

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Reference Number:

1882

Author:

Peter Morley

Department:

Children and Families

Contact:

Peter Morley

(Job Title: Commissioning Manager, Email: peter.morley@nottinghamcity.gov.uk, Phone: 01158765163)

Subject:

'Fit for Work' Public Health activity

Total Value:

£80,000 (Type: Revenue)

Decision Being Taken:

To approve the use of £80,000 from the Public Health Transition Fund to meet costs relating to the 'Fit for Work' Public Health activity.

Reasons for the Decision(s)

Funding of £80,000 will be met from the Public Health Transition Fund and will be a contribution towards the Nottinghamshire Fit for Work Service (NFFWS) for a period of 12 months. This is a contribution to a multi-agency contract, led by Nottingham City CCG. NFFWS is delivered in partnership with the voluntary sector and NHS. The service is delivered by Nottingham Fit for Work Team, a City 3rd sector organisation. The clinical aspects of service delivery are provided via a specialist team, employed by Nottinghamshire Healthcare Trust.

NFFWS is delivered in Nottingham City and is open to citizens registered with a GP. This funding is a contribution towards the overall cost of the service, which is £204,000 per annum. The service is also funded by Nottingham City CCG. The aim of the service is support citizens with health issues back into work in a timely manner, or to sustain their employment. The service works with citizens with physical and/or psychological health conditions who are:

- Employed but are off work with health issues, to help them get back to work
- Employed but are struggling to manage in work with a health condition
- Not employed and having a health condition which makes it a struggle to get back into employment

The NFFWS provides healthcare support and also non-clinical interventions, such as employer liaison / mediation, signposting to help with housing, debt advice and skills. The service provided includes telephone support, face to face case management and group interventions, with a focus on self management of health conditions, including long term conditions. The aim of the service is to have a positive impact on demand for other primary and secondary health services.

The Health and Wellbeing Strategy makes a commitment to supporting 1,100 citizens over 3 years to remain in work or begin working through enabling them to be in work where previously their health was a barrier to employment. The service is on target to meet that commitment through being extended for one year during 2015/16. The service will be re-tendered for 2016/17. The CCG will be the lead tendering organisation.

The new national Fit for Work Service (Health and Work Service) is in its pilot roll out phase (www.fitforwork.org) and Nottingham will be involved from approximately June 2015. This is an on-line/telephone advice service for GPs, employers and employees. If an employee has been absent from work for more than four weeks they are able to be referred for a telephone health assessment which can be shared with GPs and employers. However this service will only support employed sickness absentees, not 'presentees', the self employed or the unemployed.

Recommendations made as a consequence of the telephone assessment may result in an increased number of referrals to Nottingham Fit for Work and other providers in 2015-16.

Other Options Considered:

1. The first option was to not to continue to fund the service in 2015/16. This was rejected, as it would mean that the service would not be available to Nottingham City citizens and this is an identified priority in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

2. The second option was to fund it from the main Public Health budget. There was however no provision in the budget to do so and this is intended to be non recurrent funding.

Background Papers:

Published Works:

Affected Wards:

Citywide

Colleague / Councillor Interests:

Consultations:

Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.

Crime and Disorder Implications:

There are no crime and disorder implications

Equality:

EIA not required. Reasons: This is a contribution to a contract led by Nottingham City CCG. It will be the responsibility of the commissioning / employing organisation to consider Equality and diversity implications.

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:

18/03/2015

Advice Sought:

Legal, Finance, Procurement

Legal Advice:

Nottingham City Clinical Commissioning Group is the leader commissioner for the Fit For Work service. The proposed £80 revenue funding is the council's proposed contribution towards the costs of delivering the Fit For Work contract.

Advice provided by Sarah O'Bradaigh (senior solicitor) on 19/02/2015.

Finance Advice:

The funding for this proposal is available from the Public Health transition fund.
Advice provided by Dee Fretwell (Finance Analyst) on 11/02/2015.

Procurement Advice:

There are no significant procurement concerns in relation to this decision. It is anticipated that the CCG will lead the reprocurement of this service in 2016/17 and therefore no further requests for extensions to funding from NCC should be requested to the current contract.
Advice provided by Nicola Harrison (Procurement Lead Officer) on 26/02/2015.

Signatures

Alex Norris (PH Adults, Commissioning and Health)
SIGNED and Dated: 11/03/2015
Chris Kenny (Director of Public Health)
SIGNED and Dated: 05/03/2015