

Decision to receive grant funding income of £112,268 from Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) for a Good Practice Project: SEND for the period March 2023 to October 2024

Date: 21 March 2023

Report of: Head of Early Help Services

Report to: Director of Children & Families

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

Brief summary

- The report seeks permission to receive grant funding income of £112,268 from Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC). It also recommends
- The grant commences March 2023 and runs until October 2024. The total grant income is £112,268. This is broken down to £3,500 to be paid in March 2023 for set up and activity delivered in 2022/23, £72,512 to be paid in May 2023 for 2023/24 activity and £36,256 to be paid in May 2024 for activity delivered in 2024/25.
- The grant will fund a good practice project to test approaches to ensure children and young people recently identified as needing SEND support or needing an EHCP are offered a conversation with a professional which explores the wider family's needs, leading to whole family working where this is needed.
- The project will be overseen by the Supporting Families team within Children and Families.

Recommendations

- a) The Director of Children & Families is recommended to approve the receipt of grant income from DLUHC for £112,268 to commence in March 2023 and run until October 2024. This is broken down to £3,500 for 2022/23, £72,512 for 2023/24 and £36,256 for 2024/25.
- b) The Director of Children & Families is recommended to note the contents and approve the proposed use of the grant funding.

What is this report about?

- 1 LCC have been notified by DLUHC that we have been granted grant funding for a Good Practice Project: SEND. The grant commences in March 2023 for the total sum of £112,268. This is broken down to £3,500 for 2022/23, £72,512 for 2023/24 and £36,256 for 2024/25.

What impact will this proposal have?

- 2 The purpose of the good practice project is to test approaches to ensure children and young people recently identified as needing SEND support or needing an EHCP are offered a conversation with a professional which explores the wider family's needs, leading to whole family working where this is needed.
- 3 This project will be overseen by the Supporting Families team.
- 4 Specifically, the project will test ways of better aligning Special Educational Needs and Early Help systems. This project will test approaches to better connect family support and SEN support services to ensure families wider support needs for the whole family are met in a timely and effective way.
- 5 The grant will be used to recruit two C3 workers who will be based in the SILC Cluster. The option to give the money to the Cluster as a grant is being explored as this would allow for more rapid recruitment and mobilisation to meet the timescales of the 18 month grant funding.

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

Health and Wellbeing

Inclusive Growth

Zero Carbon

- 6 The project will contribute towards the Best City Ambition by enabling us to address poverty, inequality and supporting residents from birth to lead happy, health lives. A key aim of the grant is to improve outcomes for families, create tangible changes in the way the system works to improve outcomes for families, and consider the needs of the whole family when working with families with special educational needs.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected: Citywide

Have ward members been consulted?

Yes

No

- 7 Cllr Venner, Lead Member Children, Families and Adult Social Care has been informed of the grant and the successful outcome of the bid.

What are the resource implications?

- 8 The total grant income to be received from DLUHC is £112,268 to commence in March 2023 and run until October 2024. This is broken down to £3,500 for 2022/23, £72,512 for 2023/24 and £36,256 for 2024/25.

- 9 This is additional income into the Children & Families - Early Help budget and will be used by the SILC Cluster to recruit staffing to deliver the project. It is anticipated this will be given to the SILC by way of a grant.

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

- 10 The key risk is not achieving the agreed delivery commitments and timelines. This could have implications for the continued Earned Autonomy Status of the Council, although this is low risk for this particular project. The work will be overseen by the Supporting Families team and the Service Delivery Manager for Families First will be ultimately responsible for ensuring the commitments are met and outcomes achieved.

What are the legal implications?

- 11 DLUHC will provide £112,268 funding to Leeds Council via Section 31 grant, in the expectation that satisfactory progress is made to deliver the agreed delivery commitments. The Service Delivery Manager for Families First is responsible for ensuring compliance with all grant conditions.
- 12 This is a Significant Operational decision to receive grant income.
- 13 Giving the funding to the SILC Cluster by way of a grant is currently being explored and advice sought from Legal and Procurement.
- 14 There are no other known legal implications with this decision.

Options, timescales and measuring success

What other options were considered?

- 15 No other options were considered.

How will success be measured?

- 16 Success measures for the grant are as follows:
- Clearly meets the project aims and vision as set out in the project application form;
 - Involves family voice in the design and delivery of the pilot;
 - Seeks to improve outcomes for families, create tangible change in the way systems operate and consider the needs of the whole family when working with families with special educational needs.
 - Able to work to the timeline as set out by the DLUHC Supporting Families team (noted below), and commit to flagging any timing risks as soon as they emerge;
 - Will track progress throughout the pilot delivery phase, and will assess the overall impact of the pilots once they conclude, understanding the journey of change using data where possible; and
 - Will share learning with the DLUHC Supporting Families team and other local authorities through the development of case studies, webinars and other products as agreed with the team

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

- 17 The grant commences in March 2023 with the following indicative timescales:
- March 2023: Prepare selected pilot areas for launch.
 - April - 2023: LA recruitment period.
 - July 2023: Assist pilot areas in launch.

- April 2023-October 2024: Active delivery period – carry out quarterly conversations with pilot areas to help solve delivery issues, ensure high quality of delivery and understand emerging pilot findings.
- October 2024 onwards: Follow up and sharing learning period

Appendices

- Equality, Cohesion & Diversity Impact Screening

Background papers

- None