

Report title	Administration of the Black Country Community Discharge Grant	
Decision designation	AMBER	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Linda Leach Adults	
Key decision	Yes	
In forward plan	Yes	
Wards affected	All Wards	
Accountable Director	Emma Bennett, Director of Children's Services	
Originating service	Adult Social Care	
Accountable employee	Paula Morris	Head of Adult Services and Communities
	Tel	01902 556325
	Email	Paula.Morris@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	Adults Services Leadership Team	27 October 2020

Recommendations for decision:

The Cabinet (Resources) Panel is recommended to:

1. Approve that Wolverhampton City Council accepts, holds and distributes the Community Discharge Grant (CDG) awarded by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, on behalf of the Black Country region which includes the administrative areas of Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton Transforming Care Partnership.
2. Agree that the Council accepts the role of accountable body to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care for the grant.
3. Approve the Council entering into such legal agreements as necessary to receive the grant as lead authority on behalf of the Black Country Transforming Care Partnership (TCP) and any further grant payments in 2021-22 and 2022-23.

4. Authorise the Council to sign the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to accept the Grant of £657,414 for the Black Country Region.
5. Approve the creation of a supplementary revenue budget in accordance with the MOU document, fully funded by the grant.

Recommendation for noting:

The Cabinet (Resources) Panel is asked to note:

1. That Wolverhampton City Council will not be responsible for decisions regarding the approval of grant applications and monitoring of the use of the grant, this will remain the role of the Black Country Transforming Care Partnership Board, of which we are a key partner.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Cabinet (Resources) Panel about the Community Discharge Grant (CDG), its purpose and to seek approval to accept the role of accountable body for the funding stream. The report also seeks approval for the Council to hold and distribute the CDG, for three years, as nominated lead authority for the Black Country TCP area. The CDG will fund training, services and support across the Black Country region that aim to achieve timely hospital discharges of adults with a learning disability and/or autism and to prevent hospital admissions.
- 1.2 The grant supports the work of the national and regional TCP. Whilst Wolverhampton City Council has been nominated as the lead authority to receive and administer the grant, it is for use across all four local authority administrative areas within the TCP.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The TCP role is to improve health and care services, to enable more people with a learning disability and/or autism to live in their community, with the right support. In 2015 The Local Government Association (LGA), Association of Adult Social Services (ADASS) and NHS England (NHSE), published their national plan for 'Building the Right Support'.
- 2.2 'Building the Right Support' focuses on reducing the numbers of adults with learning disability or autism receiving in-patient treatment, by developing opportunities and choices for a real home with the right support. For those people who do need hospital treatment, in-patient care should be as local as possible.
- 2.3 Part of the 'Building the Right Support' programme was that 48 TCP's were developed across the country, made up of Clinical Commissioning Groups, NHS England, Commissioners and Local Authorities. The Council is part of the Black Country TCP.
- 2.4 In the Budget announced on 11 March 2020, Government committed to providing Community Discharge Funding over the next three years, to speed up the discharge of people with learning disabilities and/or autism from inpatient care in England. The Secretary of State for Health and Social Care allocated an amount of Community Discharge Grant, under Section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003, to the Black Country TCP.
- 2.5 Each TCP nominated a lead local authority to receive the grant payment. City of Wolverhampton Council was nominated as the lead authority to receive the Black Country CDG payment on behalf of our regional TCP. The Black Country TCP Board is responsible for approving grant applications, monitoring and making decisions about how the grant is used, based on need and local intelligence.

- 2.6 In the role of nominated authority, the Council will be accountable to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care in respect of the administration and distribution of the grant. Requests for payments from the CDG will be made to the TCP Board; once agreement has been reached, City of Wolverhampton Council will administer the payments as agreed by the Board.
- 2.7 How the grant is used is a regional matter, provided it is in line with meeting the objective of preventing in-patient admissions and achieving timely discharges from hospital for adults with learning disability and/or autism. Payments from the grant will fund local and regional developments for innovative community-based support services that will benefit patients from Wolverhampton as well as other Black Country areas.

3.0 Progress, options, discussion, etc.

- 3.1 A Black Country TCP Board and a TCP Operational Steering Group meet monthly and fortnightly respectively. Use of the CDG, is considered at each meeting to support and progress the 'Building the Right Support' strategy. The TCP consider that some of the CDG should be used to fund an intensive support team to provide specialist, short term intensive support to adults with a learning disability or autism in their home, as an alternative to admission to hospital where safe to do so. The TCP have also confirmed that the CDG should be used to develop more small specialist care providers across the region.
- 3.2 Further initiatives supported by the grant will be discussed and agreed by the TCP Board on an on-going basis.

