

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham
City Council

Reference Number:

4273

Author:

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Department:

People

Contact:

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Subject:

Tomorrow Project suicide crisis service

Total Value:

£43,333.33 (Type: Revenue)

Decision Being Taken:

<p class="MsoListParagraphCxSpFirst" style="margin-left:18.0pt;mso-add-space:auto;text-indent:-18.0pt;mso-list:l0 level1 lfo1">a) To approve funding of £43,333 over a 4-month period (expected to be August 2021 to November 2021) to the Tomorrow Project to continue to support Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire residents of all ages who are experiencing suicidal ideation and/or who are at risk of suicide during the pandemic.<p class="MsoListParagraphCxSpFirst" style="margin-left:18.0pt;mso-add-space:

b) To approve dispensation from contract procedure rule 4.1.2 in accordance with financial regulation 3.29 to allow for a direct award to the Tomorrow Project for continuation of the service provided.

Reasons for the Decision(s)

In England, approximately one person dies every two hours as a result of suicide. Suicide has a significant, lasting and often devastating impact on individuals, families, communities and wider society. Some studies have predicted a rise in suicide rates associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Particular emphasis has been placed on the impact of the pandemic on young people, due to evidence that their mental health has been disproportionately affected.

The suicide crisis service provides a response to Nottingham and Nottinghamshire residents of all ages who are experiencing suicidal ideation and/or who are at risk of suicide. Specialist practitioners provide up to 12 weeks of suicide resolution intervention including practical support that addresses risk factors of suicide as well as care coordination and onward referral. Nottinghamshire County Council has entered a 4-month grant agreement with the provider that ends on 31 July 2021. It is understood that Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group has agreed to enter into a grant agreement with the Tomorrow Project for the 4-month period December 2021 to March 2022. This arrangement will enable the Tomorrow Project to continue to support residents through the ongoing impact of the pandemic. Nottingham City Council and Nottinghamshire County Council jointly supported the Tomorrow Project to operate in quarter 3 of 2020/21 under a grant agreement in place between Nottinghamshire County Council and the Tomorrow Project. This decision was made due to the ongoing pandemic and social distancing restrictions, and as part of the local response to the potential for increased suicide risk as a direct and indirect consequence of the pandemic. The service was therefore at risk of failing to meet demand in April 2021, before Nottinghamshire County Council entered into a new grant agreement with the Tomorrow Project. Approval is required to support the service to continue to operate between August 2021 and November 2021, after which time it is understood Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group will support the service to continue for the remainder of the financial year.

Other Options Considered:

Not to make a financial contribution to the Tomorrow Project - REJECTED as it could risk a reduced response to supporting those at risk of suicide. This could lead to failure to support an increase in complexity in the support required for residents during the course of the pandemic.

Background Papers:

None.

Published Works:

None.

Affected Wards:

Citywide

Colleague / Councillor Interests:	None.
Dispensation from Financial Regulations:	Yes
Consultations:	Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.
Crime and Disorder Implications:	None as a result of the decision being taken.
Equality:	EIA not required. Reasons: The decision relates to the continuation of current service availability for which a previous EIA was completed
Regard for NHS Constitution:	Local authorities have a statutory duty to have regard to the NHS Constitution when exercising their public health functions under the NHS Act 2006. In making this decision relating to public health functions, we have properly considered the NHS Constitution where applicable and have taken into account how it can be applied in order to commission services to improve the health of the local community.
Decision Type:	Portfolio Holder
Subject to Call In:	Yes
Call In Expiry date:	22/07/2021
Advice Sought:	Legal, Finance, Procurement

Legal Advice:

The proposals in this report raise no significant legal issues and are supported.

The Tomorrow Project offers a service to support suicide crisis/prevention with the City and surrounding areas. The proposed grant to the Tomorrow Project will help support the service as it is understood that due to the increased demand during the pandemic, the service is at risk of failing to meet demand without additional support.

The County Council have already offered a grant and further funding is agreed after December 2021 and this grant from the Council seeks to assist in ensuring sufficient support within the City.

As this is a grant, there are no procurement implications with the proposals. The grant would be considered 'de minimis' for the purpose of ensuring compliance under the new subsidy regime rules.

Advice provided by Dionne Claire Screatton (Solicitor) on 19/05/2021.

Finance Advice:

This decision seeks to provide approval for the award of grant funding to Tomorrow Project, to assist with the suicide crisis service in response to the potential risk of increases to suicide risk due to the pandemic, as outlined in the brief.

The total costs of this proposal, for 4 months, is £43,333. This represents Nottingham City Council's contribution to funding the service, with the future funding coming from other sources as outlined.

The funding source for this contribution is to be made from Public Health grant reserves, with funding set aside in the reserves for this exact purpose. Due to the funding from reserves, this contribution will have no additional impact on Public Health grant in 2021/22.

Advice provided by Graeme Black (Commercial Business Partner) on 24/05/2021.

Procurement Advice:

The Decision is to approve a grant award of £43,333 over a 4 month period to support the Tomorrow Project. The Procurement Team have been engaged in discussions regarding this decision and consider that there are no procurement implications as this is a grant award to enable the organisation to continue to support Nottingham residents at risk of suicide during the pandemic.

Advice provided by Nicola Harrison (Procurement Lead Officer) on 18/05/2021.

Signatures

Adele Williams (Portfolio Holder for Adults and Health)
SIGNED and Dated: 14/07/2021
Catherine Underwood (Corporate Director for People)
SIGNED and Dated: 05/07/2021
Clive Heaphy as Chief Finance Officer (Chief Finance Officer) - Dispensation from Financial Regulations
SIGNED and Dated: 21/06/2021
Chief Finance Officer's Comments: