

REPORT OF CABINET MEMBER ADULT SOCIAL CARE & PUBLIC HEALTH**INVESTING FOR IMPROVED PUBLIC HEALTH OUTCOMES****Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek approval to invest forecasted uncommitted Public Health Grant funding to sustain and improve health and wellbeing outcomes for people in Nottinghamshire County. This includes approval for the establishment of staffing posts, as detailed in paragraph 40, and tender processes, in line with Nottinghamshire County Council financial regulations, to enable relevant services to be commissioned.

Information**Strategy and alignment**

2. Good health and wellbeing for people in all our communities is central to the [Nottinghamshire Plan](#). It enables more people to fulfil goals such as living independently for longer and underpins a range of other important outcomes related to inclusive growth, community cohesion and environmental sustainability.
3. The key building blocks for health and wellbeing include getting a best start in life, education and skills, a good diet, secure employment, good housing, and relationships with family, friends and community. Building blocks like these create a society where everybody can thrive.
4. In some communities these building blocks are weak or missing which leads to stark disparities in health. Nottinghamshire's [Joint Strategic Needs Assessment](#) highlights that people living in areas where these building blocks are weakest generally die 7.5 years earlier (compared to people living in areas where they are strongest). Furthermore, on average, they have spent an additional 14 years living in ill-health. Prior to 2020, national data indicated that these inequalities had been increasing. Where a building block is missing altogether, the inequality may be even more extreme. For example, national evidence shows that homeless people have an average life expectancy of 43 years, compared to 78 years for the general population.
5. Nottinghamshire's [Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy](#) (JHWS) identifies work required from partners to address gaps in some of these building blocks or in the resulting health and wellbeing needs, based on the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. These priorities are also found in the Council's Nottinghamshire Plan. Alongside other resources deployed to implement the Plan, the Council also receives a ring-fenced Public Health Grant ("the grant") from the Department of Health and Social Care to fulfil its statutory duty to improve the health

and wellbeing of people in Nottinghamshire, including provision of a number of mandatory services.

Public Health Grant

6. In 2022/23 the value of the grant to Nottinghamshire County is £43.16million. This represents a net increase of 1.55% on the 2021/22 grant. In lieu of information about what the level of the grant will be in future years, the Section 151 Officer has agreed an assumption, for planning purposes, that the grant will increase by 1% annually within the period of the Council's Medium-Term Financial Strategy.
7. The ring-fenced allocation of Public Health grant is subject to national conditions specified by the Department of Health and Social Care. Broadly speaking, this means that the grant must be invested in ways that the Director of Public Health and Section 151 Officer identify "have a significant effect on Public Health". Amongst other things, the conditions require that the authority must have regard to the need to reduce inequalities between the people in its area, and that the public health benefit to be derived from the use of the fund provides value for money.
8. For the purposes of this proposal, it is important to note that the conditions of the ring-fence apply equally to the use of any unused sums which accrue to reserves.
9. In discharging its duties and plans, the Public Health Division is expected to make its own arrangements to address risk and is not expected to draw on the Council's other reserves. The Public Health General Reserves provide the resource with which to do this and £300k is currently held for this contingency. Some work is due to review whether this is sufficient in the light of the real terms decrease in the value of the grant and inflationary pressures within the system.
10. Where the grant is not spent in-year (due, for example, to slippage in spend or contract under-performance), the unspent monies accrue to Public Health General Reserves. These factors together with the redeployment of officers in the public health division onto COVID-19 response activities mean that, based on current planning assumptions, spending and levels of provider performance, a forecasted £8.84m of uncommitted grant funding will accumulate by March 2026.

Investment of ring-fenced Public Health Grant

11. Greatest public health impact will be achieved by investing uncommitted ring-fenced grant in interventions which align with the ambitions of the JHWS and Nottinghamshire Plan. Working with officers across the Council, a suite of proposals has been developed. (Further potential initiatives have been identified which will require additional work before being brought forward for approval later in the year.)
12. Both the Nottinghamshire Plan and JHWS have involved extensive engagement with partner organisations, stakeholders and residents. The findings from this engagement have provided an important steer in the development of investment proposals. For instance, over half of respondents to the Big Notts Survey identified being healthy as a personal ambition for the next 10 years. In the case of the JHWS, roadshows, on-line surveys, and some face-to-face meetings took place across the county during November and December 2021 in which

residents identified aspects of health and wellbeing of importance to them. A summary of this public and partner engagement and the consideration given to the matters raised was included in the papers reviewed at the Health and Wellbeing Board in March 2022.

