

<b>Committee(s):</b> Community and Health Committee	<b>Date:</b> 15 December 2020
<b>Subject:</b> Mental Health Small Grants Scheme	<b>Wards Affected:</b> All
<b>Report of:</b> Kim Anderson, Partnership, Leisure and Funding Manager	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report Author:</b> Kim Anderson, Partnership, Leisure and Funding Manager Telephone: 01277 312500 E-mail: kim.anderson@brentwood.gov.uk	<b>For Decision</b>

### Summary

The Mental Small Grants Scheme was created in partnership with the Health and Wellbeing Board to give Brentwood's communities the opportunity to provide mental health initiatives in the Borough. Grants of up to £2,500 were available to individuals, organisations and groups for wellbeing projects delivered between 1 January and 31 December 2021. Projects must be delivered in the Borough and involve people with lived experience in design planning and delivery.

The Council received 13 applications requesting a total of £29,937.97. The Mental Health Small Grants Scheme is currently allocated within an existing 2020/2021 budget. The funding was open from 4 September until 30 October 2020. A summary of the applications and the officers' recommendations attached in **Appendix B**.

### Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

**R1. Agree to fund those projects highlighted in green as outlined in Appendix B out of the Mental Health Small Grants allocation.**

### Main Report

#### Background

1. The Mental Health Small Grants Scheme was developed in 2017/2018 to give Brentwood's communities the opportunity to promote local initiatives that improve the quality of life of people living locally with mental health illnesses. This is the fourth round of funding. The Fund has £15,000 allocated for mental health support. The fund this year consists of £10,000 contribution from Brentwood Borough Council and £5,000 contribution from the Brentwood Health and Wellbeing Board.

2. The Health and Wellbeing Board has agreed to contribute an additional £622 to ensure the final recipient can receive the grant amount relative to their score percentage, bringing the total allocation to £15,622.
3. Grants of up to £2,500 are available for projects that involve people with lived experience in the codesign and implementation of the initiative. The funding was open to applications from 4 September until 30 October 2021. The recommendations are before members tonight.
4. The criteria that applicants need to meet for applications for the Mental Health Small Grants Scheme is provided in the information and guidance notes which were available to applicants and are attached in **Appendix A** of this report. This also includes the scoring matrix (**Appendix C**) that officers have used to score each of the applications.
5. The total number of applications to the Mental Health Small Grants Scheme was 13, requesting a total of £29937.97. This year's criteria was expanded to welcome projects that address emerging mental health issues as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
6. A summary spreadsheet of officer recommendations and a copy of all of the application forms can be made to Members on request to provide comments on the applications to the Chair of Community and Health Committee prior to the meeting.

### **Issue, Options and Analysis of Options**

7. The criteria, expected outcomes and application process have been simplified in order to encourage applications and to broaden the accessibility of funding as set out in **Appendix A** of this report.

### **Reasons for Recommendation**

8. Each application has been subject to a robust, independent and transparent scoring process to ensure fairness in the allocation of funding (**Appendix C**). Once reviewed, the applications were scored by a panel of officers including a representative from the Health and Wellbeing Board, considering the following key priorities:
  - Evidence that the bid meets the criteria, the Health and Wellbeing Board, and expected outcomes.
  - Evidence that the applicant has involved those with lived experience in the planning and delivery of the project.
  - Evidence that the bid has an effective monitoring system in place.

- Evidence that the applicant has sought additional external funding or in-kind value (such as the use of volunteers) for the project.
  - Evidence that the project is sustainable once the Council's contribution has ceased.
9. Once the applications were individually scored, they were ranked by their score. The recommendations by officers of the projects that met the key priorities and the amount of funding that is recommended is attached in **Appendix B** of this report.
10. Those applications marked as green are recommended to receive funding.
11. Notifications will be made to all those applicants that applied. Successful applicants will also have to agree to any terms stipulated within the conditions of the grant being awarded. Successful applicants will also need to complete a self-monitoring report once their project has been completed.
12. Any unsuccessful applicants to the Mental Health Small Grants Scheme will be offered the following support: telephone call or online meeting with a member of the Community Services team to review their prospective application and offered a funding training session via Brentwood Council for Voluntary Services which includes tips on submitting a good funding application. Members will also be asked to assist in this process; organisations will also be signposted to the Open 4 Community on the Council's website to look at other sources of external funding to support their project if applicable.

## **Consultation**

13. Consultation has been undertaken with previous applicants and as a result we have revised and simplified the application process and simplified the application form and supporting guidance notes. It was recognised that some organisations or individuals may have had difficulty understanding some terminology in respect of completing the funding application, and the requirements for information and match funding should be proportionate to the amount of money being awarded.
14. Part of the monitoring form that is sent out to all successful candidates, also asks the organisation about the whole process and areas that can be improved.

## References to Corporate Plan

15. The Mental Health Small Grants Scheme supports a number of priorities and sub priorities within the Corporate Strategy – Brentwood 2025:

Developing Our Communities – Work with local health organisations to develop health and wellbeing initiatives; and support local community initiatives through discretionary funding programmes.

## Financial Implications

**Name & Title: Jacqueline Van Mellaerts, Corporate Director (Finance & Resources)**

**Tel & Email: 01277 312500 [jacqueline.vanmellaerts@brentwood.gov.uk](mailto:jacqueline.vanmellaerts@brentwood.gov.uk)**

16. The Mental Health Small Grants Scheme pot consists of £10,000 from existing budgets and £5622 contribution from the Brentwood Health and Wellbeing Board's existing budget.

## Legal Implications

**Name & Title: Amanda Julian, Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer**

**Tel & Email: 01277 312705 [amanda.julian@brentwood.gov.uk](mailto:amanda.julian@brentwood.gov.uk)**

17. The General Power of Competence under section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 gives the Council a broad power, subject to some limitations to do things an individual may do, provided it is not prohibited by other legislation. This power is wide enough to include the allocation of funding under the Mental Health Small Grants Scheme.

18. Criteria has been formulated against which applications for grant funding will be assessed. This will support decision making on the allocation of funding being made in a fair and transparent way and satisfies the legal process.

## Economic Implications

**Name/Title: Phil Drane, Corporate Director (Planning & Economy)**

**Tel/Email: 01277 312500 [philip.drane@brentwood.gov.uk](mailto:philip.drane@brentwood.gov.uk)**

19. The Mental Health Small Grants Scheme can have a positive impact on the local economy where there are increases in employment and other opportunities for those living with long term mental health illnesses.

## **Other Implications**

### **Equality and Diversity Implications**

20. The Mental Health small grants scheme will support voluntary and community organisations that best support those with mental ill-health regardless of age, disability, gender, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race religion and sexual orientation.

### **Asset Implications**

21. Where relevant, the granting of funding is dependent upon permissions being granted by the owner of the asset.

## **Appendices**

- Appendix A – Mental Health Small Grants Scheme Guidance and Criteria
- Appendix B – Mental Health Small Grants Scheme Scoring Recommendations
- Appendix C – Mental Health Small Grants Scheme Scoring Matrix

## **Background documents**

None.

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