

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham
City Council

Reference Number:

4310

Author:

Claire Novak

Department:

People

Contact:

Claire Novak

(Job Title: Insight Specialist - Public Health, Email: claire.novak@nottinghamcity.gov.uk, Phone: x 63954)

Subject:

COVID Prevention Using Adult Weight Management Services Grant (No.31/5440)

Total Value:

£280,832 (Type: Revenue)

Decision Being Taken:

- 1) To approve a spend of up to £280,832 for enhanced Adult Weight Management Services for period of up to 9 months (monies to be spent by 31 March 2022, or by the end of June 2022 with permission from Public Health England (PHE)).
- 2) To approve the award of a contract to Notts County Foundation at a value of £23,400.
- 3) To approve dispensation from Contract Procedure Rule 4.1.1, in accordance with Financial Regulation (3.29), to allow for a contract variation to the value of £64,300 with Slimming World.
- 4) To approve dispensation from Contract Procedure Rule 4.1.2, in accordance with Financial Regulation (3.29), to allow for an award of a contract to the value of £165,049 to Oviva.
- 5) To delegate authority to the Head of Contracting and Procurement to sign the contract variation and contract awards, as relevant.
- 6) To approve the use of up to 10% of the grant on administration costs, in line with the grant conditions. This is likely to include a dedicated staffing resource, subject to future authorisation.

Reasons for the Decision(s)

The grant funds have been accepted by the Council (Decision 4183) and the Quarter 1 payment has been received from PHE. Further approval is required to allocate spend.

62% of adults are living with overweight or obesity in England, of which 25% are living with obesity. Obesity is a serious health concern that increases the risk of many other health conditions, including Type 2 Diabetes, cardiovascular disease, joint problems, mental health problems and some cancers (PHE, 2020). During the COVID pandemic, there has been widespread evidence of the link between body weight and COVID severity. Obese people are more likely to become seriously ill and be admitted to intensive care compared to those with a healthy BMI (British Medical Journal, 2020). This has been recognised, leading to these grant allocations to local authorities in England, weighted by population size, deprivation and obesity prevalence.

Grant conditions are stringent, onerous and constantly evolving. Fundamentally, services must be started and the grant spent during the current financial year (or by end June 2022 by permission from PHE), with any unspent monies returned to central Government. Permission is being sought to extend spend into the next financial year, but this is not guaranteed. While the intention is that monitoring data will inform the forthcoming Spending Review, this is not guaranteed. The grant must be spent on multi-component adult tier 2 behavioural weight management services, which address dietary intake, physical activity and behaviour change. Service providers must submit a monthly minimum dataset and there are limited service providers operating in this market who can fulfil the grant conditions and deliver at the pace required.

It is proposed to split the allocation (see the table attached). Up to 10% of the grant may be used on administrative expenditure, such as staffing, training and reporting costs, etc. A Coordinator post will assist capacity within the Public Health Strategic Insight team.

Notts County Foundation are a trusted local partner who can deliver an existing package that meets the grant conditions. They have successfully reached citizens that commercial slimming groups find more challenging, particularly men and those in lower socio-economic groups in the city. The enhanced offer with Slimming World will target those with a lower BMI to reach people who are overweight and at an earlier stage of prevention. It will also allow individuals who have successfully lost weight during the initial 12 week offer to continue their weight loss journey to a healthy BMI. Oviva are a national digital and telephone provider, who have been commissioned nationally to deliver the NHS Digital Weight Management Service via GPs to those living with obesity plus diabetes or high blood pressure. The local offer would extend this, e.g. marketing and self-referral options to those who do not realise they are overweight and this puts them at risk. Delivered by dietitians, the service can reach clinically complex patients, is delivered in 22 languages and is culturally appropriate. Digital and telephone services (materials can be posted for those without digital access) are more accessible for citizens with caring commitments, shift working, or those who do not like groups.

The grant will be monitored quarterly and flexibility is sought to reposition funding in the event of underperformance or underspend in one allocation area. This will be within the total value of the grant and grant timescales.