13. The proposals being recommended at this time can be grouped under the following broad headings from the Nottinghamshire Plan.

Create healthy & sustainable places (£2,172,000 over 4 years, starting 2022/23)

14. This theme is integral to establishing the building blocks for good health and is central to the JHWS. In recent years it is not one which has received funding in proportion to the role which healthy places play in shaping the population's health. Increasing investment now will promote good health and wellbeing by improving the environments in which our residents grow, live, work and age, as well as contributing to tackling climate change.
15. The programme involves a mix of approaches. Some of the work involves sustaining and building on established evidence and good practice; other parts involve testing out and learning from innovative ideas where the evidence base has yet to be established.
16. The proposal to strengthen this area of work includes:
- a. work to improve access to healthy food and good nutrition in line with the commitment from the council and helping families give their children the best start by building on our Childhood Obesity Trailblazer work. A 0.5 FTE Band B FOOD Club Support Officer hosted within the Children Centre Service will ensure capacity to run the clubs and coordinate with partners.
 - b. supporting residents with home energy improvements through the Nottingham Energy Partnership by offering advice on practical home energy improvements, targeted training, comprehensive energy advice and referral for boiler installation, home insulation and adaptations to people over 60 and families with young children.
 - c. help to improve and develop our county-wide approach to the local planning system by evaluating the impact of the Spatial Planning & Health Framework which seeks to embed health and wellbeing into the planning system.
 - d. additional funding within the council's Early Help and Prevention transformation programme to support residents to grow their financial resilience. In the context of rising costs of living, stakeholders and partner organisations will be brought together to better understand need and work together with communities to co-design a system-wide offer of support, advice and guidance. To deliver this 1 FTE Band C Project Manager and 1 FTE Band C Business Analyst will be established in the Transformation & Change team.
 - e. funding to improve capacity within the County Council and Integrated Care System (ICS) to plan, coordinate and deliver the Healthy and Sustainable Places Programme. This will strengthen the ability of the ICS's Place Based Partnerships to deliver health and wellbeing outcomes for their populations, extend and evolve the successful Physical Activity Insight programme, and identify and implement effective ways to build community resilience. Within the County Council this will provide extra capacity to provide specialist public health advice, planning and evaluation as well as commissioning and programme management support by establishing 2 FTE Band D Public Health & Commissioning Managers and 1 FTE Band B Public Health Support Officer.

Children and young people's physical and mental health and wellbeing and best start in life (£1,213,000 over 4 years, starting 2022/23)

17. Improving outcomes for children and young people is integral to the JHWS and the Nottinghamshire Plan. In addition to work with partners to create places which establish the foundations for a range of good outcomes in later life, implementation of effective, evidence-based approaches for best start (preconception to age 5) and growing well (School aged) are required to deliver good health, wellbeing and resilience for every child.
18. Giving children the best start in life is a fundamental part of improving health and reducing inequalities. The earliest years of a child's life have a significant impact on their long-term development and their life chances. The vision driving the Nottinghamshire Best Start Strategy is for every child in Nottinghamshire to have the best possible start in life, because we know that a good start shapes lifelong health, wellbeing and prosperity.
19. Investment required to deliver this programme of work includes:
 - a. funding to support 1 FTE Band D Public Health & Commissioning Manager to co-ordinate the delivery of the Nottinghamshire Best Start Strategy 2021-2025 and facilitate the development of the nationally mandated Best Start offer.
 - b. development of training and resources to enhance the knowledge and skills of the Nottinghamshire 0-5 workforce, including the development of bespoke infant mental health workshops for early years staff.
 - c. continuation of the Healthy start vitamins starter pack project. Vitamin starter packs including one bottle of Healthy Start vitamins and information about vitamins and the Healthy Start scheme are provided universally to women at the start of pregnancy and to breastfed babies at the birth visit.
 - d. enhanced dental epidemiological surveillance to provide a robust measure of the prevalence and severity of dental caries among children in each borough/district in five-year-olds.
 - e. continuation of funding for the Schools Health Hub to support schools and other practitioners working with children and young people in relation to a number of existing and emerging safeguarding, and health and wellbeing concerns.
 - f. continuation of funding for three health information and advice websites for young people, children, prospective parents, parents, families and professionals.
 - g. establishment of 1 FTE Band D Children and Young People's Mental Health Whole School Approach Lead to support Designated Mental Health Leads in Schools to implement a staged approach to wellbeing and health in schools and provide strategic leadership around developing Whole School Approaches to supporting children and young people's mental health across Nottinghamshire.

