

NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL DECISION

DECISION OF: DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES
DIRECTORATE: CORPORATE SERVICES



Urgent decision permitted by the Local Government Act 1972

This decision is considered to be urgent because the agreement needs to be entered into urgently to allow the relevant transactions to be made in this financial year

DECISION NO: 2021/22 CSD124

SUBJECT: HEALTHIER TOGETHER MATCHED FUNDING GRANT – SECTION 256 AGREEMENTS

KEY DECISION: YES

REASON: Decision has financial consequences in excess of £500,000

BACKGROUND

An opportunity has arisen for the Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire (BNSSG) Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to transfer funds to the Council under Section 256 of the National Health Service Act 2006. Section 256 of the Act gives powers to CCGs to transfer funding to local authorities for expenditure incurred or to be incurred by them in connection with any social services functions.

The grant will fund local authority activities that support the aims of the Healthier Together Integrated Care System, including improving health and wellbeing and reducing health inequalities.

Whilst the precise schemes have yet to be agreed, broad themes are likely to include:

- Early intervention and prevention
- Sustainable adult social care
- Voluntary and Community Sector capacity

The Council is required to match-fund the investment.

DECISION

To agree to enter into a (or multiple) Section 256 Agreements with the Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire (BNSSG) Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), the final version of which will be signed off by the Chief Executive or the s151 Officer, and the details of the programme along with associated budgets will reported in due course.

REASONS:

As described above, to fund a programme of investment to improve health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED:

No significant alternatives were considered other than not entering into the agreement, which would potentially deprive the system of the investment.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The agreement(s) will lead to the transfer of additional funding from the CCG to North Somerset Council; the final amount has yet to be agreed, but is likely to be around £2.4m. As and when detailed projects and budgets are established, they will be subject to the usual approval processes in accordance with Financial Regulations. The income is likely to be received during the 2021/22 financial year, and be carried forward into an earmarked reserve for future spending. The Council is required to match-fund the investment, either from new or existing resources.

LEGAL POWERS AND IMPLICATIONS

The decision is being made in accordance with Section 256 of the National Health Service Act 2006 (The Act).

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

None identified immediately, but some schemes could potentially have positive environmental impacts if they reduce the need for travel associated with secondary health care or social care.

CONSULTATION

This proposal has been the subject of significant internal consultation between senior officers within the CCG and the Council and will also go through the CCG's decision-making processes.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The agreement will contain a clause that will require any unspent funding at the end of the 2021/22 financial year to be returned to the CCG

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

Have you undertaken an Equality Impact Assessment? ~~Yes~~ / No

The transfer of funding is likely to lead to increased benefits for vulnerable people including reduced hospital admissions, shorter lengths of stay in hospital and increased independence leading to a lesser requirement for social care.

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

None, other than those identified above

APPENDICES

None

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

SIGNATORIES:

DECISION MAKER(S):

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Weiss", is written over a light grey rectangular background.

Title: Director of Corporate Services and s151 Officer

Date: 15 February 2022

Footnote: Details of changes made and agreed by the decision taker since publication of the proposed (pre-signed) decision notice, if applicable: