

## Report of Deputy Head of Customer Contact

**Report to** Director of Communities and Environment & Director of Children's and Families

**Date:** 24<sup>th</sup> March 2020

**Subject:** Healthy Holidays Programme Funding to Leeds Community Foundation

Are specific electoral wards affected?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, name(s) of ward(s):	
Has consultation been carried out?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Will the decision be open for call-in?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, access to information procedure rule number:	
Appendix number:	

## Summary

### 1. Main issues

- The purpose of this report is to request a total funding of £150,000 to be paid to Leeds Community Foundation, for Healthy Holidays programme 2020, consisting of £50,000 from Children and Families Directorate, and £100,000 from the Social Inclusion Fund (SIF) from Communities and Environment.
- Social Inclusion Funded projects are designed to support the city's anti-poverty agenda and projects have been focussed in areas of deprivation

### 2. Best Council Plan Implications (see the [latest version of the Best Council Plan](#))

- The Healthy Holidays programme contributes to the Best Council Plan focus of tackling poverty and reducing inequalities, and achieving the council's ambition for a strong economy and compassionate city. The activities set out in this report support the Best City Priorities of Safe, Strong Communities, Inclusive Growth, Health & Wellbeing, Child-Friendly City, Age-Friendly Leeds and Housing.

### **3. Resource Implications**

- Due to the positive impact on families and children and young people it was agreed at Corporate Leadership Team (November 2019) that the delivery of Healthy Holidays Programmes should be sustained throughout 2020. In terms of funding, approval is sought for £100,000 provided by Communities and Environment from the Social Inclusion Fund and £50,000 from Children's Services.
- Confirmation that LCF were successful in securing £400,000 funding for Leeds and Bradford from the Department of Education's Holiday Activities and Food fund (HAF) was received on 13<sup>th</sup> March.

### **Recommendations**

- a) The Directors of Communities and Environment and Children and Families are requested to authorise £150,000 of cross-directorate funding.
- b) The Director of Communities and Environment agrees a payment of £100,000 from the 2019/20 Social Inclusion Fund to Leeds Community Foundation.
- c) The Director of Children and Families agrees a payment of £50,000 to Leeds Community Foundation.
- d) Due to the emerging issue and impact of the Coronavirus, it will not be possible for the programme to be delivered on the same model seen in 2018 and 2019. It is recommended that the requested funding be authorised, with additional authorisation for delivery to be amended as required.

### **1. Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to allocate £150,000 cross directorate funding to Leeds Community Foundation (LCF), to deliver funding for projects aimed at dealing with holiday hunger across Leeds, as agreed at November 2019 Corporate Leadership Team.

### **2. Background information**

- 2.1 In April 2017, a report by the All Party Parliamentary Group on Hunger published a report highlighting the issue of Holiday Hunger, revealing that children were returning to school in poor physical and mental condition after school holidays, as families struggled to meet the costs of feeding their children during this time. The report found that a quarter of parents had skipped a meal to feed their children and concluded that holiday hunger was having a detrimental impact on children's mental and physical wellbeing, as well as their educational attainment.
- 2.2 The Council has supported Healthy Holiday programmes since 2018 and has recognised the importance of this work at a cross-directorate level. This work has also brought together support from the third sector and private sector and is an example of how the city is coming together to tackle food poverty and insecurity and support families out of poverty.
- 2.3 During 2019, funding for Healthy Holiday Projects totalled £549,598. The average cost per project was £7,138. Leeds Community Foundation (LCF) managed the

delivery of 77 projects, reaching 5,441 unique children, and 903 adults. There was a total headcount of 51,576 young people, and 2,686 adults.

- 2.4 All of the programmes provided lunch, and some also provided breakfast and/or food parcels. Many used food from Rethink Food and FareShare, and Leeds Catering offered food preparation. FareShare alone distributed 15.21 tonnes of intercepted food, which would otherwise have been considered as waste, equating to 4,375 trays/crates of food, with an estimated retail value of £21,645.
- 2.5 The approach during summer 2019 used a mixed model of provision, from a range of third sector, local authority and school based projects. This mixed model of provision was found to add value through allowing services to engage families in accessible locations and familiar community based venues.

### **3. Main issues**

- 3.1 Leeds Community Foundation (LCF) has been a key partner in Leeds's development of the Healthy Holidays Programme over the last 2 years. LCF has overseen the management, funding and delivery of the programme. Leveraging additional resources from the private and third sectors.
- 3.2 For 2020, in addition to the funding provided by LCC, Leeds Community Foundation has provided funding from a combination of donors, including a further request for funding from the HAF fund (DfE) totalling £450,000. The bid was successful, but not announced until 13/03/20.
- 3.3 Due to the delayed funding decision by DfE, the Healthy Holidays funding allocation in Leeds was unavoidably postponed, meaning most Third Sector Organisation applicants were forced to withdraw from providing Easter Provision.
- 3.4 Due to the outbreak and subsequent pandemic of Coronavirus throughout the UK, the Healthy Holidays programme delivery will need to be significantly changed, in order to adhere to the advice, guidance and recommendations of National Government. It is requested that the funding is allocated to LCF on the basis that the programme will be delivered in differently to previous years to best meet the demands of the current circumstances.

