

Addendum - Compliance with Contract and Financial Procedure Rules – Short Breaks Innovation Funding opportunity

Purpose

- 1.1 Department for Education Funding – Short Breaks Innovation Fund. This report seeks approval to submit a joint bid with Derbyshire County Council of between £0.5 - £1m for an innovative project to address gaps in current Short Breaks services for Children and Young People (CYP) with SEND.

Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 To seek approval to develop and submit a bid for the DfE's Short Breaks Innovation Funding opportunity for Children and Young People with SEND.
- 2.2 If a bid is successful, and subject to acceptable grant conditions, delegate approval to accept the Department for Education Short Breaks Innovation Funding to the Strategic Director for People Service, following consultation with the Strategic Director of Resources and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, to:
 - (a) approve the Council entering into such contractual arrangements with the DfE as are necessary to secure the funding;
 - (b) agree the terms for application of the funds to service providers whether directly or as part of a consortium with any or all of the project partners identified in paragraph 4.4.

Reason(s)

- 3.1 To ensure compliance with CIPFA code and the Local Government Act 2003 and Financial Procedure Rules.

Supporting information

4.1 Brief Background

The Department for Education (DfE) has very recently issued guidance to Local Authorities for an opportunity to submit applications for funding from the Short Breaks Innovation Fund Year (formerly the Respite Innovation Fund), for Children and Young people (CYP) with SEND.

- 4.2 The DfE Short Breaks Innovation Fund is a fund of £30 million designed to support Local Authorities, applying individually or in a consortium, to establish new Short Breaks provision via innovative projects created to address gaps in current Short Breaks services, and to test novel approaches to integrated delivery of Short Breaks and support services for children and young people (CYP) with SEND.

The aim of the Short Breaks Innovation Fund is to:

- Improve health, education and well-being outcomes for children and young people with SEND and their families
- Reduce pressures on High Needs and other budgets
- Inform future structural reform and service re-design.

- 4.3 The Short Breaks Innovation Fund will also establish an evidence base of effective practice around the delivery of integrated services, particularly with health, within the offer of Local Authority Short Breaks services, which can be replicated.

- 4.4 The deadline to develop and submit bids that meet the specific DfE criteria extremely is tight. DfE guidance was issued towards the end of September for bids to be developed and submitted for 4 November 2022 (only four weeks).

- 4.5 Successful applicants will be informed in December 2022. The grant funding is to run from April 2023 to March 2024. It is important to note that successful grant applications will be paid in arrears during the financial year 2023/24 subject to monitoring and meeting project KPIs.

- 4.6 The Project Partners are in the process of being confirmed, due to short timescales of bid. Discussions are underway with:
- Derbyshire County Council for a joint bid
 - Existing framework providers of Community Short Breaks from the Derby City framework and the Derbyshire framework.
 - NHS Derby and Derbyshire ICB (supportive of proposals and health benefits)
 - Schools and Multi Academy Trusts.

4.4 The project aims to follow these principles:

- Be additionality and not simple expansion of current service
- Have clear Health, Education and Social care benefits to CYP
- Demonstrate and evidence cost effectiveness
- Delivered in partnership with local area education.

Initial discussions have been undertaken ahead of the bid criteria being published, including expanding the use of short breaks provision.

Joint discussions are continuing with Derbyshire County Council in relation to whether a joint bid is preferred, which meets a specific DfE bid criteria, and which Local Authority will lead, host, develop and submit. At this stage, Derbyshire County Council are currently in the process of considering this and seeking necessary approvals. Should Derbyshire County Council decide not to bid, Derby City Council will submit its own bid.

Public/stakeholder engagement

- 5.1 Due to very tight timescales, no consultation has taken place on the specific project as yet. Consultation and co-production will take place with Local Area SEND Delivery & Co Production Group.
- 5.2 The Council will be developing a more comprehensive Stakeholder Management Plan and wider engagement strategy as part of the project proposals.
- 5.3 The bid criteria require support/sign off from the local parent/carers forum and the Integrated Care Board (ICB). Both are represented on the SEND Delivery & Co Production and will approve the project. Initial discussions with NHS Derby/Derbyshire ICB outlined they are supportive of the intention to bid.

Other options

- 6.1 It is important to submit a bid, as not bidding could be perceived as Derby being not being supportive in further developing Short Breaks provision.

Financial and value for money issues

- 7.1 There is no requirement for match funding for this bid, however, there is the option to declare any match funding in any proposals in the application. Any grant award will commence in April 2023 and will require spending in financial year 2023/24.
- 7.2 Payment of grant will be in arrears, subject to meeting KPI and monitoring criteria to be determined and agreed on award of grant.

- 7.4 Bids are expected to be £0.5 to £1m although there is no minimum bid requirement, the guidance states this expectation to keep the management of the programme sensible.
- 7.5 The potential risks are:

Risk	Mitigation
Grant Payment in arrears – cashflow	Award will be announced in December 2022. This gives time to work on a detailed cashflow forecast ahead of any acceptance of grant conditions. Grant acceptance will still be subject to Cabinet approval; bidding does not commit us to the work.
Grant Payment in arrears – risk of non-payment	Clear monitoring of KPIs means risk of non-payment is reduced. Proposals and target cohort to be based on a “spend to save” model, so that financial benefits to High Needs and children’s social care budget (avoided costs) are realised even in the absence of reimbursement.
Staffing – management of the project	The application paperwork does give the opportunity to put in temporary resource to manage this additionality. We propose to use existing referral mechanisms e.g. Inclusion Panel to refer into this new service to reduce risks. Monitoring could be done as part of HNTF, with combined health/education and social care benefits
Staffing – management of the bid	A joint bid with Derbyshire supported by health, education and social care removes the over-reliance on commissioning staff to meet the deadlines.
Delivery partners	We would look to partner with our combined Derbyshire/Derby Short Breaks delivery partners and known providers of therapeutic support to provide this additionality

Legal implications

- 8.1 There are no legal implications as a direct result of this report.

Climate implications

- 9.1 There are no climate implications as a direct result of this report.

Other significant implications

- 10.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment will be developed alongside the detailed project proposals. The project will have direct benefits for our children and young people with SEND.

This report has been approved by the following people:

Role	Name	Date of sign-off
Finance	Toni Nash – Head of Finance	05-10-22
Human Resources	Ann Webster – Equality and Diversity Lead	05.10.22
Service Director(s)	Gurmail Nizzer– Director of Children's Integrated Commissioning	05.10.22
Report sponsor	Alison Parkin – Director of Financial Services	05.10.22
Other(s)	Janice Hadfield – Head of Finance, Service Support	05.10.22
	Diane Whitehead – Head of School Organisation and Provision	05-10-22
Background papers:		
List of appendices:		
	None	