

Chichester District Council

CABINET

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Chichester Wellbeing

1. Contacts

Report Author:

Elaine Thomas, Community Wellbeing Manager,
Tel: 01243 534588 E-mail: ethomas@chichester.gov.uk

Cabinet Member:

Eileen Lintill, Cabinet Member for Communities,
Tel: 01798 342948 E-mail: elintill@chichester.gov.uk

2. Recommendation

2.1. That funding of £51,253 from reserves is authorised, in order that the costs of the Wellbeing service for the period 1 April – 30 June 2016 are covered to ensure the continuation of the service until funding is confirmed by West Sussex County Council Public Health.

3. Background

- 3.1. The Council is funded by West Sussex County Council Public Health (WSCCPH) to provide a Wellbeing service. The service works with adults who live and work in the district to support them to reduce the risk factors associated with Heart Disease and Cancer through promoting positive lifestyle changes. The funding agreement with WSCCPH comes to an end on 31 March 2016. During the contract review meetings WSCCPH have indicated that it is likely that they will be in a position to renew the funding agreements for 2016/17 and beyond. However, they are unclear on the timescale for confirmation; it is largely out of their hands as they are subject to Public Health England timescales.
- 3.2. It is likely that the District Council will have an informal notification of funding in December 2015 with final confirmation in February 2016 in line with the WSCC Cabinet approval process. This tight timescale means that the Wellbeing staff will be put on notice of redundancy or redeployment early in the New Year. They are all on fixed term contracts that cannot be renewed until we receive written confirmation of funding.
- 3.3. The service has successfully demonstrated positive outcomes through CDC's own internal evaluation. WSCCPH have undertaken their own evaluation of the county wide service with equally positive outcomes. County Council Members are

impressed with the service and feel that District and Borough councils are best placed to continue. WSCCPH have requested that we draw up business plans for 2016/17, albeit modelling budget reductions of 10% and 20%, indicating reasonable confidence going forward. Given the positive feedback and continued engagement, it is felt highly likely that WSCCPH will renew the funding agreements for the Wellbeing service.

4. Outcomes to be achieved

- 4.1 The Wellbeing service has developed and improved its outcomes year on year during the period of the current agreement (see Appendix 1).

5. Proposal

- 5.1. It is proposed that the District Council underwrites the costs of delivering the CDC elements of the Wellbeing service for the period 1 April 2016 – 30 June 2016 while we wait for confirmation of future funding from WSCC. This would allow time for WSCCPH to confirm their budgets going forward and avoid staff uncertainty during the process. It would also reduce the risk of the quality of the service being impacted in the meantime.
- 5.2. The externally commissioned projects will also come to an end in March 2016. We will be undertaking the procurement process in advance of funding confirmation with the caveat that projects commence on 1 April subject to funding. This will only affect a maximum of two projects.

6. Alternatives that have been considered

- 6.2. The only remaining option is to wait for WSCCPH to confirm their funding intentions in February 2016 and place the current staff on notice of redundancy.

7. Resource and legal implications

- 7.1. The cost for quarter one for the Wellbeing service elements that are currently delivered 'in house' is £51,253. Funding is requested from reserves.

8. Consultation

- 8.1 No consultation has been undertaken at this time.

9. Community impact and corporate risks

9.1. Risks

- If the council does not receive funding for the Wellbeing service beyond March 2016 the service will close with staff being made redundant. (NB: Funding for staff redundancy costs is in place).

- Without sight of the new funding agreement we are unable to assess at this stage if the council will agree to continue delivering the service.
- If staff leave the authority before the end of the current contract the service will operate at a reduced level and be potentially unable to meet targets or deliver agreed outcomes. (Contractually we would be unable to replace staff if this was the case).
- If staff leave the service now it would take time to recruit and train new members of the team should the funding be renewed, leaving the service operating at a reduced level and quality.
- Staff could become demotivated and the current high level of morale and commitment could be diminished leading to a reduction in outputs and quality of the service.

9.2. Benefits

- The service will continue seamlessly if / when funding is confirmed
- The cost to the council will be zero if / when funding is confirmed
- Staff will feel reassured that they have time to wait for funding to be confirmed before seeking employment elsewhere.
- Staff will feel valued by this council for their continued commitment to the service.
- If funding is not confirmed the council will have time to consider the future of the service and the potential for seeking funding elsewhere.

10. Other Implications

	Yes	No
Crime & Disorder:		x
Climate Change:		x
Human Rights and Equality Impact:		x
Safeguarding and Early Help: The wellbeing service has identified safeguarding issues during the current year and is a resource for the Think Family and Early Help projects.	x	

11. Appendix

11.1. Chichester Wellbeing review 2014/15

12. Background Papers

None