4.0 Evaluation of alternative options

- 4.1 Option One would be for no change to the existing plan; for the Council to accept hold and distribute the Black Country Transforming Care Community Discharge Grant as lead authority. This will demonstrate the Council's commitment to achieving the 'Building the Right Support' strategy, as well as supporting and enhancing this work locally and regionally. This option further demonstrates the Council's commitment to young people and adults with a learning disability and autism, leading good lives with good health and wellbeing outcomes. This is the recommended option.
- 4.2 Option Two would be to request that another Black Country authority, undertakes the role of administering the CDG. CWC has tentatively offered to undertake this role, subject to Cabinet (Resources) Panel agreement. Should CWC refused to accept the role of lead authority or accountable body, it could be perceived that there is a lack of commitment on the part of CWC and the other Black Country Authorities to deliver the strategy. This option would still require CWC to remain a committed member of the Black Country TCP.

5.0 Reasons for decision

- 5.1 The Black Country TCP CDG payable for the financial year 2020-21 is £657,414. Indicative allocations for 2021-22 and 2022-23 will be made ahead of each financial year using the Barnett formula and will be subject to consultation.
- 5.2 The 2020-21 grant allocation, whilst for use across the Black Country region, will also benefit young people and adults within Wolverhampton. This is an investment in supporting people with a disability and/or autism to lead fulfilled lives within safe and supportive environments. Taking a lead role in administering the grant demonstrates our continued commitment and ambition to reduce hospital admissions, achieve timely hospital discharges and provide personalised support for adults with a learning disability and/or autism.

6.0 Financial implications

- 6.1 The Transforming Care Partnership Community Discharge Grant has been granted for 2020-21 and the subsequent two financial years. The grant payable for the financial year 2020-21 is £657,000 and allocations for 2021-22 and 2022-23 will be made ahead of each of those financial years based upon the numbers of adults with learning disability and/or autism receiving in-patient treatment in each TCP area.
- 6.2 The Council will assume the role of accountable body, however the Black Country Transforming Care Partnership Board, of which the Council is a key partner, will have responsibility for approving allocations to individual partners. The required legal agreements are being drawn up to protect the Council from any financial risk associated with grant allocated to partners, meaning partners will need to agree to use the grant as determined and produce evidence to support as required.

[JB/29102020/R]

7.0 Legal implications

- 7.1 As Lead Authority, Council will sign the MOU with the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care which, sets out the intention of the parties in respect of the accountable body role in distribution of the funding.
- 7.2 Enter into all necessary legal agreements with all grant recipients including an agreement with the TCP, setting out their obligations and responsibilities, in order to give effect to terms and conditions set out in the MOU.
- 7.3 CWC as lead authority, to ensure there is appropriate governance in place to ensure it has oversight and/or involvement in the assessment and approval of applications to ensure transparency in the determination process of all applications.
- 7.4 All steps are taken to protect the interest of the Council including prevention of financial and reputational harm.

- 7.5 That the Council is fully indemnified by all grant recipients in respect of all potential risks including risk of clawback for the duration of the project.
[LMC/23102020/Z]

8.0 Equalities implications

- 8.1 The Community Discharge Grant is intended to support adults in the Black Country region with the protected characteristic of disability under the Equality Act 2010. Adults with a learning disability and/or autism may also suffer discrimination due to age, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership or pregnancy and maternity. The grant will be used to provide services and support to meet the diverse needs of adults with a learning disability and autism who receive in-patient care or to avoid in-patient admission and aim to reduce inequality in health and social care provision.
- 8.2 An equalities impact assessment may be required.

9.0 Climate change and environmental implications

- 9.1 There are no climate change or environmental implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

10.0 Human resources implications

- 10.1 There are no human resources implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

11.0 Corporate landlord implications

- 11.1 There are no Corporate Landlord implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

12.0 Health and Wellbeing Implications

- 12.1 People with a learning disability and autistic people should receive the best possible care when they have need for in-patient treatment. Few people would choose to remain in a hospital when they could be receiving less restrictive support care in their local own community, near to family and friends, with more choice and control over their lives, health and wellbeing.
- 12.2 The Community Discharge Grant will further support the progress made in Wolverhampton and the wider Black Country region, to reduce the numbers of adults with a learning disability and/or autism, in inpatient care. It will support the facilitation of timely discharges from hospital, give people more choice and control over where they live, and the care and support they receive locally.
- 12.3 Supporting positive mental health and physical wellbeing is underpinned by the CWC priority of developing strong, resilient and healthy communities.

13.0 Covid Implications

13.1 There are no Covid implications arising from the recommendation of this report.

14.0 Schedule of background papers

14.1 Community Discharge Grant Briefing Note to Transforming Adult Social Care Board, 30 September for Adult Social Care Leadership Team.

14.2 Draft MOU between the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care and City of Wolverhampton Council