme.

5 CONCLUSION AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 It is recommended therefore that the scheme is administered by RAP on behalf of the Council, and that the Council provide a proportion of the funding for RAP to recruit a worker to support communities in applying and making best use of the monies.

6 BACKGROUND PAPERS

6.1 There are no additional background papers to the report.

7 APPENDICES

7.1 There are no appendices

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