

WIRRAL COUNCIL

Cabinet

Thursday 10th October 2013

SUBJECT:	<i>PUBLIC HEALTH OUTCOMES FUNDING</i>
WARD/S AFFECTED:	<i>ALL</i>
REPORT OF:	<i>DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH/HEAD OF POLICY & PERFORMANCE</i>
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	<i>COUNCILLOR CHRIS MEADEN</i>
KEY DECISION?	<i>YES</i>

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 In June 2013, a non-recurrent underspend was identified within the public health grant for 2013-15. This has arisen because of preparing for future scenarios in relation to the likely size of the public health grant for 2015 onwards, the sum of which is as yet unknown. With the support of the Portfolio Holder it was suggested that consideration be given to seeing how the underspend could be used to benefit the local population through investing in other areas across the Council, thereby enabling them to contribute further to the delivery of public health outcomes as defined by the national Public Health Outcomes Framework.
- 1.2 As a result, all strategic directorates were invited to submit proposals for non-recurrent spend which would then be assessed for their public health impact and prioritised for investment.
- 1.3 On 8th August 2013, all applications (49 in total) were considered by a panel comprising the Portfolio Holder, the Chief Executive and the Director of Public Health. All submissions stated how the activity would contribute towards achievement of indicators from Department of Health's Public Health Outcomes Framework. Twenty eight applications were assessed as meeting the criteria and twelve were deferred as further information was required. Following the receipt of the additional information and or revisions to the original proposals a high proportion of these were accepted as also meeting the criteria. Consequently, 38 proposals with a total value of £3,419,788 across 2013-14 and 2014-15 financial years have been assessed as relevant to public health outcomes.
- 1.4 This report states the names of those proposals that have been assessed, together with the relevant funding requested for the two financial years (Appendix 1). Cabinet are requested to authorise funding to support these projects.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

2.1 The approved applications will utilise the Public Health grant funding. The Public Health department review their contracts regularly, and are working towards the expectation that from April 2015 the Public Health budget allocation for Wirral Council could be reduced by approximately £5 million. Nationally, the budget for all Council Public Health functions is currently funded via a ring-fenced grant from the Department of Health. It is audited on a quarterly basis and each Council is required to provide assurance that all spend is on Public Health-related activity. Consequently, each proposal had to meet at least one of the following two high level outcome measures from the Department of Health's Public Health Outcomes Framework 2013-2016:

- Increased healthy life expectancy
- Reduced differences in the life expectancy and healthy life expectancy between communities

These outcome measures are supported by a number of public health indicators grouped into four domains:

- Improving the wider determinants of health
- Health improvement
- Health protection
- Healthcare public health and preventing premature mortality

2.2 Each application stated how their proposed activity would link into relevant indicators from the Public Health Outcome Framework. The pro-forma that had to be completed is attached at Appendix 2.

3.0 RELEVANT RISKS

3.1 The main risk is that projects do not spend their allocation and the benefits identified in the proposals are therefore not realised. To mitigate this, both project activity and budget spend will be monitored. Once a project commences the costs will be charged against budgets held within Public Health. This will enable Public Health to closely monitor the budget spend and will support the Council's requirement to demonstrate to auditors how their ring-fenced grant is being spent in 2013-14 and 2014-15 financial years.

4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4.1 The Public Health ring-fenced grant does require spend to be on public health-related activity. Therefore, it does constrain the options available. This approach provides assurance that spend contributes to indicators from the Department of Health's Public Health Outcomes Framework 2013-16.

5.0 CONSULTATION

5.1 Each project will be able to engage appropriately with the relevant stakeholders.

6.0 OUTSTANDING PREVIOUSLY APPROVED ACTIONS

6.1 There are no previously approved actions.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

7.1 A number of projects will be delivered through working with voluntary, community and faith groups.

8.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS

8.1 The financial projections for projects approved by the Public Health Outcomes Fund panel are shown in Appendix 1.

9.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 As an overall initiative there are no legal implications though as mentioned before the Council are required to demonstrate spend from the Public Health ring-fenced grant is against public health-related activity. Any legal implications relating to specific proposals will be the responsibility of the project lead to respond appropriately.

10.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

10.1 Has the potential impact of your proposal(s) been reviewed with regard to equality?

(a) Yes and impact review has been sent to the Equality and Diversity Co-ordinator.

<http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/community-and-living/equality-diversity-cohesion/equality-impact-assessments/eias-2010/public-health>

11.0 CARBON REDUCTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are none arising directly from this report. Those that are linked directly to a proposal will be progressed appropriately by the project lead.

12.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

12.1 There are none arising directly from this report. Those that are linked directly to a proposal will be progressed appropriately by the project lead.

13.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

13.1 Cabinet are asked to:

- Approve the reinvestment of the public health grant funding as outlined in Appendix 1.
- Note that progress and spend will be monitored by Public Health on a regular basis
- Note that the proposals will be evaluated against their Public Health outcomes in May/June 2015

14.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

14.1 This approach enables the ring-fenced Public Health grant of 2013-15 to be utilised to support initiatives that contribute to achieving Public Health Outcome Framework indicators and improving health and wellbeing of the Wirral population.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Overview of approved proposals and spending plan

Appendix 2: Public Health Outcomes Fund application form (inc. PHOF indicators)

BACKGROUND PAPERS/REFERENCE MATERIAL

Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Update on Public Health Funding (Dept of Health, 2012)

BRIEFING NOTES HISTORY

Briefing Note	Date

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date