

Operational Decision Record

Publication Date: 23/01/2023	Decision Reference Number: 4827
Decision Title	
Distribution of oral health resources through food banks and similar settings	
Decision Value	
£100,000	
Revenue or Capital Spend?	
Revenue	
Department	
Peoples : Public Health	
Contact Officer (Name, job title, and contact details)	
Jessica Tomlinson – Public Health Lead Commissioning Officer jessica.tomlinson@nottinghamcity.gov.uk	
Decision Taken	
<p>Accept £100,000 non-recurrent funding from NHS England ring-fenced for the purchasing and distribution of oral health resources through food banks and similar settings across the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care System area, as described in the Section 256 agreement.</p> <p>Approve spending £100,000 for purchasing and distribution of oral health resources through food banks and similar across Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County.</p> <p>Approve signing of the Section 256 agreement between NHS England and Nottingham City Council.</p>	
Reasons for Decision and Background Information	
<p>£100,000 non-recurrent ring-fenced funding has become available from NHS England for the Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County Integrated Care System area for the sole purpose of funding the purchase and distribution of toothbrushing packs to foodbanks and other venues and sites in the community who provide support for vulnerable people and families.</p> <p>The funding is available from NHS England to the local authority under a section 256 partnership agreement.</p> <p>The 2020 Nottingham Oral Health Needs Assessment describes poor oral health as a major public health problem, and outlines that as with other diseases, the greatest burden of poor oral health is upon disadvantaged and socially marginalised populations. Over a third of children in Nottingham have visible dental problems by the age of 5 years. This is significantly worse than England and is preventable.</p> <p>Poor oral health and barriers to maintaining oral health have also been described recently both in the population supported by Changing Futures programme where</p>	

chronic pain and DIY dentistry were described, and in the Nottinghamshire Healthwatch report.

Nottingham has high levels of deprivation, as described in the [2019 Indices of Multiple Deprivation \(IMD\)](#). Nottingham is ranked 11th most deprived district in England.

Twice daily tooth brushing with fluoride toothpaste is recommended to prevent or limit dental decay. The current financial pressures on households may limit access to basic oral healthcare products such as fluoride toothpaste and toothbrushes and risk further deterioration in oral health. Services which support people in financial stress (eg food banks) do not have a sustained supply of oral health products.

Previous Activity:

NHS England provided £40,000 ring-fenced non-recurrent funding in the financial year 2021/22 for the same sole purpose for use across the whole of the Integrated Care System. Local authorities were responsible for the overall coordination of this scheme, in consultation with the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Oral Health Steering Group. Nottinghamshire County Council accepted the funding and coordinated the distribution of supplies across both the county and city.

In total 25,512 toothbrushes, 18,864 tubes of toothpaste and 3800 leaflets were received by 51 food banks across Nottingham and Nottinghamshire.

Feedback received from managers of centres receiving the supplies shared that “It has gone really well. Families have been so grateful for a new toothbrush and toothpaste. With times hard these are the things they don’t buy”.

Future Activity:

For the ring-fenced funding available in the financial year 2022/23, Nottingham City Council proposes to accept the funding, procure the supplies and distribution, and coordinate the distribution across the whole of the Integrated Care System in both Nottingham city and Nottinghamshire county. This will be informed by the process followed in June 2022 by Nottinghamshire County Council. Partners and stakeholders involved in this process shared that they would be happy to support the initiative again if funding became available.

Other Options Considered and why these were rejected

The decision to accept the funding for supplies and distribution only in the city has been rejected due to previous work by Nottinghamshire County Council to accept the funding for supplies and complete the distribution process for both the city and county. If supply was only to the city a much smaller allocation would be received in line with the smaller population served.

The decision to accept funding for supplies and distribution for both the city and county has also been made as a commitment to good partnership working across the Integrated Care System area as part of the oral health steering group.

The decision to not accept any of the funding has been rejected because of the success of the previous funding allocation, because poor oral health is a major public health problem, and because there is an identified need in Nottingham with a high proportion of deprived communities. Working to reduce health inequalities is a core role of the Local Authority. The decision to accept the funding has also been made because the distribution can be informed by the previously completed process.

Reasons why this decision is classified as operational

This decision is within agreed budgets due to it being funded by an NHS England grant to support an agreed activity.

Additional Information

- The funding available does not have to be spent within the 2022/23 financial year.
- The current plan is to distribute the supplies in two distribution cycles.
- Previously, Nottinghamshire County Council managed £40,000 ring-fenced funding for the sole purpose as described above on behalf of both local authorities in a partnership approach with Nottingham City Council for use across the whole of the Integrated Care System.

Decision Maker (Name and Job Title)

Lucy Hubber, Director of Public Health

Scheme of Delegation Reference Number

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Date Decision Taken

17/01/2023