

**Bolsover District Council**

**Meeting of the Executive on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

**Emotional Health and Wellbeing of Children and Young People**

**Report of Councillor Mary Dooley, Portfolio Holder for Enforcement and Partnerships**

<b>Classification</b>	This report is Public
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**PURPOSE/SUMMARY OF REPORT**

To recommend to Executive to commission an organisation or consortium to deliver activity which aims to improve the emotional health and wellbeing of children and young people in Bolsover.

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**REPORT DETAILS**

**1. Background**

- 1.1 Public Health funding has been awarded to develop a preventative approach that enables the expansion of mental health awareness, promotion of protective factors, early identification, early intervention and support for the emotional health and wellbeing of children and young people, using a place-based approach utilising the Thrive Emotional Wellbeing model.
- 1.2 The work has been identified as priority in Derbyshire by Public Health as there has been a significant reduction in statutory provision of youth services and support for young people in recent years at a local and community level. In addition, COVID-19 has impacted upon the mental health of many children and young people, displaying deterioration, leaving many experiencing feelings of isolation and anxiety.
- 1.3 Keen for intervention to be localised and tailored to the needs of identified participants, Public Health is funding this approach and working in partnership

with Partnership Teams at Bolsover District Council and North East Derbyshire District Council, utilising local relationships with partners across the Districts. Collaborating in the delivery of this project is in recognition of the shared aims and objectives of partnerships and large number of organisations who facilitate work together, across both geographical areas, in supporting the target audience.

## **2. Details of Proposal or Information**

- 2.1 To appoint an organisation or consortium to deliver the overarching aim of improving the emotional health and wellbeing of young people in Bolsover and North East Derbyshire.

This approach is above and beyond traditional youth club delivery models and is focused on delivering needs led via tailored place-based provision for young people. Delivering targeted, universal sessions on a regular basis within the local community. This will provide an inclusive offer and engaging targeted populations in order to expand mental health awareness, promotion of protective factors, early identification, early intervention and support for the emotional needs of young people aged 11 to 18 years (up to age 25 years for young people with Special Education Needs and Disability, SEND).

- 2.2 Providing one strand of a needs led community level provision which builds resilience, raises aspiration and recognises the attributes of young people. Furthermore, working collaboratively with other sectors, services and embedding links to wider opportunities.

Provision will initially be developed and delivered in three targeted areas in each District (six in total across Bolsover and North East Derbyshire Districts). It is expected that the commissioned organisation will use evidence and local insight to be flexible and inclusive and target other areas as required.

- 2.3 Encompassing target areas/interventions for identified population groups/vulnerable cohorts of young people (as follows):

- Those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)
- Pupils excluded from school or displaying challenging behaviour within the school, home or community setting
- Young people at risk of exploitation

- 2.4 It's is key that the cycle of engagement, evaluation, flexible and tailored delivery models happens throughout and that co-design and development of the programme with young people, who voluntarily attend the sessions, takes place by:

- Creating opportunities for young people to have a voice and influence in the running of the provision and be involved through volunteering.
- Consulting with young people as to the effectiveness of the provision and inviting their ideas for improvements.

### **3. Reasons for Recommendation**

- 3.1 For the Council to support this initiative to improve the emotional health and wellbeing of children and young people living in Bolsover by developing a preventative approach that enables the expansion of mental health awareness, awareness of preventative factors, building resilience and raising aspirations. This could have longer term impact improving community cohesion and reducing anti-social behaviour, although not a key driver at this stage.
- 3.2 This will not have a direct impact on Council budgets and will be fully funded by DCC Public Health. The collaborative approach with North East District Council enables the maximisation of resources and provides best value for money.
- 3.3 The tender process will create a transparent approach in appointing an organisation or consortium that will be able to deliver the objectives, offer the best value for money and meet the needs of children and young people living in Bolsover.

### **4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection**

- 4.1 The option to 'do nothing' and not utilise the external funding could undermine post-COVID recovery. There wouldn't be increased interventions to support younger residents in Bolsover build resilience and cope with mental health issues later in life. A local tailored approach would be unlikely and not meet the outcomes required.
- 4.2 To provide this support in-house using Council budgets is not an option as no additional resources have been identified or are available. Limited or no intervention likely, therefore not meeting the needs of the younger residents in the District.

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### **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

1. For Executive to agree the use of ring-fenced external funding, from Derbyshire County Council (DCC) Public Health, to commission an external organisation or consortium to deliver against pre-defined objectives which aim to improve the emotional health and wellbeing of children and young people. This will be for an initial period of 24 months from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2022.
2. To agree a collaborative approach with North East Derbyshire District Council, who have funding for the same activity from DCC Public Health, and proceed with a joint commission in recognition of the shared aims and objectives therefore maximising resource and achieving best value for money.
3. To agree the flexibility to extend the contract beyond June 2024 subject to budget availability from DCC Public Health, or other external funding providers, and successful delivery of output and outcomes.

Approved by Portfolio Holder – Cllr. M. Dooley

**IMPLICATIONS:****Finance and Risk:** Yes  No **Details:**

The budget available for this work is £100,000 which is fully funded from DCC Public Health. In agreement with them and subject to the decision made by Executive, the Leader's Executive and Partnership Team will administer the funding and oversee delivery, by working in collaboration with North East Derbyshire District Council who will contract with the appointed organisation or consortium via a jointly agreed tender process.

On behalf of the Section 151 Officer

**Legal (including Data Protection):** Yes  No **Details:**

All Council legal and data protection policies will be adhered to. All data monitoring information and agreements are stored securely as per Council policy. The tender process will also require the appointed organisation or consortium to evidence that key policies are in place, including GDPR and safeguarding.

On behalf of the Solicitor to the Council

**Staffing:** Yes  No **Details:**

There are no human resource implications, with commissioning and contract management to be undertaken within existing capacity.

On behalf of the Head of Paid Service

**DECISION INFORMATION**

<b>Is the decision a Key Decision?</b> A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds:  <b>Revenue - £75,000</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Capital - £150,000</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i>	Yes
<b>Is the decision subject to Call-In?</b> <i>(Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)</i>	Yes

<b>District Wards Significantly Affected</b>	All
<b>Consultation:</b> <b>Leader / Deputy Leader</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Executive</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>SLT</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Relevant Service Manager</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Members</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Public</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Details:</b> Cllr S. Fritchley - Leader Cllr M. Dooley - Portfolio Holder Pam Brown - Assistant Director Leader's Executive, Partnerships and Communications Jess Clayton - Executive Partnership and Strategy Manager

**Links to Council Ambition: Customers, Economy and Environment.**

Contributes to the Council's Ambitions by: Customer - Promoting equality and diversity and supporting vulnerable and disadvantaged people; Economy - Working with partners to support enterprise, innovation, jobs and skills. Contributes to the Sustainable Community Strategy – Skills and Employment, and A Healthy Bolsover.

**DOCUMENT INFORMATION**

<b>Appendix No</b>	<b>Title</b>
	n/a

**Background Papers**

*(These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Executive you must provide copies of the background papers).*

n/a