

## CABINET

Tuesday 7 January 2020

### ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDING

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. In November 2018 Cabinet approved the award of funding to deliver the Stepping Home pilot for Ipswich & East CCG, working with patients at Ipswich hospital and in the local community, to facilitate their discharge and prevent admission. The pilot looked to solve housing problems that prevented patients going home or put them at risk of admission. The scheme has proved so successful that the Warm Homes service has been asked to develop a similar programme with West Suffolk hospital. (Warm Homes is delivered by East Suffolk Council as a Suffolk-wide service) Due to the urgency of winter pressures, the Head of Housing in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing, has provisionally agreed to carry out this work which is fully funded by the award. This report seeks retrospective approval of that decision.
2. A bid has also been prepared to deliver a pilot scheme working with the voluntary sector to pilot a new approach to hoarding and self-neglect. The funding is from the Ministry of Housing, Local Government and Communities (MHCLG). We should know if we have been successful by the end of December and the funds must be spent by the end of March 2020. This report seeks approval to accept the funding.

Is the report Open or Exempt?	Open
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Richard Kerry Cabinet Member with responsibility for Housing

<b>Supporting Officers:</b>	Samm Beacham Senior Environmental Health Officer 01394 444256 <a href="mailto:Samm.beacham@eastsuffolk.gov.uk">Samm.beacham@eastsuffolk.gov.uk</a>
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## **1 STEPPING HOME FUNDING - INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The Ipswich and East Stepping Home initiative, which launched in December 2019, has, to the end of November 2019, delivered assistance to 154 patients saving an estimated 296 bed-days and a nominal financial saving of £182,000 to the system. The service which is supported by 1 full time member of staff, based in the hospital, delivers:
- A better patient experience at discharge from hospital – someone who is there to find and deliver practical solutions to help the resident get home. The pilot includes a stepping home flat where residents are accommodated in a residential setting until home is made safe and suitable. This reduces deconditioning and helps maintain independence.
  - Avoids hospital admissions and readmissions – the home environment is assessed for safety and repairs and solutions delivered against any problem found
  - Reduce fuel poverty and provide warmer homes that are more comfortable and affordable to heat – residents are signposted to surviving winter fuel payments, first time central heating and lent oil filled radiators, if their heating is broken, whilst a fix is arranged.
  - Provide better metrics to understand complex reasons around discharge- Healthwatch have been commissioned to review the pilot and have nearly completed a round of focus groups and user consultations.
- 1.2 Appendix A is a copy of the latest Warm Homes status report which includes further information on Stepping Homes. The project was also filmed for a BBC series with Matt Allwright to be broadcast in the New Year; the case involves a resident who fell and lay on the floor undiscovered for 5 days. He recovered in Ipswich hospital but couldn't go home due to his hoarding of DIY equipment, disrepairs and a lack of heating. The Stepping Home project provided safe accommodation whilst all of these problems were remedied, and he was able to go home to a safe environment and re-engage with his family and friends who could now visit him.

## **2 WEST SUFFOLK STEPPING HOME ROLL OUT**

- 2.1 The success of the pilot in Ipswich and East area has been reviewed by West Suffolk hospital who have identified funding to deliver the same programme in their area. They have offered full funding of £62,000 to mirror the programme and plan for services to run over the next 12 months. A member of staff has been recruited to the role ahead of Cabinet acceptance due to the significant impact of winter pressures which have already commenced. No match funding is required for this scheme.

## **3 PRIVATE RENTED SECTOR ENFORCEMENT AND INNOVATION PROGRAMME.**

- 3.1 MHCLG launched a fund in November aimed at raising the standards in the private rented sector (**PRS**) by supporting local authorities execute their duties and enhance on-going **PRS enforcement**. The fund also included a section allowing for bids which support good landlords through engagement, training and knowledge sharing to support them in providing decent, well-maintained homes for tenants.

