



## Report to Leader (Health & Wellbeing portfolio)

<b>Decision Date:</b>	29 July 2021
<b>Reference number:</b>	HW01.21
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Public Health Reserves</b>
<b>Cabinet Member(s):</b>	Councillor Angela Macpherson
<b>Author and/or contact officer:</b>	Dr Jane O'Grady Director of Public Health Jane.OGrady@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
<b>Ward(s) affected:</b>	<b>All</b>
<b>Recommendations:</b>	<b>It is recommended that funding is provided from the Public Health reserve to support specific projects addressing the Buckinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Recovery priorities.</b>
<b>Reason for decision:</b>	To enable specific projects that support recovery of residents health and wellbeing following the impact of the COVID pandemic to be progressed with partners and key communities.

### **1. Content of report**

- 1.1 COVID has significantly impacted the health of Bucks residents. It has both direct impacts as a result of infection with the virus and indirect impacts related to the measures put in place to prevent the spread of the virus including restrictions designed to reduce social mixing which included periods of “lockdown”
- 1.2 The impacts have been wide ranging and impacted on physical and mental health.
- 1.3 The impacts have been greatest in certain communities and groups such as those living in deprived areas and certain ethnic groups including Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Indian, Black African, Black Caribbean and Black British groups. The direct impacts of infection have been most severe in those with certain long-term conditions such as

diabetes and heart disease, older people and those with risk factors such as high blood pressure or being an unhealthy weight. For a significant number of people COVID has also increased the risk of unhealthy behaviours such as being less active eating more unhealthily and drinking more alcohol. These behaviours in turn increase the risk of poor health, many long-term conditions and poor outcomes from COVID.

- 1.4 The Buckinghamshire COVID Health and Wellbeing Recovery Plan seeks to use this opportunity to level up health and wellbeing outcomes across Bucks by tackling the risk factors for poor health and the risk factors for poor outcomes from COVID.
- 1.5 It is proposed to use some Public Health Reserves to fund programmes addressing the priorities within the developing Health and Wellbeing Recovery plan. This funding is crucial to the development of the Recovery plan. Key areas for support are programmes to reduce the risk of heart disease , stroke and diabetes in communities with the highest rates, increasing physical activity in older people and reducing social isolation, developing programmes to reduce overweight and obesity, working with leaders and residents from ethnic groups at higher risk of harm from COVID to address the health and wellbeing needs they identify.
- 1.6 The Public Health team are working closely with the Communities team around community development and planning work with Community Boards and the voluntary sector across the wellbeing recovery programmes. Different council portfolios will be involved in the different programmes e.g the whole systems approach to obesity needs assessment will involve all partners. As part of developing these proposals, opportunities for match funding or support in kind that may come from stakeholders including the voluntary and community sector (VCS) and NHS will be explored.
- 1.7 The proposals for the use of reserves have been developed based on the key findings from the Buckinghamshire COVID health impact assessment and residents survey and the priorities of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy. The Health and Wellbeing Recovery plan forms a significant part of the Buckinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy being developed by the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- 1.8 The proposals are

Title	Whole project cost	number of years
Whole Systems Cardiovascular Disease Prevention Programme - ICP priority co-designed projects to tackle inequalities by preventing diabetes, heart disease, stroke in people living in deprived areas and certain ethnic groups.	600,000	3
NHS Health Checks innovation Programme - increase uptake of mandatory NHS HC in deprived areas	75,000	1
Ethnic minority Health Inequalities	150,000	2
Whole system Obesity	200,000	2
VCSE Healthy Ageing Collaborative to fund co-designed projects to improve mental and physical wellbeing based on identified needs of older people	150,000	2
Older Adult Physical Activity - supporting multiagency work to increase the physical activity levels of older adults that have experienced deconditioning	120,000	2
Older Adult Leisure/Sheltered Housing Physical Activity - evidence based programme that improves physical activity and reduces deconditioning	60,000	1
Asset Based Community Development project for key communities supports training to identify key wellbeing concerns and identify their own solutions to improve this including behaviour change and some pump priming project costs and training for community board teams.	100,000	2
Mental health projects	23,450	1
<b>Total:</b>	<b>£1,478,450</b>	

- 1.9 Other priority areas identified in the plan, that are not included in the proposals, have been funded from elsewhere in the public health grant and other partners' funding.
- 1.10 The aim is to ensure proposals are co-designed with communities, the VCS, and NHS and internal partners where appropriate. We are reviewing best practice in each topic area to inform these discussions.

