

TITLE OF REPORT: Supporting Communities and Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) Partners**REPORT OF: Caroline O'Neill, Strategic Director, Care Wellbeing & Learning and Alice Wiseman, Director of Public Health**

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide an update on funding passed from the Gateshead Council and on to VCSE partners to enable and scale up essential activities. The report provides information on 3 new grant funded initiatives to support older people at risk of hospitalisation, people with dementia and people with significant mental health issues.

Background

2. Funding from the Newcastle Gateshead Clinical Commissioning Group was received by Gateshead Council under a section 75 Agreement. The original intention was to explore ways for the Community Hubs to deliver this activity however, upon exploration of opportunities and challenges this brought to the Community Hubs it was determined an improved outcome would be delivered by VCSE partners.
3. There are three separate and distinct funding streams:
 - a) £87,500 to be spent by 31st March 2022 to create a Hospital to Home Service. The aim is to ensure wherever possible older people can be treated at home but if they do go into hospital they are supported to do so and they are safely discharged to their homes reducing the risk of readmission. This is a one-year project, funding of £87,500 will be split with £66,500 going to Age UK Gateshead who will do the 1-2-1 support work with the residents and £21,000 going to Citizens Advice Gateshead for social welfare and community care advice.
 - b) £220,000 payable at the rate of £55,000 per annum for four years to create a dementia support service delivered by Age UK Gateshead. This service will work very closely with the Community Hubs, wherever possible co-locating within the Community Hub venues. The aim is to work with GPs, patients registered on the Dementia Register and their families to ensure their support needs are met. This is an all age service, recognising that dementia does not only affect older people, the intention is to create strong and enduring links with the Community Hubs and with Citizens Advice Gateshead.
 - c) £12,500 to be spent by 31st March 2022 support GPs to reach out to patients with significant mental health issues to encourage them to take up a health check. This project will be delivered by ReCoCo who have an established track record in providing peer to peer support for this patient group, the Community Hubs will support ReCoCo to reach out to Gateshead residents who are harder to contact.

Recommendations

11. Cabinet is requested to:

- (i) Note the allocation of funding from the Newcastle Gateshead Clinical Commissioning Group.
- (ii) Approve the grants set out in paragraph 3 above.

For the following reasons:

- (i) These services are complementary to the Community Hub services and there are benefits from co-location and cross referral.
- (ii) The VCSE are best placed to deliver these services.

Policy Context

1. The Thrive Policy Framework and the Health and Wellbeing Strategy are driving our decisions around how we work in communities.
2. The Council is committed to supporting and helping to sustain a vibrant voluntary and community sector in Gateshead, and the Council from the start of Covid-19 has worked tirelessly to enable VCSE activity and to pass funding to the VCSE wherever possible.
3. Passing on this funding from the CCG to VCSE partners seeks to ensure vulnerable residents receive vital support services, avoid food and energy insecurity, supporting them to take greater control over their health and wellbeing.

Consultation

4. The Cabinet Members for Adult Social Care have been consulted.

Alternative Options

5. The Council could decide not to award the grants and for the Community Hub staff to deliver these services, but staffing in the hubs is already stretched as employees return to their substantive roles, particularly those involved in leisure activities. This combined with the time it would take to train and implement, it was concluded in partnership with CCG colleagues, grants to the VCSE was the most effective method of distribution both considering the time frame available and the expertise required.

Implications of Recommended Option

8. **Resources:**
 - a) **Financial Implications** – The Strategic Director, Resources and Digital confirms a cost neutral position for the Council as all monies received from the Newcastle Gateshead CCG will be passed to the VCSE.
 - b) **Human Resources Implications** – None
 - c) **Property Implications** - There are no property implications for the Council from the proposals.
9. **Risk Management Implication** - There are no risk management implications for the Council from the proposals.
10. **Equality and Diversity Implications** – These grants will help address health inequalities for some of our most vulnerable residents supporting them to access health services and to maximise their income.

11. **Crime and Disorder Implications** – There are no crime and disorder implications for the Council from the proposals.
12. **Health Implications** - The project will help address the wider determinants of health and wellbeing increasing income and access to health checks, whilst allowing older residents to remain in their homes for longer.
13. **Climate Emergency and Sustainability Implications** – There are no climate emergency and sustainability implications.
14. **Human Rights Implications** - There are no Human Rights implications for the Council from the proposals.
15. **Ward Implications** – These services will be offered Borough wide.