

Extension to the Money Buddies Outreach Project

Date: 07/05/2024

Report of: Chief Officer Community Hubs, Welfare and Business Support

Report to: Director of Communities, Housing and Environment

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

Brief summary

This report requests approval to award Burmantofts Community Centre £125,000 from the Council's allocation of UK Shared Prosperity Fund, for the continuation of delivery of Money Buddies outreach services across 14 community venues.

Recommendations

- a) For the Chief Officer for Community Hubs, Welfare and Business Support to award Burmantofts Community Projects £125,000 to continue its city-wide Money Buddies Outreach services for the 2024/25 financial year across 14 venues in Leeds.
- b) The Chief Officer, Culture and Economy previously approved spending towards Cost of Living advice through the Council's UKSPF funding. A key decision was taken in June 2023 (D56537) authorising year 2 and 3 expenditure for this UKSPF activity.

What is this report about?

- 1 To request approval to extend the Money Buddies Outreach project to March 2025, delivering from 14 venues, with funding allocation of £125,000.

What impact will this proposal have?

- 2 During the 2023/24 financial year, Money Buddies were awarded £185,240 in joint funding from Leeds City Council's Social Inclusion Fund (SIF) and the UK's Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) to support residents in Leeds on financial inclusion related issues linked to poverty and the cost-of-living; such as money, debt and energy bills, across 22 outreach venues.
- 3 The contribution from UKSPF was £125,000 and match funding of £60,240 was allocated from SIF.
- 4 Through regular monitoring against UKSPF targets to support 1,600 individuals, Money Buddies supported 1,714 during 2023/24.
- 5 This fund enabled Money Buddies to deliver advice from 22 outreach locations across the city each week. The outreach locations included community hubs, community centres and advice centres; in venues accessible to residents most in need of this support.
- 6 Money Buddies advice service has been impacted by increased running costs during a time of reduced public sector and third sector funding.
- 7 Leeds City Council can allocate a £125,000 through its allocation of UKSPF. However, no additional match funding is available from Council resources for the 2024/25 financial year.
- 8 With this reduced funding, Money Buddies will be reducing delivery from 22 sites to 14 sites. Outreach will be delivered weekly from 10 sites and alternate weeks from 4 sites. This equates to 480 half day sessions and with estimated outputs of 2 clients per session, a revised target of 960 residents has been set with UKSPF.

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

Health and Wellbeing

Inclusive Growth

Zero Carbon

- 9 This proposal supports the best city ambition, health and wellbeing pillar through the proposed provision of money and budgeting services to Leeds residents. Provision of bespoke advice and guidance improves customer's health and wellbeing, relieving stress/pressure experienced through living in poverty.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected:

Have ward members been consulted?

Yes

No

- 10 Consideration has been given to maintain delivery in areas of most need and with the highest number of clients receiving advice, with an aim to have venues that cover priority neighbourhoods, and areas which contain several neighbourhoods that are highly ranked on the Index of Multiple Deprivation. In addition, at least one service has been maintained in each area committee area, with elected members being consulted of these changes.
- 11 Please see the list of delivery sites in Appendix 1.

What are the resource implications?

- 12 The Chief Officer, Culture and Economy previously approved expenditure towards Cost of Living advice through the Council's UKSPF funding. A key decision was taken in June 2023 (D56537) authorising year 2 and 3 expenditure for this UKSPF activity.
- 13 This project is being funded through UKSPF. All projects and services referred to in this report are being undertaken within current budgets, there are no additional resource implications arising from this report.

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

- 14 There are no risks associated with this proposal. The project is being funded under a grant agreement with agreed targets and regular monitoring reports.

What are the legal implications?

- 15 This is an extension to a previously approved project.
- 16 A variation of the original 12-month grant agreement has been submitted to extend the contract to March 2025 and the total UKSPF allocation to £250,000.

Options, timescales and measuring success

What other options were considered?

- 17 N/A, project extension

How will success be measured?

- 18 Success will be measured through quarterly reports and review meetings where outputs and outcomes will be monitored against targets that have been agreed and in line with funding requirements.

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

- 19 The funding is available until March 2025. The officer responsible is Sophia Ditta

Appendices

- Please see agreed sites for 2024/25

Background papers

- None