## 2. Other options considered

- 2.1 COVID has worsened many residents health and particularly affected groups with pre-existing poorer health. This is an opportunity to improve residents health and wellbeing and level up outcomes across Buckinghamshire in line with the council's ambitions. It offers a great opportunity to involve community boards and residents in improving peoples health.

There are no alternative sources of funds available for these programmes . If these programmes cannot be funded we will miss important opportunities to develop an effective health and wellbeing recovery plan post COVID and level up outcomes across Buckinghamshire.

## 3. Legal and financial implications

- 3.1 There are no legal implications.
- 3.2 The funding will be met from the ring-fenced public health reserves. The Council adopts a prudent approach in managing reserves. In total the Public Health reserve was £3.973m as at 1 April 2021. The reserve is ringfenced for public health activities and is fully committed over the next 3 years to the delivery of previously

agreed priority schemes, the Health & Wellbeing priority projects outlined above, and to managing risk from one-off cost pressures due to activity deferred for 2020/21 and to NHS Pensions reforms.

#### **4. Corporate implications**

The proposals support all of the council's corporate plan priorities but particularly the priorities around "Strengthening our communities" and "Protecting the vulnerable". It supports the following areas set out in the corporate plan

- enable our residents to live independent, fulfilling lives, within strong, healthy, inclusive and resilient communities
- to improve health and wellbeing, with a particular focus on reducing any gap in health outcomes
- enable healthier lifestyles for all, raising the quality of life for those most disadvantaged in our communities
- work with local voluntary and community organisations to encourage volunteering and help our communities thrive
- encourage residents to get involved with improving local services, for example through community boards
- support our older residents, those living with disabilities, and those who are socially isolated, to live healthy, independent and fulfilling lives.
- support people to improve their mental health by promoting support services, healthy lifestyles and wellbeing activities, tackling social isolation and loneliness.

A healthy population is essential for the economic success of an area and boosts productivity so this will also contribute to the corporate plan priority of increasing prosperity. Some activities may also help improve our environment e.g by increasing more active modes of travel thereby reducing air and noise pollution

#### **5. Local councillors & community boards consultation & views**

- 5.1 Initial conversations have taken place with Wycombe Community Board about co-designing initiatives particularly to prevent heart disease and stroke and discussions will be held with other community boards if the funding is approved.

#### **6. Communication, engagement & further consultation**

- 6.1 Initial conversations have been held with NHS and voluntary sector partners around key themes but further conversations will depend on funding proposals being approved.

## **7. Next steps and review**

- 7.1 We will co-design proposals and progress our conversations with key communities including local members, Community Boards, faith groups, the BAME network, voluntary sector and other organisations relevant to each programme e.g. sheltered housing providers. Internal discussions will also be held with relevant portfolios. We will encourage matching contributions from NHS and other partners and funders. Finalised projects will be approved by the Corporate Director and Cabinet Member. The cardiovascular disease prevention programme will be overseen by the Integrated Care Partnership Board. The overall Health and Wellbeing Recovery plan will be overseen by the Health and Wellbeing Board and is part of the joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy action plan.

## **8. Background papers**

- 8.1 A link to the COVID Health Impact Assessment is provided  
[Health Needs Assessments \(healthandwellbeingbucks.org\)](https://www.healthandwellbeingbucks.org)

## **9. Your questions and views (for key decisions)**

- 9.1 If you have any questions about the matters contained in this report please get in touch with the author of this report. If you have any views that you would like the cabinet member to consider please inform the democratic services team. This can be done by telephone 01296 382343 or email  
[democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk).