

Transfer of Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Grant Funding to Bradford Metropolitan District Council

Date: 22nd December 2022

Report of: Service Delivery Manager, Families First Leeds

Report to: Chief officer Resources & Strategy

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

Brief summary

As part of a £9.6m **Data Improvement Across Government** programme the Department for Levelling up Housing and Communities (DLUHC) made available to partnerships of local authorities the Data Accelerator Fund. Competitive bids were invited to access £7.9m of funding, bids should demonstrate:

- An exemplar data project/s
- Shared Skills and Good practice
- Involved partnerships of Local Authorities and other agencies such as Universities

May 2021 Leeds City Council and Bradford Metropolitan District Council submitted a joint bid

September 2021 – Successful bids were announced. Leeds and Bradford were awarded £991,816. F

Funding was received from DLUHC in two instalments: in October 2021 (for financial year 2021-22) and April 2022 (for financial year 2022/23). Year 2 funding was conditional on DLUHC approval.

LCC, as lead partner, is responsible for distributing funding to partners: including to BMDC. Regular contact has been maintained between the two authorities. This has included regular monitoring updates to DLUHC. As we near the end of the 2022/23 financial year it is appropriate to transfer funding to BMDC for costs incurred and committed.

Recommendations

- a) To approve the transfer of £428,630 to Bradford Metropolitan District Council (BMDC) out of a total of £991,000 received overall.

What is this report about?

The report to agree the transfer of £428,630 to fund BMDC involvement in line with partnership application, DLUHC grant award and consequent DLUHC memorandum of understanding. Bradford have focused on an exemplar project focused on using data for early identification, specifically of autism and neurodiversity. This work as set out in the original bid submitted to DLUHC and is for expenditure incurred and committed by BMDC as part of the data accelerator work. This will be transferred in this financial year.

What impact will this proposal have?

This report enables Leeds City Council to fulfil its role within the award of the Data Accelerator Funding from the Department of Levelling Up Housing and Communities. Specifically, the sharing of the grant funding with the partner authority of Bradford Metropolitan District Council. This is in line with bid submission and costs incurred. While Leeds was the lead authority the bid and its awarding was based on expenditure across both authorities. Regular contact between the two authorities and regular updates to DLUHC have been undertaken over the project's life span.

Funding was allocated by DLUHC over two financial years with year 2 being conditional on progress. LCC and BMDC have utilised funding in line with the bid submission. Expenditure has been weighted to year 2, with year 1 only being part of a financial year. As we approach March 2023 it is appropriate to allocate grant funding to BMDC. The bid was premised on shared funding across both authorities, there were details of how this was best achieved that have now been resolved.

This decision can be viewed as LCC fulfilling its lead authority role. We have a signed memorandum of understanding from BMDC consistent with Leeds' MOU with DLUHC. We have structured our relationship with Bradford through the local authority, which is consistent with the bid. BMDC have utilised their funding consistent with the bid and their priority of early identification and neurodiversity. Early identification to improve practice and outcomes was the unifying theme of the bid and award.

The DLUHC requirements were for joint bids that reflected existing priorities, national direction and that could be submitted within a time limited and competitive funding window.

Background to bid

The bid was submitted and awarded to improve how data is used to support practice in respect to the early identification of and response to child and family need. The bid rationale included:

Operational efficiencies

Action for Children research suggests at least 10% of children nationwide do not get the right support first time. Eliminating just half of these, we would deliver operational efficiencies of 5%.

Value for money

At least £20M of early intervention support would benefit from this work across Leeds/Bradford. Troubled Families Evaluation 2019 suggests this would deliver £46M of economic, social and fiscal benefits (£30m is fiscal). Delivering outcomes improvements of 5-10% (as evidenced above) would deliver £2-4M ongoing annual benefit, giving a 3-year ROI of 6-12 times. Whilst these figures are highly approximate, they indicate the scale of potential benefit.

Skills brought by partners

- **Service, practice and capacity-building excellence** – Leeds brings “Outstanding” practice, with strategy underpinned by centrality of children and family, restorative culture and a focus on outcomes. Restorative Early Support improved 84% of 1445 family outcomes ([Externally evaluated](#)) and our track-record supported 83% of LAs via Leeds Relational Practice Centre, DfE Strengthening Families, Protecting Children etc.
- **Data and digital** – expertise from multiple national exemplars including: Leeds Data Model which linked citywide health data, Born in Bradford – longitudinal dataset for 13,500 children, Connected Bradford – linked health data, Leeds Institute for Data Analytics, and Alan Turing / Bradford linked data, locality-based work in the Holme Wood area with data scientists, practitioners and residents to better map and understand local issues across service boundaries.
- **Information Governance and Ethics** - Leeds "Family Context" project, was an ICO case study in the data sharing code of practice as an “innovative way to share data while protecting people’s information”.

