



EXECUTIVE BOARD DECISION

REPORT OF:	Executive Member for Public Health, Prevention & Wellbeing
LEAD OFFICERS:	Strategic Director of Adults and Health
DATE:	Thursday, 9 November 2023

PORTFOLIO/S AFFECTED:	Public Health Prevention and Wellbeing
WARD/S AFFECTED:	(All Wards);
KEY DECISION:	Y

SUBJECT: Changing Futures Lancashire Funding and Financial Plan (1st January 2024 – 31st March 2025)

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Paper is to notify the Executive Board of the additional year's funding award of £2,027,000 for Changing Futures Lancashire (CFL) from 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025.

This paper will also provide details of the commitments from across Lancashire to remove the 3-month cost pressure (Jan 2024-31 March 2024) totalling £124,547, as service delivery needs to continue beyond the original anticipated end point and closedown of existing Changing Futures Grant Funding to the end of December 2023.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Executive Board:

2.1 Note this report and its contents

2.2 Approves the receipt of £2.027million for the delivery of Changing Futures Lancashire from 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025 and that appropriate adjustments to the Council's budgets are made to reflect this;

2.3 Approves the financial gap plan and income streams identified to remove the potential shortfall, which is covered in paragraph 6, Financial Implications.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 BACKGROUND TO CHANGING FUTURES LANCASHIRE

The Changing Futures programme is a £64 million joint initiative by the Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC) and The National Lottery Community Fund, the largest funder of community activity in the UK. The fund is for local organisations to work in partnership to better support those who experience multiple disadvantage, including homelessness, substance misuse, mental health issues, domestic abuse, and contact with the criminal justice system. People in this situation are among the most vulnerable in our communities, often with past experiences of trauma. Getting coordinated support from local services can be difficult, and this can lead to greater risk of homelessness, ill health, and increased contact with the criminal justice system. This in turn can result in greater pressures on services that respond to crises such as A&E, policing and homelessness services.

In 2021, Lancashire was awarded £6.499m and in 2023 has been awarded an additional £2.027m to extend the programme until 31st March 2025. Before this extension the programme was going to end delivery on 31st December 2023 and the programme close on 31st March 2024, with very few staff remaining to close down.

Changing Futures Lancashire is led by and ultimately the responsibility of Blackburn with Darwen Council. Devolution of responsibility to 3 other local authorities who lead their locality (as BwD lead the East Locality) is through Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) to set out the funding levels, delivery requirements and the evaluation requirements for this programme. The programme has been entirely coproduced and the results are showing that the approach to design and delivery have worked – people are getting better and this also returns a cost avoidance. (The 3 other lead local authorities are Preston City Council, Blackpool Borough Council and Lancaster City Council).

3.2 THE ADDITIONAL YEAR 2024-25 OF FUNDING

3.2.1 CONFIRMATION LETTER

Attached as an appendix is the letter of confirmation from DLUHC and The National Lottery Community Fund of additional funding of £2.027million for the period 1st April 2024-31st March 2025.

3.2.2 HOW WILL THE MONEY BE USED?

This additional funding will enable an extension of delivery and the evaluation. Lancashire remains the biggest delivery area and is the biggest sole contributor to the national evaluation, as well as agreeing to involvement with every facet of the evaluation. In addition to this, our local evaluations and evolving economic impact analysis means the programme is capitalising on every opportunity to add value to the work we are doing and have done with over 1,000 beneficiaries since January 2022.

The leadership of the programme from BwD, the pace of implementation and delivery of our ongoing work on systemic change were all pivotal in the decision to award funding to Lancashire for this additional year. Only 10 of the 15 areas were awarded additional funding.

As the funding letter stipulates the timeframe for the award, we are unable to use any of the additional funding early. As noted in section 1.2 there is a 3 month funding gap which has arisen with the award.

The opportunity to bid in this funding round was only opened on 5th April 2023, which falls within this financial year, when we anticipated delivery to December 2023 and then closedown.

4. KEY ISSUES & RISKS

4.1 RISK TO THE LANCASHIRE PROGRAMME

The Changing Futures Programme in Lancashire is a major contributor to the national evaluation and as such, security to providers and all the staff will be provided through this financial plan. This will reduce threats to delivery, and provide continuity, thus enabling BwD BC to honour its contract with the programme's funders, DLUHC and The National Lottery Community Fund.