### **4. Corporate considerations**

#### **4.1 Consultation and engagement**

- 4.1.1 The Healthy Holidays 2020 program was discussed and agreed at the Corporate Leadership Team Meeting in November 2019.
- 4.1.2 Regular 'Task and Finish' meetings to discuss the program with a range of key stakeholders have been taking place approximately every 6 weeks.
- 4.1.3 Strong partnerships have been the basis for the success of previous programs in 2018 and 2019, and have shaped the 2020 programme.
- 4.1.4 Key stakeholders include Catering Leeds, representatives from LCF, Children and Families, Active Leeds and Financial Inclusion Team.
- 4.1.5 The Healthy Holidays 2020 programme has also received agreement from relevant Lead members.

## **4.2 Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration**

- 4.2.1 A key focus of the Healthy Holidays programme is to support people suffering hardship, poverty and inequality, and therefore issues of equality, diversity, cohesion and integration are key aspects of this work. Projects and initiatives outlined in the report are reviewed annually as part of the annual Equality Improvement Priority updates.
- 4.2.2 According to evaluations of Healthy Holiday Programmes in 2018 and 2019, children participating in Healthy Holidays projects experience a reduction in social isolation and ASB as well as reduced risks of violence, neglect, grooming and crime. As such, Healthy Holidays helps to foster positive relations and community cohesion between people from different groups through participation in fun activities and projects as well as food provision.

## **4.3 Council policies and the Best Council Plan**

- 4.3.1 The Healthy Holidays programme directly relates to many of the Best Council Plan priorities, including: tackling poverty, helping everyone benefit from the economy to their full potential, reducing health inequalities and supporting active lifestyles, making Leeds the best city for children and young people to grow up in, keeping people safe from harm and promoting community respect and resilience.
- 4.3.2 The scheme brings together partners from all sectors building successful effective partnerships for the benefit of the city and its residents. This integrated approach to delivering services also contributes to the city's strategic priority of delivering joint action in order to build safe and strong communities.
- 4.3.3 This work supports the delivery of the Inclusive Growth Strategy, one of the three pillars that underpin the Best Council Plan, and reduces the impact of poverty and inequality. Additionally, the work supports the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
- 4.3.4 Although the key participants in all aspects of the programme are children in deprived areas, the aim of the project is to be inclusive to all - sustainable funding will allow future projects to be planned, delivered, resourced and promoted to support even more families throughout the city. The long term ambition is to have consistent and co-ordinated provision for the school holidays.

### Climate Emergency

- 4.3.5 Food Provision for Healthy Holidays is generally provided in conjunction with Fareshare and Catering Leeds. Feedback from both staff and scheme attendees for 2019 Healthy Holidays schemes in Community Hubs has shown that 'pack up' meals were preferred, with particular reference to reduced wastage. In response to this, Community Hubs are increasing 'pack up' provisions for the 2020 scheme.
- 4.3.6 One key aspect both in relation to poverty and the Climate Emergency is the redirection of surplus food to foodbanks. Waste food is a contributor to climate change as it results in methane emissions which have a greater impact on climate change than the equivalent amount of CO<sub>2</sub>.

#### **4.4 Resources, procurement and value for money**

- 4.4.1 Due to the positive impact on families and children and young people, particularly in priority areas, it was agreed at CLT (November 2019) that the delivery of Healthy Holidays Programmes should be sustained throughout 2020.
- 4.4.2 Confirmation that LCF were successful in securing £400,000 funding for Leeds and Bradford from the Department of Education's Holiday Activities and Food fund (HAF) was received on 13<sup>th</sup> March.

#### **4.5 Legal implications, access to information, and call-in**

- 4.5.1 There are no specific legal implications or access to information issues with this report.

#### **4.6 Risk management**

- 4.6.1 Due to the recent outbreak and pandemic of Coronavirus (Covid-19) Leeds City Council has implemented and closely follows the guidance outlined and measures implemented by the National Government and Public Health.

### **5. Conclusions**

- 5.1 In November 2019, CLT confirmed cross-directorate funding of £150,000 in order to secure the Healthy Holidays programme throughout summer 2020.
- 5.2 Although it may not be possible for Healthy Holidays to be delivered using the same model as seen in 2018 and 2019, the programme will remain a necessary measure to support vulnerable children and families in the city by alleviating hunger.

### **6. Recommendations**

- 6.1 The Directors of Communities and Environment and Children and Families are requested to authorise £150,000 of cross-directorate funding.
- 6.2 The Director of Communities and Environment agrees a payment of £100,000 from the 2019/20 Social Inclusion Fund to Leeds Community Foundation.
- 6.3 The Director of Children and Families agrees a payment of £50,000 to Leeds Community Foundation.
- 6.4 Due to the emerging issue and impact of the Coronavirus, it will not be possible for the programme to be delivered on the same model seen in 2018 and 2019. It is recommended that the requested funding be authorised, with additional authorisation for delivery to be amended as required.

### **7. Background documents<sup>1</sup>**

- 7.1

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<sup>1</sup> The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.