

Committee(s): Community and Children's Services	Dated: 17/12/2021
Subject: The Pan-London Homeless Testing and Contact Tracing 2022/23 – City of London's role in the supporting of financial coordination of the project on behalf of London boroughs	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	2
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N
If so, how much?	£0
What is the source of Funding?	NA
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	NA
Report of: Andrew Carter- Director of Community and Children's Services	For Decision
Report authors: Adrian Kelly, Lead Commissioner, Community and Children's Services Luke Byron-Davies, Commissioning Manager, Community and Children's Services	

Summary

- The City of London has been asked by the Association of Directors of Public Health (ADPH) and the Greater London Assembly (GLA) to manage and coordinate the financial contributions of the Covid-19 testing, treatment and tracing service for homeless and vulnerable groups. This is on behalf of all the London boroughs. This function will involve the collecting of contributions from all participating London boroughs and to coordinate the signing of memorandums of understanding with the boroughs, the City of London and the commissioners (ICUs and GLA). The funding will be forwarded to the lead commissioning organisation, North Central London Integrated Care Service (Camden CCG). The cost to the City for delivering this role will be funded from the resources collected, therefore there are no additional financial implications.

Recommendation:

Members are asked to:

Approve that the City of London Corporation be named as the coordinator for the financial element only of the pan-London Homeless Testing and Contact Tracing 2022/23 programme.

Main Report

Background

1. During Q1 of 2021/22 City agreed to undertake the role of the coordinating agent for pooled funding for Covid-19 testing for homeless people, and this was brought to the CCS Committee under urgency. This was subsequently agreed by the committee, and this function was delivered by the London Sexual Health Programme team, which is hosted by DCCS. This function involved a memorandum of understanding being executed between the 32 London authorities and City for the distribution of pooled funds, however, this agreement will conclude in March 2022. Therefore, a new agreement for 2022/23 is sought to enable next year's pooled funding between the 32 authorities, City (as the proposed managing agent of the funding), GLA and the commissioning body North Central London ICS (Camden CCG).
2. The existing processes and interactions are supported by the Pan-London Sexual Health Programme team, and this is because, this team is uniquely placed to support this financial co-ordinating role of this project due to working with the majority of London's authorities. In undertaking this role, this also represents the most efficient model to ensure the maximum amount of resource collected benefits the target group, and that resources are not deployed creating new systems or processes.
3. The GLA estimate that there are approximately, 15,000 people in emergency accommodation, hostels or rough sleeping who are homeless. Additionally, London has the highest concentration of emergency asylum accommodation (IACs) in the country, and at 19th November 2021 there were 10,561 people seeking asylum in 74 hotels in 22 boroughs across London.
4. Positive cases of Covid-19 in hostels and on the streets, with many contacts spread across numerous boroughs, have illustrated the shared nature of this issue and the value of a pan-London response. It is estimated that around 7,000 infections, 90 deaths, 390 hospital admissions and 115 ICU admissions were avoided by the previous efforts in London, and in supporting the financial management of this project, City would be able to continue to have a coordinating role in this pan-London project, and this project is in-line with City's objectives of contribute to a flourishing society, where people enjoy the best possible health and wellbeing.
5. Due to this need for support at a pan-London level, the City of London has been approached to coordinate and pool contributions from the other 32 London participating authorities. The GLA and ADPH has noted the efficiency and professionalism of City of London in previously undertaking this this function.

Current Position

1. The ADPH has agreed to continue collaborating to support shared London-wide projects for Covid-19 testing, treatment and tracing for rough sleepers, homeless hostels, hotels, night-shelters, pay to sleep, large HMOs, daycentres, asylum contingency accommodations and sex workers.
2. The funding for 2022/23 requested from authorities is projected to total £440,000.
3. The ADPH and GLA has approached City of London to request that the financial management of this funding is again coordinated by City of London.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

Strategic implications

1. The proposed role will deliver to the Corporations objective to contribute to a flourishing society. It will strengthen the capacity and connections within London to deliver to very marginalised groups. It will also contribute to the reputation and relevance of the City Corporation.

Options

1. The option proposed is that City of London (DCCS) acts again as the central financial coordinator for London. The estimated costs of providing this service is £10,000, which will be topsliced by the funding received and retained by DCCS. The anticipated outcome will be that City will be able to actively support this pan-London project and use its specialist financial management functions, which in doing so will contribute to addressing the needs of these at risk groups.
2. Due to funding being pooled and transferred from City to the lead commissioning body, there is financial risk for City. This, however, is being addressed by each participating party signing an MOU to commit to paying the relevant contribution.

Proposal

1. DCCS is well placed to support this financial management function, and it is proposed that the London Sexual Health Programme team, which is hosted within DCCS again takes this role. This is due to this team having existing links with the majority of participating authorities, and having specialised invoicing and pooling of funding functions within its current remit.

Conclusion

1. This pan-London project is important for the capital in addressing the needs of at risk groups. Having been previously able to fulfil this financial coordination, City is in a position to support the financial management and flow of funding for this homeless testing and contract tracing project for 2022/23.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – ‘None’

Report Authors

Adrian Kelly, Lead Commissioner, DCCS
adrian.kelly@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Luke Byron-Davies, Commissioning Manager, DCCS
luke.byron-davies@cityoflondon.gov.uk