4.2 RISK TO BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN BOROUGH COUNCIL

The additional 3 months activity created a financial implication to BwD Borough Council as the lead authority. Options were discussed at the Lancashire Changing Futures Board and a residual risk of circa £460k was identified in May 2023, which has reduced to £124,547 with a remedial action plan created and executed to remove this risk to BwD Borough Council. As a result of the options outlined in this paper the pressures have been mitigated.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The Learning from Changing Futures Lancashire will be useful for future policy development on how to best support disadvantaged people in the Borough.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 RESOURCING THE 3 MONTH GAP

This section provides a detailed breakdown of the financial gap remedial action plan.

6.1.1 WHAT IS THE GAP AND REMEDIAL PLAN

Prior to submitting the funding bid for the additional year, a financial risk assessment showed that although the programme finances had been managed within the set parameters, there was an unfunded gap to bridge, with funded delivery needed.

The original programme plan, for the funding of £6.499m was to end direct delivery on 31st December 2023 and then have a 3 month closedown and evaluation period, delivered by the

core programme team of four (based at BwD), four locality managers and four locality administrators from 1st January 2024 – 31st March 2024.

With the successful bid for the additional year, we now need to find the funding for delivery of services over Jan – March 2024. As the additional year does have a reduced service offer, calculations for the financial resources needed for the gap are based on a reduced service offer:

Item	£	£
Delivery Costs January 2024 – March 2024 (the gap)	£649,902	
Less: Existing January - March CFL funding (planned for closedown) – Guaranteed	(£152,000)	
Less: Existing Identified savings based on localities holding vacancies that will affect but not stop delivery. (It is agreed that a minimum of £148k of this total will come from Preston CC).	(£283,355)	
Gives: Potential Financial Gap for the Period 1 st January 2024 – 31 st March 2024		£214,547
Further funding sources identified to mitigate the gap:		
Non-recurrent funding from Integrated Care Board - Confirmed	(£50,000)	
Non-recurrent funding from National Probation Service – Confirmed (MOU with BwD Legal Team)	(£40,000)	
Non-recurrent Funding from 3 x Directors' of Public Health for Lancashire County Council, Blackpool and Blackburn with Darwen up to £70k each - Confirmed* (BwD funded from Adults and Health Portfolio existing budgets)	(£124,547)	
Subtotal of funding sources		(£214,547)
Net Broad Breakeven Position (for existing changing futures programme up to March 2024)		(£0)

**denotes that these funding sources will collaborate to break even.*

On this current forecast there is sufficient funding identified to cover the costs of the programme through to next year.

6.2 HOW HAVE WE SOLVED THE GAP?

As the table above shows, a combined effort of in year cost savings, and non-recurrent contributions have removed any financial risk to BwD Borough Council. We have firm commitments to negate any such financial risk.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are 4 draft MOUs with lead local authorities of Blackpool, Preston, Lancaster and also Blackburn with Darwen (for parity) to provide assurance to them of the funding available.

Compliance with conditions of the grant funding are necessary in order to fulfil the contractual obligations we are entering into on receipt of the additional grant funding.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The programme will be fully funded to deliver throughout the lifetime of the programme by following the plans contained in this report.

This plan will also enable the continuation of existing commissions within the Changing Futures Programme that deliver Changing Futures services to beneficiaries here in Blackburn with Darwen and across the other three localities.

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

The whole Changing Futures Lancashire Programme has been coproduced with people who have Lived Experience of multiple disadvantage here in Lancashire, including the sustainability plan.

The financial remedial action plan was written in collaboration across the Lancashire Changing Futures Board, chaired by Dr Arif Rajpura (Director of Public Health for Blackpool).

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:	Ian Treasure
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DATE:	13 th October 2023
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BACKGROUND PAPER:	2024-2025 Funding Paper from DLUHC / The National Lottery
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29 June 2023

Denise Park
Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council
3rd Floor
Old Town Hall
Blackburn
Lancashire
BB1 7DY

**Reference: Changing Futures Extension of Grant Funding Offer -
Project ID: 20175610**

Dear Denise,

The Big Lottery Fund, operating as The National Lottery Community Fund (the "Fund"), has reviewed your application for additional funding to extend the Changing Futures Lancashire Project from 31 March 2024 to 31 March 2025.

In your application (see Annex A) you provided the Fund on 24 May 2023, you indicated that you required the additional funding to help extend local delivery and further support sustainability and mainstreaming.

I am pleased to confirm our continued commitment to your Project, with an offer to increase your grant by £450,001 bringing the total Changing Futures Lancashire grant to £2,573,986 as set out in the following table:

	DLUHC	The Fund
Year One (2021/2022)	£1,901,061	£0
Year Two (2022/2023)	£2,474,019	£0
Year Three (2023/2024)	£0	£2,123,985
Year Four (2024/2025)	£1,577,340	£450,001
Total	£5,952,420	£2,573,986

The National Lottery Community Fund
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