

Members Briefing Local Outbreak Management Plan

Update on Devon's Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) spending

Public Health Devon adopted its Local Outbreak Management Plan in July 2020 in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. From this time a series of payments **totalling over £20million** have been received by the Local Authority to support local outbreak management as part of the Contain Framework.

The Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) funding was awarded to DCC on a per head of population basis and is required to be spent by the end March 2022.

To date, programmes have been implemented to prevent and manage Covid-19 outbreaks, reduce case numbers, and ensure targeted support for individuals and settings.

Programmes have included:

- Community Testing,
- Local Contact Tracing,
- Outbreak management capacity across DCC teams
- Targeted communications and marketing
- Support for youth services, early years and care settings
- Public mental health support
- Infection Prevention and control
- Vaccination outreach and support
- Rough sleeper support

Most programmes have been delivered across the County, except for support or rough sleepers which has had a focus on Exeter and North Devon settings.

Latest agreed projects

In September, a fresh call for further proposals to utilise the fund and support outbreak management through the Winter was made through the Health Protection Board and Team Devon to wider partners. DCC received a number of bid applications from partners and have agreed the following new bids:

- 1) **Education setting:** Proposal from education settings including schools, Exeter University and FE colleges to support outbreak management and measures to reduce spread.

Schools (c£3millions):

Proposal to fund all state funded schools to support the settings to continue to manage their response to the pandemic and its impact on teaching, children and young people until 31st March 2022 at a rate of

- 1) £25 per mainstream pupil
- 2) £100 per pupil in special/alternative provision
- 3) No school will receive less than £1,000

In addition, a further fund of £350,000 will be held by Children's Services to support those hard-to-reach children who are struggling to reintegrate back to school, and/or private/voluntary early years providers' anxiety in supporting access to full entitlement'

Further Education Colleges (c£1.6millions)

Petroc is leading an initiative with Exeter College and South Devon College. The project will improve control and mitigation measures for this large college community to substantially reduce the spread and impact of COVID-19 in Devon and Torbay by facilitating social distancing within and outside the classroom, improving ventilation and hygiene, securing higher levels of compliance with control measures, supporting physical/emotional wellbeing.

University of Exeter (c£800,000)

The University of Exeter Outbreak Interventions Project (UEOIP) is built from the knowledge developed over the last 18 months, and through its close collaboration with regional partners. Its objective is to ensure that students are able to engage fully with face-to-face education, leading research can continue and, critically, that students, staff and wider communities remain safe.

The UEOIP is structured around the four themes of its co-created Outbreak Management Plan:

- PREVENT – Enhancing physical, digital, peer-to-peer and community-based communication.
- TEST – Extending its symptomatic testing programme and supporting students to self-isolate effectively.
- TRACE - Extending its tracing, data and testing capabilities to target resources where they are needed.
- CONTAIN - Providing support for disproportionately impacted groups in its communities. Targeting additional investment in mental health and wellbeing support.

2) **The Voluntary and Community Sector (c£1million)**

A collaborative bid was submitted by the VCSE to support local organisations provide self-isolation and wider support to manage the Autumn/ Winter period and current phase of the pandemic.

The Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector (VCSE) have been working together during the pandemic to form a stronger alliance between all aspects of the sector and see this bid as an opportunity to progress this process and propose to build on current networks and links as a sector and in partnership with NHS Devon Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), Devon County Council and other statutory partners, to deliver support on the ground needed by people in Devon affected by COVID-19. This wide-ranging delivery alliance, made up of 10 delivery partners, will be cemented through existing processes (VCSE Reference Group, DCC Response and Recovery, VCSE Task and Finish Group, local networks etc) and augmented by a clear governance process.

Devon Voluntary Action (DeVA) will be the Lead Accountable Body for this alliance and will assume responsibility for

- Delivery of bespoke projects
- Promotion of the VCSE grant funding across the county
- Administration of grant funding in line with COMF eligibility criteria

3) Young People (c£300,000)

Funding proposal to develop outdoor spaces for young people for improvements and enhancements to various safe outside 'youth' spaces across Devon.

4) Housing projects (c £220,000)

Housing proposal to support rough sleeper and wider homeless accommodation for self-isolation support and measures to improve access to accommodation with a focus on North Devon and Exeter settings.

5) Care Sector (c£1.5millions)

Proposal for additional support for the care sector for staffing and management of outbreaks.

Applications gave a good spread across the County and for settings and individuals most impacted by the Pandemic. Announcements are being made over the coming days to ensure the finances can be released as soon as possible to maximise the impact of the investment. If you would like any further information please contact Tina Henry, Deputy Director of Public Health tina.henry@devon.gov.uk

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