Promote good mental health and wellbeing for everyone (£719,000 over 4 years, starting 2022/23)

20. The public health focus of the Nottinghamshire Plan and the Public Health Division is on the promotion of good mental health (whereas responsibility for the commissioning of mental health treatment lies with the local NHS). As part of this, the Health and Wellbeing Board has committed to improving the knowledge and skills of communities and the workforces of partner organisations. This funding will support delivery of that training and the development of a communications campaign to promote mental wellbeing. It will also fund the establishment of 1 FTE Band A Apprentice Public Health Support Officer, as well as the continuation of funding

for existing posts in the Community Friendly Notts team to support a community organising approach for mental wellbeing.

Strengthen support for those who need it most (£471,000 over 4 years, starting 2022/23)

21. Tackling harmful alcohol consumption and reducing the impact of tobacco is a priority in the ICS health inequalities strategy and the JHWS. In order to deliver on the associated alcohol and tobacco action plans, working across service, civic and community levels, additional staffing capacity is required in the form of 1 FTE Band A Apprentice Public Health Support Officer and 0.5 FTE Band F Senior Public Health & Commissioning Manager.
22. The county-wide Rough Sleeper Initiative works with those who are rough sleeping or at risk of street homelessness, to support prevention and recovery. The service uses a wrap-around support model, including substance misuse, mental health, social care, flexible temporary accommodation and health interventions. This is offered through a combination of targeted out-reach and in-reach support services. Additional funding will strengthen the existing RSI Programme which has been delivered across the County for four years.
23. Domestic Abuse and Substance Misuse represent areas of unmet need. The Government's recently published National Drugs Strategy and Domestic Abuse Plan include duties for Nottinghamshire County Council and some additional funding allocations for delivery of those duties specifically. Consideration about potential further investment using the Public Health Grant for these important public health agendas has been deferred, pending ongoing work with partners to recommend how best to deploy the new government funding allocations.

Protect people from existing and emerging threats to health (£80,000 over 2 years, starting 24/25)

24. Flu immunisation is effective in preventing disease in working-age adults, and is the single best way to protect against catching or spreading flu. The staff flu programme protects vulnerable service users from transmission of seasonal flu by frontline staff and contributes to corporate objectives relating to sickness absence. Additional funding will ensure the programme continues across the next 4 years.

Helping our people live healthier and more independent lives (£265,000 over 4 years, starting 22/23)

25. Continuation of the current level of funding to the oral health promotion service will sustain targeted work to reduce the burden of dental decay and consequential treatment costs, loss of school days, and the consequential erosion of independence in later years.
26. Your Health Your Way is an integrated wellbeing service that delivers support in relation to healthy weight, physical activity, smoking cessation, and low-level alcohol interventions tailored to the individual. Additional funding will enable a comprehensive evaluation of the service to ensure that the originally intended aims and objectives are being met in the context of the changing system within which it operates.

Impact

27. Further detail on each of these proposals can be found in Appendix 1, including their rationale and the public health outcomes to which each will contribute. Taken together they will increase

the age during which people enjoy good health and wellbeing and reduce the total number of years people experience poor health, disability and loss of independence. They are also designed to have greatest impact where the need is greatest.

28. In accordance with national evidence about what is needed to reduce inequalities, they comprise initiatives which deliver over the short, medium and long term. Most proposals have the potential to improve outcomes for residents in the short term (e.g. the benefits of smoking cessation start to accrue immediately, as does the protection conferred by flu vaccination). Some of the benefits associated with interventions preventing problems from occurring in the first place tend to be fully realised over a longer time frame (e.g. some benefits relating to the built environment, oral and nutritional health nutrition).
29. In addition to supporting people to enjoy their independence and good health for longer, these proposals also support the council's Medium Term Financial Strategy by reducing future demand for services provided by the Council and other public sector organisations. To take one example: risk factors for children and young people coming into the care of the local authority include, domestic violence, substance misuse and poor mental health. By preventing some of these issues and by intervening early when they do occur, there is the potential to avoid or reduce more intensive and costly intervention at a later date.
30. There is an interdependence between some of the proposals listed in Appendix 1. Funding only some of them would require further assessment of impact and cost of delivery.

Next steps if approved

31. Taken together this initial group of proposals will cost £4,919,906 leaving an estimated £3.9m of uncommitted grant by March 2026. Approving these initial proposals now will provide a more favourable window of time for planning, secure continuity and longevity of services, and secure earlier impact for residents.

