



**BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL
DECISION**

DECISION OF: SECTION 151 OFFICER

WITH ADVICE FROM: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF PEOPLE AND DIRECTOR OF ADULT SOCIAL CARE

DIRECTORATE: PEOPLE

DECISION NO: 011

SUBJECT: COVID-19: MENTAL HEALTH SURGE CONTRIBUTION
(2020/21 ASC: COVID FUNDING BOARD CF19)

KEY DECISION: YES

REASON TO AUTHORISE THE ALLOCATION OF £400,000 OF COVID MONIES AS A BCC CONTRIBUTION TO THE BNSSG MENTAL HEALTH BUSINESS CASE. HAVING BEEN APPROVED BY THE ADULT SOCIAL CARE (ASC) COVID MONIES PANEL A KEY DECISION IS SOUGHT TO PROCEED.

BACKGROUND

Previous modelling work has projected a 30% increase in mental health need as a result of COVID-19, from both the illness and the measures taken to protect people from the virus. From a social care perspective there is already evidence that an impact of this extent is apparent. The number of people coming through the Access and Response Team, Approved Mental Health Professionals (AMHPs) and ultimately the demand for packages of care required to address primary mental health needs have all increased significantly in recent months.

Within ASC the current annual spend on mental health support is c.£23 million. This would inevitably increase if we did not take action to intervene at an early stage. This would create an increase in S117 after care eligibility, increased complexity and acuity that would mean more intensive care packages. Consequent supply/demand issues would increase prices.

A BNSSG mental health business case has been developed to take a population health approach to a system-wide response, maximising opportunities to prevent mental ill health alongside ensuring that there are strong service responses, focusing on preventing and reducing health inequalities. An element of the Adult Social Care COVID monies will be committed to support the funded projects within this business case. This will be a non-recurring contribution.

Whilst the business case contains a large range of activity that will be of benefit to Bristol citizens, this contribution will primarily support Primary MH Specialists for schools and debt support.

- Expanding Provision of Primary Mental Health Specialists (PMHS)

Primary Mental Health Specialists (PMHS) provide specialist CAMHS knowledge and skills

within wider children's services (schools, special schools and the Local Authority). This approach complements universal, targeted and more specialist services in meeting the mental health and emotional wellbeing needs of children and young people

- **Co-Location of Debt and Mental Health Support**

Given the economic impact of COVID-19, and the anticipated increases in unemployment, the mental health capacity of local welfare agencies (such as Citizens' Advice) will be strengthened through specialist Mental Health support workers being co-located at DWP/CAB and services.

This would include

- Six 'Money Matters' Mental Health Support Workers to co-locate across DWP/CAB and Talking Money services in all three Bristol localities.
- A blended model of face-to-face support for clients using the service and capacity building the existing team's expertise and confidence in working with people with anxiety/depression, improving skills in signposting to other mental health providers.
- Providing timely support for individuals with financial difficulties to stop mental health issues being exacerbated.

DECISION

To authorise the allocation of £400,000 to the CCG as a contribution to a whole system, (BNSSG-wide) c.£3.2m investment in 'upstream' Mental Health services.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This report seeks approval to contribute £400k to BNSSG CCG as a contribution to mental health costs. This is one off funding and does not commit the Council to ongoing expenditure. The £400k contribution will be funded from the £9.3m MHCLG funding agreed by Cabinet for Adult Social Care covid related expenditure.

LEGAL POWERS AND IMPLICATIONS

Statutory duties under the Care Act and the duty to support the care market and ensure capacity and sustainability apply here.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

None

CONSULTATION

ASC has taken an active role in developing the Mental Health Business Case, which has been coproduced. Ongoing dialogue with service user groups, care and support providers, primary and secondary care has helped to ensure that the priorities included within the business case are evidence based and the most relevant action to take.

RISK MANAGEMENT

Throughout discussions we have clearly stated that this is a non-recurring contribution.

The risks of not investing in mental health provision and earlier intervention have been considered throughout. By investing we will be better placed to continue to meet eligible care needs and our statutory obligations. By working in partnership and demonstrating that we are taking mental health seriously the Local Authority may have a stronger position in impending mental health system transformation such as the Community Mental Health Framework.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

Have you undertaken an Equality Impact Assessment? No

An Equalities Impact Assessment has been carried out on the Mental Health business case and a number of interventions have been included to address health inequalities, particularly the additional support required for BAME citizens.

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

None, other than those already highlighted

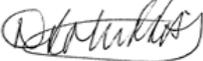
SIGNATORIES

DECISION MAKER

Note: If electronic signature used email from Director confirming decision and allowing use of electronic signature must be attached

S151 Officer

Title: **Director of Finance/s151 Officer**

Signed: 

Date: 17 March 2021

Consultees

Deputy Mayor for **Finance, Governance, Property and Culture**

Signed: 

Date: 17 March 2021

WITH ADVICE FROM:

Title: **Executive Director**

Signed: 

Date: 26 February 2021

Title: Director of Adult Social Services

Signed: 

Date: 26 February 2021

Note: If electronic signature used email from the relevant certifier confirming consultation and allowing use of electronic signature must be attached. If consultation undertaken verbally Director must record date and time of the conversation and any agreement/concerns raised by consultee.