



EXECUTIVE BOARD DECISION

REPORT OF:	Executive Member for Public Health, Prevention & Wellbeing
LEAD OFFICERS:	Acting Director of Adult Social Services (DASS)
DATE:	9 th June 2022

PORTFOLIO/S AFFECTED:	All
WARD/S AFFECTED:	(All Wards);
KEY DECISION:	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>

SUBJECT: Changing Futures Programme

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Blackburn with Darwen (BwD) Borough Council is the lead authority for a Lancashire wide integrated support programme for the most disadvantaged adults across the whole county named Changing Futures.

The Changing Futures Programme is funded by the Department of Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC) and The National Lottery Community Fund. The programme is being managed by BwD Council via a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). On behalf of the partners BwD Council will receive a total of £6.499million over 3 years through to 2023-24.

Programme delivery is split across 4 changing futures locality footprints. BwD is hosting the core programme delivery team and is the lead authority for Pennine, covering BwD and the 5 East Lancashire boroughs. The other footprints are led by Blackpool, Preston and Lancaster Councils using a disseminated governance framework, via an agreed MOU with each lead authority.

The MOU includes details of financial payments, audit of spend (approved by each lead authority's Section 151 Officer) and an agreed process to deal with any variations. DLUHC have issued year 1 funding of £1.901m and will imminently be issuing the most significant investment of the programme which is in year 2 - £2.474m. Funds are paid in advance by DLUHC to assist with locality cash flow. As the host organisation we will similarly be paying quarterly advances to each Local Authority, deducting any underspend in the previous quarter in the next payment. Year 3 funding will be issued by the National Lottery for £2.124m in April 2023.

The programme is being independently evaluated. BwD has led the development of a robust road map to collect data to fulfil the programme data requirements, supported by data sharing frameworks.

The Lancashire programme is one of the most developed nationally in terms of partnerships and delivery and has reached the point at which delivery with beneficiaries will begin across all 4 localities imminently.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Executive Board:

- Note and endorse the Council's role as lead authority and accountable body
- Note the approach to financial management through MOU's with lead authorities across Lancashire.

3. BACKGROUND

In January 2021, BwD along with colleagues from Lancashire submitted an Expression of Interest to DLUHC for funding for the Changing Futures Programme as part of the Levelling Up programme. In May 2021 a full bid and delivery plan was developed.

The bid was successful and Lancashire authorities were awarded £6.499m in July 2021, covering financial years 2021-24, the largest grant issued in England.

The delivery plan put forward through the bid was based on 4 Locality areas, Central & West, North, Fylde & Blackpool, and East Lancashire, delivering to adults with multiple disadvantage in ways that are bespoke to the locality area's needs. The Delivery plan also included centralised costs to be administered by BwD for programme management and acting as the accountable body.

We were awarded a 32 month funding allocation with year 3 from the National Lottery Community Fund. We have also been allocated a national (DLUHC) programme team and evaluation partners (Cordis Bright and Social Finance) to monitor and guide the delivery plan.

4. KEY ISSUES & RISKS

The programme is fully funded and funding will be held by BwD and allocated to localities in line with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). BwD has also led on data sharing, information sharing and data security governance.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no policy implications as a result of the programme. Local Authority current policies and processes will be utilised.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

An amount of £6.499m has been allocated for the project over the three year period to March 2024. As the Changing Futures Programme is a jointly funded project between DLUHC and the National Lottery Community Fund (NLCF), the funding will be allocated to BwD by the DLUHC in 2021/22 and 2022/23 and thereafter by the NLCF. This will be held by BwD as Accountable Body and allocated to each locality in advance, paid upon receipt of an invoice on a quarterly basis.

The funding allocation is as shown in the tables below:-

DLUHC / Lottery Award	£
Year 1 DHLUC	1,901,061
Year 2 DHLUC	2,474,019
Year 3 The National Lottery Community Fund	2,123,985
Total Award	6,499,065

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Locality Totals	905,165	2,785,874	2,124,491	5,815,530
Core Programme Team Costs	109,365	328,095	246,075	683,535
Total Funding Allocation	1,014,530	3,113,969	2,370,566	6,499,065

As indicated in the table above, there is a central budget of £684k held by BwD for central programme costs. This comprises primarily the Core Programme Team. Any costs arising from the cessation of the Team at the end of the Programme will be met from with the grant award.

Funding will be allocated in line with the MOU signed by each locality. A Changing Futures Lancashire Board has been established as part of the governance arrangements and the Board will have oversight of the programme funding and expenditure. Allocated funding is as follows:

Central/West Locality (Led by Preston City Council): £1,662,560

Fylde Coast Locality (Led by Blackpool Council): £1,620,341

East Locality (Led by BwD Borough Council): £1,498,665

North Locality (Led by Lancaster City Council): £1,033,964

Localities are reimbursed for defrayed expenditure following receipt of quarterly returns, with a process agreed to utilise underspends via the Changing Futures Lancashire Board.

The MOU states that any overall programme underspend is used to achieve efficiency savings, prior to distribution of additional resources across the programme. Again, this is governed through the Changing Futures Lancashire Board. Likewise, any adjustments to Locality allocations are submitted to the Lancashire Board for approval, with scrutiny from BwD finance.

It is expected that all costs arising from this programme are fully covered by the grant funding award, and that there will be no additional costs to BwD.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The MOU's utilised for this programme were developed by the Programme Team in line with the DLUHC MOU template agreed for the overall programme. The draft MOU's were approved by the Lancashire Changing Futures Board before being issued to each lead local authority where they were approved by the relevant S151 officers. The MOU's are not a legally binding contract but an agreement that offer provisions for how funding will be distributed to each budget holding authority and how any overspend or underspend will be managed. The arrangements under the MOU's will be kept under review by DLUHC, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council and the Changing Futures Board,

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

There are no additional resource implications arising from this report. Services have been commissioned to complete the programme. Some existing staff have been seconded to the programme and their posts backfilled.

9. EQUALITY AND HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

Please select one of the options below. Where appropriate please include the hyperlink to the EIA.

Option 1 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) not required – the EIA checklist has been completed.

Option 2 In determining this matter the Executive Member needs to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. *(insert EIA link here)*

Option 3 In determining this matter the Executive Board Members need to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. *(insert EIA attachment)*

10. CONSULTATIONS

Changing Futures has been co-produced with people who have Lived Experience from the Expression of Interest Stage.

11. STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The recommendations are made further to advice from the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer has confirmed that they do not incur unlawful expenditure. They are also compliant with equality legislation and an equality analysis and impact assessment has been considered. The recommendations reflect the core principles of good governance set out in the Council's Code of Corporate Governance.

12. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

All Declarations of Interest of any Executive Member consulted and note of any dispensation granted by the Chief Executive will be recorded in the Summary of Decisions published on the day following the meeting.

VERSION:	1
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CONTACT OFFICER:	Victoria Holmes
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DATE:	31 st May 2022
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BACKGROUND PAPER:	
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