Other Options Considered

32. Other options were considered as part of the screening process but they were discounted from an assessment of their Public Health impact, equity, affordability, and value for money.
33. The option to use the grant for other budgetary purposes in the local authority was discounted. The Council is required to use the grant in line with the conditions, must sign annual statements of assurance to this effect and must complete government returns reporting expenditure from the grant within specified categories. Therefore, it is not possible to place unspent grant into the Council's main reserves, nor to use it to offset budget pressures in other areas of the Council that do not contribute to Public Health outcomes.

Reason for Recommendation

34. The proposed use of uncommitted Public Health Grant will strengthen key building blocks for good health and wellbeing highlighted in the Nottinghamshire Plan and JHWS. The proposed investment is targeted to deliver impact in proportion to need. The proposals are compliant with the grant conditions.

Statutory and Policy Implications

35. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.
36. The proposals within this report represent a key decision because they involve expenditure of more than £1 million and will have a significant effect on two or more electoral divisions. Notice of the decision has therefore been published in the Forward Plan at least 28 days in advance of it being considered.

Financial Implications

37. Based on current planning assumptions, uncommitted Public Health Grant funding is forecast to increase to £8.84m by March 2026. The investment proposals in this paper totalling £4.92m will reduce this to an estimated £3.9m. Further proposals will be developed for the investment of this remaining amount within the next 6 to 12 months, subject to work currently taking place to quantify emerging cost pressures within existing services commissioned.
38. The investment proposals are a mix of time limited funding because they involve a test and learn approach, for example, and ongoing recurrent funding because there is good evidence that the investment achieves good outcomes and value for money. Where a test and learn approach is proposed, there are robust plans for evaluating impact to inform decisions about ongoing investment. The differentiation between the types of funding is shown in Appendix 1. The total amount of recurrent funding is £489,265.
39. Some of the proposals in this report will involve undertaking a tender process, in line with Nottinghamshire County Council financial regulations, to enable relevant services to be commissioned. Approval for procurement and award of contracts are sought as part of this report.

Human Resources Implications

40. This report proposes to establish staffing posts, as detailed in the table below.

Post Title	FTE	Grade/ Band	Contract length	Total yearly cost (with on-costs)
Public Health & Commissioning Manager (Healthy & Sustainable Places)	2	Band D	3.5 years	£120,050
Public Health Support Officer (Healthy & Sustainable Places)	1	Band B	3.5 years	£49,186
FOOD Club Support Officer (Children Centre Service)*	0.5	Band B	3 years	£24,593
Public Health & Commissioning Manager (Best Start)	1	Band D	3.5 years	£60,025

Children and Young People's Mental Health Whole School Approach Lead*	1	Band D	2 years	£60,025
Senior Public Health & Commissioning Manager (Tobacco)	0.5	Band F	Permanent	£40,265
Apprentice Public Health Support Officer (Mental Health, Alcohol & Tobacco)	2	Band A	3.5 years	£85,572
Project Manager (Financial Resilience)*	1	Band C	2 years	£55,955
Business Analyst (Financial Resilience)*	1	Band C	2 years	£55,955

*all posts to be established in the Public Health Division apart from those marked with an asterisk, which will be established elsewhere in the authority.

41. Postholders in the temporary roles established will accrue full employment rights, including redundancy payments when the contracts expire. The implications will be managed in line with the Council's employment procedures.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That Members:

- 1) Approve the proposed investment of forecasted uncommitted Public Health Grant funding to sustain and improve health and wellbeing outcomes for people in Nottinghamshire County. This includes approval for the establishment of staffing posts, as detailed in paragraph 40, and tender processes, in line with Nottinghamshire County Council financial regulations, to enable relevant services to be commissioned.

Councillor Matt Barney
Cabinet Member Adult Social Care & Public Health

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

William Leather
Public Health Executive Officer
T: 0115 977 4587
E: william.leather@nottsc.gov.uk

Constitutional Comments (CEH 04.05.2022)

42. Cabinet has the authority to consider the report and its recommendations.

Financial Comments (DG 06.05.22)

43. Uncommitted Public Health funding is forecast to increase to £8.84m by March 2026. The investment proposals in this paper totalling £4.92m, will be met from the reserves, reducing the uncommitted fund to an estimated £3.9m. Additional staffing posts are identified in para 43 and are included within the investment proposals.

HR Comments (WI 05.05.2022)

44. The newly established roles will be recruited to in line with the Council's recruitment and selection procedures and, where the posts are temporary, successful applicants will be appointed for the duration as outlined.

45. The proposals have been shared with the relevant recognised trade unions for information.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All