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# New Mental Health Fund 2024/25

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<b>Committee considering report:</b>	Executive
<b>Date of Committee:</b>	23 May 2024
<b>Portfolio Member:</b>	Councillor Janine Lewis
<b>Report Author:</b>	Zoe Campbell, Interim Service Lead Rachel Johnson, Senior Programme Officer, Public Health and Wellbeing
<b>Forward Plan Ref:</b>	EX4539

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## 1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to request approval of funds that will be matched by Greenham Trust to set up a new fund to improve the mental health and wellbeing of children, young people and adults across West Berkshire. The fund 'Lets Get Mindful' will support projects that help reduce anxiety and improve mental health and wellbeing of adults, children and young people, aiming to reduce inequalities and improve educational attainment and school readiness.

## 2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Executive to agree for officers to work in partnership with Greenham Trust to set up 'Lets Get Mindful' to launch in Spring 2024 in line with the commitment in the Council Strategy delivery plan. The aim will be to enable voluntary and community sector organisations to apply for funding to set up new projects or contribute to existing projects to improve the mental health and wellbeing of adults, children and young people across West Berkshire.
- 2.2 Executive to approve funds from the public health and wellbeing ring-fenced grant that will be matched by Greenham Trust to create total fund of £100,000.
- 2.3 Executive to note action 2023 in the Council Strategy Delivery Plan, 2023-27, "Set up a new fund in partnership with Greenham Trust for mental health support initiatives". This is one of the actions that aims to deliver on priority area 5, goal 5.B. "Help our residents lead fulfilled and active lives". The fund will also help to achieve priority area 2, 2.A. "Prioritise support for those who need it most" and 2.2. "Vulnerable children and families supported at early stages to prevent the need for more critical or statutory social services".

**Table 1: New mental health fund income details**

Contributor	Amount
Greenham Trust	£50,000
West Berkshire Council – public mental health cost centre and public health reserves	£50,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£100,000</b>

### 3 Implications and Impact Assessment

Implication	Commentary			
<b>Financial:</b>	£50,000 from the public health and wellbeing grant will be matched with £50,000 from Greenham Trust for a new mental health fund. Applications to the new fund will be made via the Good Exchange platform.			
<b>Human Resource:</b>	There are no implications for human resources.			
<b>Legal:</b>	A new funding agreement with Greenham Trust will be required.			
<b>Risk Management:</b>	Potential risk that we receive no applications for the new grant and have an underspend. Mitigation is that monies could be returned to each funding partner.			
<b>Property:</b>	Not applicable.			
<b>Policy:</b>	No.			
	<b>Positive</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Negative</b>	<b>Commentary</b>
<b>Equalities Impact:</b>				

<p><b>A</b> Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?</p>	X			<p>A project that is funded by the new mental health fund may target a specific protected characteristic.</p>
<p><b>B</b> Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users?</p>	X			<p>Someone with a protected characteristic and/or someone experiencing a mental health issue or someone who wants to improve their mental health may benefit positively from attending a project that is funded by the new mental health fund.</p>
<p><b>Environmental Impact:</b></p>				<p>N/A</p>
<p><b>Health Impact:</b></p>	X			<p>Someone experiencing a mental health issue or someone who wants to improve their mental health may benefit from attending a project that is funded by the new mental health fund, which may have a positive impact on their mental health and wellbeing.</p>
<p><b>ICT Impact:</b></p>				<p>N/A</p>
<p><b>Digital Services Impact:</b></p>				<p>N/A</p>
<p><b>Council Strategy Priorities:</b></p>	X			<p>The current proposal supports the following council priority:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thriving Communities with a Strong Local Voice</li> </ul>
<p><b>Core Business:</b></p>	X			<p>This project supports Health and Wellbeing Strategy priority 4 and 5:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote good mental health and wellbeing for all children and young people</li> <li>• Promote good mental health and wellbeing for all adults</li> </ul>

<b>Data Impact:</b>				N/A
<b>Consultation and Engagement:</b>	April Peberdy, Zoe Campbell, Cllr Janine Lewis, Legal, Finance.			

## 4 Executive Summary

- 4.1 The purpose of this report is to request approval of funds that will be matched by Greenham Trust to improve the mental health and wellbeing of children, young people and adults across West Berkshire. The fund will be prioritised to provide support for families living in poverty and deprivation in order to reduce anxiety and improve mental health and wellbeing of adults, children and young people, aiming to reduce inequalities and improve educational attainment and school readiness.
- 4.2 The proposal is for £50,000 to be transferred to a ‘Let’s Get Mindful’ fund from the public health grant with immediate effect. Greenham Trust and West Berkshire Council to contribute equal sums which will fund a range of new or existing projects that support mental wellbeing, focusing on vulnerable families (e.g. living in poverty and deprivation) to reduce health inequalities.
- 4.3 Local authorities receive a ring fenced grant<sup>1</sup> to be spent on delivering the public health functions of local authorities. This includes the duty to improve public health through mandated and non-mandated functions.
- 4.4 There is £42,000 in the mental health cost centre in the public health grant that will be allocated to the new mental health fund and £8000 from public health reserves. Greenham Trust have agreed to match funding West Berkshire Council which will facilitate greater impact on mental health and wellbeing outcomes for residents.

