

REPORT TO:	Cabinet		
DATE:	09 February 2022		
PORTFOLIO:	Cllr Joyce Plummer - Resources		
REPORT AUTHOR:	Kirsten Burnett, Head of Policy and Organisational Development		
TITLE OF REPORT:	Self-Isolation Pilot Programme – Acceptance of Funding		
EXEMPT REPORT (Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A)	No	Not applicable	
KEY DECISION:	No	If yes, date of publication:	

1. **Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To seek formal approval to enter into relevant legal agreements to release funding.

2. **Recommendations**

- 2.1 That Cabinet grants approval to the Head of Policy and OD to sign the funding agreement with Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council in relation to the project, and subsequently with Hyndburn Leisure and Hyndburn and Ribble Valley CVS.

3. **Reasons for Recommendations and Background**

- 3.1 Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council is the lead authority in receipt of 2.5 million pounds of funding from the Department of Health and Social Care for the delivery of the Self Isolation Pilot Programme. They are leading the Programme on behalf of the Upper Tier and District Authorities from whom proposals have been received for individual projects to support individuals through self-isolation resulting from Covid 19.

- 3.2 The Council was invited to put a proposal forward for a Self-Isolation Pilot Programme in Autumn 2021 and has recently been notified that the funding for this has been approved, subject to reaching a formal legal agreement to accept the funding, which outlines the Council's obligations in respect of the project. The amount of funding which would be awarded to the Council is £54,540.

- 3.2 The Council's proposal, which the funding would allow to be implemented, covers 3 main strands:

- (i) **Producing marketing assets aimed at young people around self-isolation:**
Current information regarding isolation is readily available but not engaging for

young people or created with them in mind. To have an impact we have learnt engagement work is key, but better tools and resources could reach people in a way that counts. The Council will procure external support to create new assets, including using “gamification” methods to increase participation and engagement.

- (ii) **The delivery of an “Isolation Station extension” project via Hyndburn Leisure:** this will allow people to engage in activities which create a more positive self-isolation experience, and will learn new ways to build activity and healthy eating into their lifestyle. Hyndburn Leisure will provide and promote free access to Hyndburn’s Mywellness App, providing on demand activity classes and bespoke exercise sessions.
- (iii) **Grant scheme via Hyndburn and Ribble Valley CVS:** this scheme aims to support Voluntary & Community Sector organisations to expand or deliver new services to increase engagement with young people and people with a learning difficulty and to demonstrate their ability to react flexibly, at pace, to support the Hyndburn community. It will deliver £15,000 funding to be distributed via a grant scheme to VCS organisations who will deliver activities to engage and support teenagers and young adults with positive lifestyle activities.

4. Alternative Options considered and Reasons for Rejection

- 4.1 The Council could choose not to accept the funding and not deliver the projects outlined above.

5. Consultations

- 5.1 Hyndburn Leisure and Hyndburn and Ribble Valley CVS have been consulted and are happy to deliver parts of the project, subject to a formal funding agreement with the Council.

6. Implications

<p>Financial implications (including any future financial commitments for the Council)</p>	<p>Agreement by Cabinet will enable the Council to accept funding of £54,540.</p> <p>Subsequent agreements with Hyndburn Leisure and CVS will include the transfer of some of this funding for delivery of two aspects of the overall project, as detailed within the report.</p>
<p>Legal and human rights implications</p>	<p>The acceptance of funding will require the Council to sign a legal agreement with Blackburn with Darwen Council, which will set out the Council’s obligations and liabilities. The Executive Director (Legal and Democratic) is providing advice.</p>
<p>Assessment of risk</p>	<p>The Council will only release funding to Hyndburn Leisure and HRCVS on completion</p>

	of an agreement to be drawn up by the Council's legal team. This will set out clear responsibilities for those parties in line with the Council's own obligations as funding recipient.
<p>Equality and diversity implications <i>A Customer First Analysis should be completed in relation to policy decisions and should be attached as an appendix to the report.</i></p>	The funding has been specifically allocated to support engagement and wellbeing activities with young people and people with a learning difficulty, as they have been identified as groups who current engagement may be failing to reach in a meaningful way. The projects will therefore support the Council's equality objectives.

7. **Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985:**
List of Background Papers

7.1 None