Resilience Funding Tees Valley

Guide for Funding Applications

Overview:

Non-recurring funding has been allocated across the Tees Valley which aims to focus upon improving the wellbeing of local communities (of all ages) impacted by Covid 19.

This investment will be aimed at community wellbeing services and is being hosted via Voluntary Development Agency's for each Local Authority area (*with the exception of Hartlepool where this is the local authority*).

Areas of focus for proposals may include:

- Mental health support for covid19 survivors (especially people who have required intensive hospital treatment (e.g. ITU or extended hospital stays) who may now be suffering from 'long COVID');
- Mental health impact of lockdown on vulnerable groups;
- People within the local community at increased risk of COVID-related mental ill health or emotional wellbeing issues including:
    - People who have lost loved ones through the pandemic (either directly due to COVID or due to other reasons where normal grieving processes have not been possible, e.g. attendance at funerals or spending time with loved ones in the end of life period)
    - People with existing mental health difficulty or history of trauma
    - People with health inequalities, e.g. due to poverty, deprivation, BAME, access to technology or services
    - People with long term health conditions
    - People who have had exposure to abuse/neglect/violence, which may have particularly difficult through lockdown
    - People experiencing social isolation e.g. through closure of education, day services, community supports, leisure, family/friends and work, shielding etc.
    - People who have seen more significant socioeconomic impacts, e.g. those who are unemployed, have been furloughed or have lost employment as a result of the pandemic
    - Essential workers (beyond health and social care)

The aim of the funding is:

- Reduce attendances at and demand for GP practices
- Prevent a surge in demand for more specialist mental health services through providing support in different ways
- Create opportunities for more sustainable community based provision
- Test approaches to more coherently support physical and mental health needs collaboratively
- Prevent as far as possible avoidable impacts on waiting times across the system
- Provide a clear, stepped model for access to evidence based interventions

Considerations for proposals

(Please note applications will be scored against these criteria)

1. **Focus** – as outlined above (and in more detail in the investment proposal) the initial focus of the investment will be on recovery from COVID – please consider the key patterns and trends in your local community (using data/intelligence where this has been gathered) in terms of those groups most vulnerable to the impact of COVID/associated restrictions/changes and how your proposed offer would meet the needs of these groups. This is likely to be especially relevant where there are also known gaps in local services for these vulnerable groups.

2. **Sustainability or appropriate exit strategies** – it is crucial that any new services or developments to existing services are sustainable, in line with the community transformation agenda for mental health, or have a planned "exit strategy". Please consider how you would ensure that developments are linked to longer term priorities.

3. **Co-creation of services/ voice of local people** – please outline the ways in which you will engage people who use services/their carers/the local community in helping to shape the offer.

4. **Community navigator roles** – please consider whether a community navigator role for mental health and wellbeing may form part of your proposal; these roles have a key function in linking communities to resources already available and in identifying gaps. This sort of investment is also more likely to be sustainable in the longer term as it is clearly linked to the priorities outlined in the NHS community mental health framework 2019 document.

5. **Trauma informed care** – the principles of trauma informed care are paramount to all offers, these include but are not limited to: peer support, relational connections, choice, transparency, empowerment, collaboration, trust and safety. Please outline how the ways in which these principles will be considered and how any training needs in relation to the above could be met.

Process:

Funding across the Tees Valley will be made available from July 2021 for organisations/ communities to put forward proposals for.

For further information on timelines, overall funding totals and bidding process please contact the following people depending upon your local area:

Stockton Catalyst: **Karen.grundy@catalyststockton.org**

Redcar RCVDA: **karen@rcvda.org.uk**

Middlesbrough VDA: **mark.davis@mvdauk.org.uk**

Hartlepool: **Leigh.Keeble@hartlepool.gov.uk**

Darlington: **rlawson@teesvalleyruralaction.co.uk**