

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

**20 September 2018**

**Report of the Director of Public Health**

**AWARD OF FUNDING TO EXTEND DELIVERY OF THE RAISING  
ASPIRATIONS PROGRAMME  
(Health and Communities)**

**1. Purpose of the report:**

To seek approval to grant-fund £0.231m to Bolsover District Council to extend the delivery of the Raising Aspirations project in selected schools across Derbyshire for a period of 2 years from September 2018.

**2. Information and analysis:**

**Background**

On 15 March 2018, Cabinet approved investment in the Public Health Localities and Place-based Programme for 2018-19. This included retaining £0.231m in-house to implement public health priorities at a local level. It is proposed to utilise this budget to extend the provision of the Raising Aspirations project across Derbyshire for a further two academic years.

**Raising Aspirations Project**

The Raising Aspirations project was initially developed by Bolsover Partnership in 2009, with a programme of co-ordination and interventions commissioned that addressed barriers relating to aspiration and engagement amongst vulnerable groups of young people.

Due to their previous experience in commissioning the Raising Aspirations project, in 2017 Bolsover Partnership re-tendered the contract on behalf of the locality Health and Wellbeing Partnerships across Derbyshire. The contract was funded through the allocations provided to Health and Wellbeing partnerships from the Public Health Grant, and allowed the project to be extended into selected schools across Derbyshire. Following a full OJEU tender process, the contract to deliver the project was awarded to Derbyshire Education Business Partnership (DEBP). Bolsover District Council, as the accountable body for Bolsover Partnership, contracted with DEBP on behalf of the Health and Wellbeing Partnerships.

The tender process allowed for the contract to be extended subject to additional funding, and £0.231m will allow for a two year extension which will be managed through a contract variation between Bolsover District Council and DEBP.

### **Delivery**

The strength of the Raising Aspirations Project has been the innovative approach to drawing upon existing strategy and provision in order to enhance and strengthen the positive impact on the local community. The aim of the project is to provide targeted, bespoke and intensive interventions with small cohorts of young people that require additional support and motivation to achieve positive post-16 progressions. They are the young people identified by their respective schools that are vulnerable, having complex needs and/or at risk of becoming NEET (not in employment, education or training) when they leave school.

The core offer delivered by DEBP for the Raising Aspirations project includes provision of positive role models; mentoring and intensive support; motivational input; exposure to opportunities of employment, education and training; and parents and carers involvement.

This core offer can be complemented with a universal delivery for wider cohorts within schools that includes mock interviews, motivational speakers, aspirational role models or inspirational visits for whole year groups, and additional specialised elements for Year 6 or 8 learners. These additional elements will be funded, where agreed, by investment from Locality Health and Wellbeing Partnerships, and is outside of this grant provision.

Schools were identified to participate Raising Aspirations following a review of GCSE attainment levels and proportion of students eligible for Free School Meals. In 2017-18 the project was delivered in 13 schools. Extending the contract will enable the project to be delivered in the following schools in the academic years 2018-19 and 2019-20.

Amber Valley – Swanwick School and Sports College  
Bolsover – Frederick Gent School and Heritage High School  
Chesterfield – Springwell Community College and Whittington Green School  
Derbyshire Dales – Highfields School  
Erewash – Ormiston Ilkeston Enterprise Academy and Wilsthorpe Community School  
High Peak – Glossopdale School and New Mills School  
North East Derbyshire – Eckington School and Tupton Hall School

South Derbyshire – William Allitt School and 1 other school to be identified

### **Project outcomes**

In 2017-18, a total of 185 students from years 10 and 11 received support from the project. The destinations after leaving school for Year 11s engaged with the project in 2017-18 will not be known until September 2018. The destinations from the Raising Aspirations cohort of 95 Year 11 leavers tracked following the end of school year 2016-17 were 72% to college, 14% to a sixth form, 7% into apprenticeships and 4% with a training provider. Project staff were confident that the 3% of students without a destination confirmed also had a destination identified and would not therefore be classified as not in education, employment or training.

Delivery of the project is overseen by a Steering Group, and DEBP provides comprehensive progress monitoring reports each quarter, with full updates on activity in each school, supported by case studies of students supported. Information is also provided to each locality Health and Wellbeing Partnership on delivery in their locality.

In addition to the above, information to estimate the social return on investment will be reported at the end of year one of the existing contract.

### **3 Social Value considerations**

The project contributes towards the promotion of social value through, for example, supporting young people with employment and skills training and raising aspirations. From September 2018, the provider will be asked to estimate the social return on investment for the project. This incorporates a measure of social value and impact of project delivery, and will allow the monetary impact of the project to be quantified.

### **4. Financial considerations**

The budget for the Raising Aspirations project for a period of two academic years from September 2018 is £0.231m, and this money has been identified within the Public Health Grant. In line with the Council's financial regulations, this funding will be grant-funded to Bolsover District Council (as the accountable body for Bolsover Partnership).

### **5. Human Resources considerations**

The funding will enable DEBP to deliver the Raising Aspirations project, including employment of project staff. Derbyshire County Council accepts no employment or future redundancy liability, with all employment and related matters to be managed by the providers.

### **6. Other considerations**

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: legal, prevention of crime and disorder, equality of opportunity, environmental, health, property and transport considerations.

**5. Background papers:**

Cabinet Report 15<sup>th</sup> March 2018 – Localities and Place-based Programme and Investment 2018-2019

**6. Key Decision:**

No

**7. Call-in:**

Is it required that call-in be waived for any decision on this report?

No

**8. Officer's Recommendation:**

That Cabinet approve that £0.231m be grant-funded to Bolsover District Council to enable Bolsover Partnership to extend the delivery of the Raising Aspirations Project within selected schools across Derbyshire for two academic years from September 2018.

**Dean Wallace**  
**Director of Public Health**