

REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITY TO STRENGTHEN RELATIONSHIPS
BETWEEN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND HEALTH****Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to alert Members to a fully-funded grant opportunity and seek approval for the Council to lead a partnership aimed at strengthening relationships between economic development and health.

Information

2. In March 2020, Policy Committee approved the adoption of the Employment and Health Strategy 2020-30 which contains a series of actions to promote economic development whilst reducing health inequalities. The Strategy is aimed at having a positive impact on the employment opportunities and career progression of people in Nottinghamshire, especially those that are furthest from the labour market.
3. The Council recognises that mental health is important for people's ability to work, and for their productivity and impact on the wider economy. Work also plays a crucial role for people's mental health. Work provide opportunities for promoting dignity, equality and health. Strengthening people's ability to work in turn promotes economic growth and inclusion.
4. The Health Foundation is an independent charity committed to bringing about better health and health care for people in the United Kingdom (UK). The organisation's aim is a healthier population, supported by high quality health care that can be equitably accessed. A report published by them in September 2020 'Using economic development to improve health inequality', identified several case studies to help build more evidence around how economic policy can support health. The report contains six recommendations which can be found at **Appendix A**. The full report can be accessed online via the following link: <https://reader.health.org.uk/using-economic-development-to-improve-health-and-reduce-he>.
5. The Health Foundation are of the view that actions need to be driven forward and supported with strong system leadership across the various levels of government. This approach aligns with the Council's Employment and Health Strategy 2020-30.
6. To help local and regional partnerships to implement some of the ideas in their report, the Health Foundation launched a funding programme 'Economies for Healthier Lives'. Given the strong alignment to the Employment and Health Strategy 2020-2030 and as part of the Council's support to local economic recovery planning, a submission to the fund is felt to be worthy of consideration by Members.

7. The £1.72 million Economies for Healthier Lives funding programme aims to:
 - Improve the capacity and capability of economic development and public health professionals to take joint action to use economic development to improve health
 - Develop a better understanding of the mechanisms through which economic development interventions affect health outcomes
 - Support the development of metrics to monitor the health impacts of economic development interventions
 - Build understanding of how to translate the evidence base into practical action
 - Capture learning from the programme to be used to inform and change practice across the UK through wider dissemination by the Health Foundation
8. Partnerships must be led by a local authority (or a statutory regional body) and bring together a range of organisations including:
 - Public health bodies and leaders
 - An academic partner
 - A specialist partner that can provide additional topic or community engagement expertise (this could be a national representative body, a voluntary and community sector organisation or a business)
9. The programme will support up to four partnerships across the UK, with funding to a maximum of £500,000, for up to three years. A three-stage process is planned: Expression of Interest (Eoi), full applications and interviews (as illustrated in **Appendix B**). Stage one of the process carries no obligation to proceed thereafter. To ensure the Council and its partners were in the running for this opportunity and to meet the immovable deadlines, Officers submitted an Eoi on 29 January 2021.
10. From hereon, if successful, the expectation is that the partnership will be ready to start the funded aspect of the project within three months of securing the award, reporting on progress and the financial status throughout the award period. 10% of the award funding will be held back until the production of a final learning report.
11. From 8 March 2021, the Health Foundation expect to invite up to 15 partnerships from the Eoi stage, to submit a full application for the programme. This is tentatively scheduled for 17.00 on 7 May 2021. However, the Health Foundation will be consulting with councils on the exact timeline in recognition of the pressures placed by the COVID-19 pandemic.
12. The Health Foundation aim to hold interviews (tentatively scheduled for June or July 2021) with shortlisted partnerships. Given the uncertainty around COVID-19, the interview stage process will be confirmed closer to the time. The assessment days will include a presentation and an interview. The interview panels will include external experts and Health Foundation staff.

The proposal

13. In understanding the local health and care needs of the population and through incorporating the wider determinants (employment, education, crime etc), a key outcome of this work is to identify both health inequality gaps and appropriate interventions.
14. Given its size, there are areas in Nottinghamshire of untapped potential stemming from a combination of social and economic factors (often referred to a socio-economic challenge). The 'State of the Nation' report from the Social Mobility Commission (November 2017) ranked all English local authorities into hotspots and coldspots for every

life stage, from early years through to working lives. The East Midlands was the worst performing area in terms of social mobility in the country. Social mobility refers to the shift in an individual's social status from one status to another. The shift can either be higher, lower, inter-generational, or intra-generational, and it cannot necessarily be determined if the change is for good or bad. In Nottinghamshire, six of the seven districts were ranked as coldspots (i.e. worst social mobility outcomes). Ashfield, Newark and Sherwood, and Mansfield were ranked in the lowest 10 of the 324 local authority areas assessed.