- 3.2 There is a growing issue, also highlighted through the Stepping Home project, with residents who display hoarding and self-neglect behaviour. The bid that has been submitted is a multi-agency pilot, linking statutory and voluntary sector organisations, with residents and landlords to address poor housing standards in properties where this behaviour is prevalent.
- 3.3 The proposal aims to work with Lofty Heights Community Interest Company and Access Community Trust to develop best practice around decluttering, with ongoing support for tenants to achieve long term improvements in mental health and reduce the incidence of recurrence. The pilot will also ensure engagement with landlords to deliver improvements in housing standards after decluttering and encourage maintenance of tenancies.
- 3.4 The full bid is attached at Appendix 2. There is no requirement for match funding and the programme will run until the end of March 2020.

#### 4 HOW DOES THIS RELATE TO THE EAST SUFFOLK BUSINESS PLAN?

- 4.1 The grant aligns with the East Suffolk Vision in the Business Plan of improving the quality of life for those living in the District. By improving housing to meet the needs of residents, the three-pronged approach of working with communities to make their housing safer and more suitable is met. Improving homes meets Housing and Community Health critical success factors. It also helps deliver the aims of the Housing and Health Charter.

#### 5 FINANCIAL AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The bid is for £56,950 and the funding has to be spent by the end of the financial year 19/20. The partners to the bid will be funded to provide direct services to residents and will model different support mechanisms. The work that Lofty Heights CIC and Access Community Trust, in this field, deliver is specialist and for this reason and the short duration of the pilot no procurement has been undertaken

##### 5.2 Table of costs

Activity	Unit cost	Number of units required	Total costs	Comment
Client support @ 40 hours each	£800.00	10	£8,000.00	Hourly rate £20 Access Community Trust with café support costs below Total 400 hours.
Tenants Café	£350.00	12	£4,200.00	Tuesday café's in Saxmundham and Lowestoft to support tenants with concerns or vulnerability issues and landlords who want more information
Client support @ 48 hours each	£1,050.00	15	£15,750.00	3 Days per client@480 Lofty Heights - no café support Total 720 person hours.
Ongoing client mental health support additional hours	£1,200.00	6	£7,200.00	Mental health support subsequent to clearance 40 hours per client
Decluttering per property	£400.00	43	£17,200.00	Disposal costs
Introduction to hoarding seminar	£400.00	1	£400.00	Half day for partners -Lofty Heights Refreshments for 30 people @£2 = 60
Sharing the learning	£1,350.00	2	£2,700.00	50 people at two sessions, travel and accommodation for speakers.
	£10.00	50	£500.00	Refreshments @10 per head = £500
Marketing and publicity	£500.00	1	£500.00	
Report production	£500.00	1	£500.00	
			£56,950.00	

#### 6 OTHER KEY ISSUES

- 6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out and is listed in Background papers. The work described above will have positive impact on age and disability as the schemes will deliver additional services to individuals with these characteristics.

## **7 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 7.1 The Council could have decided not to extend the Stepping Home service to West Suffolk but having developed a working model it was not a difficult service to replicate.
- 7.2 The Council could also have decided not to apply for funding from MHCLG but, the problem of self- neglect and decluttering is a growing one with limited funding to support solutions. The opportunity to a bid with Voluntary sector as delivery partners makes it possible to develop as scheme that can have some impact in the short time scales required.

## **8 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- 8.1 The acceptance of funding from West Suffolk Hospital will enable the service, developed in Ipswich and East CCG, area to be rolled out to other hospital patients in Suffolk at no direct costs to local authorities.
- 8.2 Funding to support resolution of complex hoarding and self-neglect cases is welcomed at a time of increasing need. The ability to develop a pilot study using voluntary sector means this proposal is deliverable in the short-timescale imposed by the funder.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. That the award of £62,000 for the West Suffolk Stepping Home project be accepted retrospectively.
2. That the Private Rented Sector Enforcement and Innovation Award of £56,950 be accepted.

### **APPENDICES**

#### **Appendix A**

Warm Homes update report

#### **Appendix B**

Bid for PRS Enforcement and Innovation funding

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Please note that copies of background papers have not been published on the Council's website [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk) but copies of the background papers listed below are available for public inspection free of charge by contacting the relevant Council Department.

Date	Type	Available From
12/12/20	Equality Impact Assessment	East Suffolk