

14 January 2016

Item 8

TITLE OF REPORT: Health Education England Funding Application

Purpose of the Report

To request matched funding from DSG reserves for a mental health worker.

Background

On Thursday 7th January 2016, the LA received notification that £1m funding was awarded to Health Education England (HEE) from the Department of Health (DoH). The funding underpins the conclusions of the Children and Young People's Mental Health Taskforce Future in Mind report which establishes a clear direction and some key principles about how to make it easier for children and young people to access high quality mental health care when they need it.

Applications are invited from any organisation working to improve the quality of mental health services to children and young people aged up to 18 years.

The maximum amount of funding that can be applied for is £200k.

The timetable for applications is very tight with applications having to be received by HEE 15th January 2016 before 17:00.

Applications will be assessed using the below matrix, and only applications that score above 60% will be considered for full or partial funding.

Application	Sub-category	% weighting
Description and scope of the project	Supports the vision of Future in Mind and/or contributes to Local	40

	Transformation Plan	
Outcomes, Benefits and Risks	How success will be measured	10
	Benefits to be realised in 2016/17 to improve outcomes for children and young people	10
	Potential risks and issues been identified and mitigation provided	10
Value for money (economical, efficient and effective use of resources)	Project cost	10
	Project impact upon future resources	10
	Match funding of project	10
TOTAL	100%	100%

On the 8th January officers met to discuss whether an application should be submitted and to review the application criteria.

Officers discussed many projects that would support the vision of Future in Mind or the Local Transformation Plan.

After much debate it was felt that the gap already identified by the work of the PRU Planning Group for mental health workers would be suitable for the bid. The bid will be for the metal health workers to work with:

- KS3 and KS4 children at risk of permanent exclusion, to help with intervention and transition either back into mainstream school or on to an appropriate alternative provision
- Children who have been permanently excluded to support the children's transition to either an academic or alternative provision.

The bid will request £72k funding for a high quality mental health worker. The breakdown of these costs is

- £60K for salary, including on costs
- £12K for overheads including supervision, training, travel and resources.

Having matched funding from Schools Forum will increase the overall score of the application and improve the bid's chances of success.

It is anticipated that the outcome of having this additional resource will lead to better outcomes for children, including better academic attainment, reduction in NEET children, increased employment prospects and better decision making to improve these children's life chances.

Organisations that are successful will be notified week commencing 25th January for projects to start before 31st March 2016.

Due to the very tight timescales and the need to get the application signed by the Director of Children's Services, and the desire to give Schools Forum members time to consider the proposal, a copy of the completed application form is not yet available. If Schools Forum is minded to support the bid with matched funding a copy of the bid and further detail will be brought to Schools Forum on 11th February.

If the bid is successful, both mental health workers would work out of the PRU to support both children at risk of being permanently excluded and those already permanently excluded to improve their life chances.

Proposal

That Schools Forum supports the bid to the HEE Innovation fund, with matched funding from DSG reserves of £72k for a mental health worker.

Recommendation

Schools Forum approves the funding of £72k from reserves to provide matched funding for the HEE Innovation fund application.

For the following reasons:-

- To increase the percentage score of the HEE bid for Innovation funding for a mental health worker, which if successful would increase the life chances of vulnerable young people.
- To secure funding to address a known gap in provision for vulnerable children and young people

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