15. It is well documented that the current COVID–19 pandemic has exacerbated challenges such as social mobility, educational attainment, mental health, health, employment and economic growth, creating a knock-on effect of reduced opportunities and resources. Along with the challenges of the pandemic, this assists us in considering our approach to recovering from COVID-19, restoring services in a way that also addresses inequity in existing health outcomes and minimises the disproportionate consequences of COVID-19 on marginalised groups. The selection of Mansfield and Ashfield as pilot areas for the grant funding opportunity is also supported by the epidemiological data on the current impact of the COVID-19 pandemic across Nottinghamshire County. As of 24 January 2021, both Mansfield and Ashfield remain the highest incidence areas within the County and both sit above the England mean and median rates of COVID cases per 100,000 population.
16. The pilot project intends to improve and address the stalled socioeconomic development and increasing health inequalities. As a result of discussions with key partners and as illustrated in the table above, it has been concluded that for the Economies for Healthier Lives funding, Ashfield and Mansfield should be the areas selected for the pilot project. The current COVID–19 pandemic has exacerbated challenges such as social mobility, educational attainment, mental health, health, employment and economic growth, creating a knock-on effect of reduced opportunities and resources.
17. This proposal shares the Council's ambition to enable everyone to achieve their potential for a healthy and productive life. Subject to Member approval to proceed, the project will build robust data intelligence of the local population and work to drive socioeconomic regeneration to increase interventions to some of Nottinghamshire's most disadvantaged groups. The primary focus will be on employment and mental wellness.
18. It is anticipated that this project will create additional resource and capacity to undertake thorough evaluations of the demography and wider determinants of this population, identify evidence-based impactful interventions and sustainably meet health and care outcomes, thereby reducing inequalities, as illustrated below:



- Gather and utilise data intelligence from several experts, internal and external sources and at a system level to identify where health inequalities lie



- Use academic partners to conduct evidence-based research to understand what the most impactable interventions are and how these can be applied to improve the health and care of this population at a localised level. This will include researching the wider determinants (transport, environment, accessibility etc) and offer targeted interventions that will address the diversity of the Ashfield and Mansfield population



- Building on the work already undertaken by the Integrated Care System Population Health Management team ‘Mental Health COVID -19 Rapid Assessment’, prioritise what and how to increase the socio-economic regeneration of Ashfield and Mansfield can be achieved



- Consider educational skills strategies that improve basic skill levels and enable people to access sustainable employment

19. Prior to the pandemic, Ashfield and Mansfield were already experiencing significant variations in financial inequalities and deprivation. COVID-19 has seen the working status of those within the population change negatively and with it brings challenges for families and communities. Those people who are self-employed have also been significantly affected. While furlough continues to support this cohort, redundancy rates are increasing, as is personal debt.

20. Place-based working is a person-centred, bottom-up approach used to meet the unique needs of people in one given location by working together to use the best available resources and collaborate to gain local knowledge and insight. The proposal builds on the Council’s place-based work with Nottingham Trent University (NTU) and their vision and ambitions for the area. NTU have been a key academic partner, along with the following (initial) partners to bring forward the Eol:

Organisation	Role
Ashfield and Mansfield District Councils	District local authority partners
Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care System	System wide partner
National Health Service Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Partnerships, Primary Care Partnerships	Local delivery partners
Mansfield Community and Voluntary Service	Specialist community partner

21. The Council (as project lead) and its partners may consider taking the learning from this project and replicating in other parts of the county at some point in the future.

Other Options Considered

22. Through this funding there is an opportunity to begin to improve both health and economic productivity in Nottinghamshire through a focus on the interaction between health and work. There is potential to develop a more joined up approach that enables everyone to enjoy health, wellbeing and economic prosperity. Given the many and significant challenges facing people, some of which has been further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, the ‘do-nothing’ option was discounted.

Reason for Recommendation

23. The proposed project supports the trio of Council strategic plans: Council Plan 2017-2021, the COVID-19 crisis Economic Recovery Action Plan 2020 to 2022 and the Employment and Health Strategy 2020-2030 objectives. The data and intelligence

provided by the project will lead to practical support and guidance for people of Ashfield and Mansfield who have been disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Statutory and Policy Implications

24. 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.

Financial Implications

25. This is a grant funding opportunity of up to £500,000, in-kind resources of staff time will be required. It is not expected that cash match funding is required.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Policy Committee:

- 1) Endorse the Expression of Interest submitted in line with the proposal detailed in the report.
- 2) Subject to the Expression of Interest being supported by the Health Foundation, a full application be developed and submitted to a future meeting in line with the proposed timetable detailed in Appendix B to the report.

COUNCILLOR MRS KAY CUTTS MBE Leader of the Council

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Nicola McCoy-Brown, Growth and Economic Development ext. 72580

Constitutional Comments (KK 11/01/2021)

26. The proposals in this report are within the remit of Policy Committee.

Financial Comments (SES 12/01/2021)

27. The financial implications are set out in paragraph 25 of the report. This is a grant funding opportunity of up to £500,000, in-kind resources of staff time will be required. It is not expected that cash match funding is required.

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.

- *COVID-19 Crisis Economic Recovery Action Plan 2020 to 2022*, accessible online via: <https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/policy-library/78888/covid-19-crisis-economic-recovery-action-plan-2020-to-2022>
- *Nottinghamshire COVID-19 Economic Recovery Framework*, report to COVID-19 Resilience, Recovery and Renewal Committee, published on 16 July 2020
- *Nottinghamshire Employment and Health Strategy*, accessible online via <https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/policy-library/72899/employment-and-health-strategy-2020-30>

Electoral Divisions and Members Affected

- All