How does this proposal impact the three pillars of the Best City Ambition?

Health and Wellbeing

Inclusive Growth

Zero Carbon

- The DAF bid was submitted on the basis of being consistent with Leeds City Council and Leeds city priorities.
- The data accelerator work is consistent with best council Plan ambitions both our priorities (especially Child Friendly Leeds, Health and Well Being, Safe Strong Communities and Inclusive Growth) and with how we engage with citizens and communities and work in an asset based, preventative (early help / left shift) and strength-based way. Recognising that improved use of data will support practice quality, consistency and improvement and will aid our understanding and targeting of need. Thereby enhancing effectiveness and efficiency. It is supportive of Health Population approaches and on working collaboratively with our universities.
- The proposals within this report will support the Best Council Plan priority of Leeds being a Child Friendly City by improving the use of data to inform service provision, alongside the continued development of best practice within early help.
- The Data Accelerator Fund will help achieve the priority of inclusive growth by targeting interventions to mitigate the impacts of poverty on children and families in priority neighbourhoods.
- The fund will support the health and well-being of young people and their families by promoting systemic working to ensure that people get the right care, from the right people in the right place. The Data Accelerator Fund will support long term early help development and in doing so support post Covid recovery across Leeds and Bradford.
- The fund supports the priority of Leeds being a child friendly city through underpinning the principles of supporting families to give children the best start in life, improving educational attainment and closing achievement gaps for children and young people vulnerable to poor learning outcomes, improving social, emotional and mental health and wellbeing, helping young people into adulthood, to develop life skills and be ready for work and enhancing the city now and for future generations, all of which is supported through our early intervention approach, including the early help strategy and will be further developed through the use of best data and practice improvement.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected:

Have ward members been consulted?

Yes

No

Consultation was undertaken prior to submission of the bid to DLUHC. This report is to enact Leeds City Council's responsibility as being the lead authority on the successful bid and to share funding with BMDC as our partner council.

These proposals were shared with the Children's Leadership Team in September 2021 as part of the Data Accelerator Fund Bid. A range of partners both internal and external to the council have been consulted in order to develop this programme of work. Updates to DLUHC have been shared.

What are the resource implications?

£428,630 to fund Bradford Metropolitan District Council involvement in line with DLUHC award and memorandum of understanding, including early identification of autism and neurodiversity work as set out in the original bid submitted to DLUHC.

These funds are based on the adherence to memorandum of understanding, compliance with DLUHC monitoring and consequent sharing of resulting learning. Costs have been budgeted as following, approvals and detail of expenditure are the responsibility of Bradford MDC.

£150,000.00 Neurodiversity Data Science

£50,000.00 Neurodiversity Community Engagement work

£28,793.19	Information Governance
£91,441.00	Neuro Diversity Profiling tool
£42,559.00	Bradford CC data systems
£65,836.36	Bradford Project Costs
£428,629.55	

What are the key risks and how are they being managed?

There is a reputational risk that to Leeds City Council and Bradford Metropolitan District Council if we do not meet the objectives in terms of the Data Accelerator Fund. There would be a significant disadvantage to the relationships between Leeds and Bradford councils should the funds not be transferred. This may impact future funding opportunities. We have maintained good relationships with DLUHC and dedicated time to the Bradford relationship in an evolving context.

This does not present additional budgetary risks to Leeds as funding was always partnership funding between the two local authorities.

What are the legal implications?

There are no legal implications in the development and delivery of the Data Accelerator Fund.

Options, timescales and measuring success

What other options were considered?

We have met with Bradford Metropolitan District Council on several occasions to discuss the distribution of funds and maintained regular, often weekly, contact. We are satisfied as the lead authority, that the amount of £428,630 is proportionate and necessary, taking into account Bradford's work and resource implications in relation to the Data Accelerator Fund.

How will success be measured?

In meeting the requirements to DLUHC bid. In resulting service and practice improvements from the work based on improvements in how data is effectively utilised. By sharing the learning with other authorities and partners. The bid referenced.

- Better identification of need by identifying patterns in families with high-cost negative outcomes (social care, exclusion, crime) that could have benefited from early support and targeting support to ensure we are reaching communities e.g. specialist support workers for schools with higher rates of undiagnosed autism.
- Better information for our practitioners to enable them to understand local needs/outcomes to see how different approaches impact families. Practice will be informed, supported and challenged. Improved accountability processes will release capacity back to working with children.
- Better evaluation of what is working by analysing what support is working, when, and for who (ethnicity/needs/age/gender etc.). This will lead to improved practice, service operations, and decisions through better informed practitioners and leaders.

What is the timetable and who will be responsible for implementation?

The funds need to be transferred to Bradford within the current 2022/23 financial year.

Appendices

None

Background papers

None