## 5 Supporting Information

### Background

- 5.1 The data at Table 2 shows hospital admissions as a result of self harm and the number of school pupils with social, emotional and mental health needs In 2021/22 there were 270 emergency admissions for intentional self-harm in West Berkshire (all ages), a rate of 168.2 per 100,000, similar to the England average of 163.9 per 100,000 in the same year. The data shows an increasing and getting worse trend for school pupils with social, emotional and mental health needs.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/public-health-grants-to-local-authorities-2023-to-2024/public-health-ring-fenced-grant-2023-to-2024-local-authority-circular>

**Table 2: Hospital admissions as a result of self-harm, rate per 100,000 and school pupils with social, emotional and mental health needs (most recent available data)**

Indicator	Period	West Berkshire			South East Region	England			
		Recent Trend	Count	Value	Value	Value	Worst/ Lowest	Range	Best/ Highest
Hospital admissions as a result of self-harm (10-14 yrs)	2021/22	–	-	328.6	346.3	307.1	785.4		69.8
Hospital admissions as a result of self-harm (15-19 yrs)	2021/22	–	-	797.3	845.5	641.7	1,729.4		196.5
Hospital admissions as a result of self-harm (20-24 yrs)	2021/22	–	-	405.4	466.3	340.9	1,213.9		68.2
Emergency hospital admissions for intentional self-harm (all ages)	2021/22	–	270	168.2	197.5	163.9	425.7		47.9
School pupils with social, emotional and mental health needs % of school pupils with social, emotional and mental health needs (school age)	2021/22		612	2.3%		3%	5.2		1.7
School Readiness: percentage of children with free school meal status achieving a good level of development at the end of Reception	2022/23	–		39.1%					
School readiness:	2022/23		1379	75.4%					

Indicator	Period	West Berkshire			South East Region	England			
		Recent Trend	Count	Value	Value	Value	Worst/ Lowest	Range	Best/ Highest
percentage of children achieving the expected level in the phonics screening check in Year 1									
School readiness: percentage of children with free school meal status achieving the expected level in the phonics screening check in Year 1	2022/23	→		50.2%					

Source: <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk>

- 5.2 Proposal to work with Greenham Trust to set up the new mental health fund. This would be covered by a funding agreement with detailed inclusion and exclusion criteria to ensure that any monies awarded help to support resident’s mental health and wellbeing. The aim will be to encourage a range of voluntary sector organisations to apply for funding, especially those that support families who may be experiencing social isolation or financial difficulties to reduce anxiety and improve mental health and wellbeing.

**Proposals**

- 5.3 The proposal is for a new mental health fund to be set up with a contribution of £50,000 from the public health grant which will be match funded by Greenham Trust. The project will be managed via a grant process through Greenham Trust, supported by West Berkshire Council with approvals taking place through panel decision. The fund will support projects that help reduce anxiety and improve mental health and wellbeing of adults, children and young people. The fund will also support organisations who work with adults who are experiencing social isolation or financial difficulties that will have a negative impact on their mental health and wellbeing.

**6 Other options considered**

- 6.1 Do nothing – this is not the recommended option due to the data at Table 2 which outlines improvements needed to support mental health and wellbeing and deliver on

commitments within the [Council Strategy delivery plan](#) and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy <sup>2</sup> priorities 4 and 5.

## 7 Conclusion

7.1 The recommendation is for approval of funds that will be matched by Greenham Trust to set up a new fund to improve the mental health and wellbeing of children, young people and adults across West Berkshire. The fund 'Lets Get Mindful' will support projects that help reduce anxiety and improve mental health and wellbeing of adults, children and young people, support families who may be experiencing social isolation or financial difficulties, to reduce inequalities and improve educational attainment and school readiness.

## 8 Appendices

8.1 None

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### Subject to Call-In:

Yes x

- |  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Considered or reviewed by Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee or associated Task Groups within preceding six months | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Item is Urgent Key Decision  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Report is to note only   | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**Wards affected:** All West Berkshire Wards.

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<sup>2</sup> [Berkshire West Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2021 2030 Dec 20211.pdf \(westberks.gov.uk\)](#)