Briefing notes documents:

Briefing note for AWM DDM.docx

Other Options Considered: 1) The option to not spend the money and return to central Government was discounted, as this would disadvantage citizens of Nottingham by severely limiting support to lose weight.
2) The option to have tendered for contracts has been discounted due to the very short timescale set by the grant conditions. It would not be feasible to undertake a full tender, implement and deliver the service achieving the required outcomes within the timeframe available. If we were to go to market, few providers are likely to apply due to the short term and insecure nature of the funding.
3) An options appraisal exercise looked at providers in the market including quality/ability to meet grant conditions, ability to deliver at pace, value for money, etc. A national benchmarking exercise on adult weight management services indicated that under £200 per person for the 12 week programme offered good value for money. This resulted in one provider from being excluded as not offering good value for money, leaving Oviva as the only viable option for this remote type of service.

Background Papers: None

Published Works: Delegated Decision 4183: Adult Weight Management Services Grant (No.31/5440)
(<https://committee.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=5530>)

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

Equality: Please login to the system to view the EIA document: AWM EIA Final.docx

Social Value Considerations: Those living in disadvantaged circumstances are more likely to become overweight or obese and this places a burden on individuals, families, social care and the NHS.

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.

Relates to staffing:

Yes

Decision Type:

Portfolio Holder

Subject to Call In:

Yes

Call In Expiry date:

05/08/2021

Advice Sought:

Legal, Finance, Procurement, Human Resources, Equality and Diversity

Legal Advice:

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

It is understood that the money received from Public Health England must be spent on specifically stipulated services and within restricted timeframes. The Council has undertaken an options appraisal and benchmarking exercise in the market and the chosen providers are deemed to be the most suitable and offering value for money.

The services are deemed light-touch within the Public Contract Regulations 2015 (PCR) and well below the applicable threshold. The proposed contract award and contract extension by way of dispensation are permitted within the PCR.

Advice provided by Dionne Claire Screatton (Solicitor) on 15/07/2021.

Finance Advice:

In line with the previous decision to accept and spend Adult Weight Management funding, and as outlined in the brief for this decision, authorisation is sought for the funding to be used as outlined in the breakdown in decisions 1-6.

Total funding received for Adult Weight Management Grant in 2021/22 is £280,832, and as per grant conditions, the grant must be used in year for specific programmes to counter weight health concerns. The breakdown of expenditure provided in the brief makes full use of this grant, and all decisions will be fully funded via this grant.

The decision in point 6, the creation of a fixed term post, is yet to be finalised by job evaluation team, once finalised will need to be within agreed funding limits to remain within the total funding of £280,832 overall.

Advice provided by Graeme Black (Commercial Business Partner) on 20/07/2021.

Procurement Advice:

The decisions to approve dispensation from Nottingham City Council's Financial Regulations (3.29) to enable contract award and contract extension to deliver services utilising this funding, received from Public Health England, are supported by the Procurement Team who have been engaged with this project.

Advice provided by Nicola Harrison (Procurement Lead Officer) on 16/07/2021.

HR Advice:

Decisions 1-5 refer to the approval, allocation and future authorisation of the enhanced adult weight management grant. From an HR perspective, Uzmah Bhatti (Senior Public Health Insight Manager) has confirmed that there are no staffing implications arising from these decisions.

Decision 6 - Adult Weight Management Coordinator

The job description is currently being prepared for evaluation by the job evaluation team. Recruitment for the post cannot commence until the grade and funding has been confirmed and the post established on Oracle. Recruitment approval should be submitted through the recruitment portal, and the post will be considered for redeployment. The Service should ensure that their process is supportive of the Council's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) agenda and make every effort to attract a representative pool of applicants when recruiting externally.

Management should note that the appointed candidate must commence on a starting salary of level one within the respective grade, unless the appointed colleague is already in employment at the Council and currently on level two of the same grade, in which case the employee would be matched over at the rate of pay they currently receive. The appointed employee will require an appropriate organisation and team induction.

Advice provided by Carol McCrone (HR Consultant) on 07/07/2021.

Equality and Diversity Advice:

The Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) highlighted that there may be an adverse impact to one of the protected groups, which is due to a national decision. The author has provided details around mitigation, so the EIA can be signed off.

Advice provided by Rosey Donovan (Equality and Employability Consultant) on 23/07/2021.

Signatures

Adele Williams (Portfolio Holder for Adults and Health)
SIGNED and Dated: 29/07/2021
Catherine Underwood (Corporate Director for People)
SIGNED and Dated: 29/07/2021
Clive Heaphy as Chief Finance Officer (Chief Finance Officer) - Dispensation from Financial Regulations
SIGNED and Dated: 29/07/2021
Chief Finance Officer's Comments: