

THE NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNCIL
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICE
CORPORATE DIRECTOR'S MEETING WITH EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

9th April 2024

APPROVAL TO ACCEPT AN OFFER OF GRANT FUNDING – UP TO £500,000

Report of the Assistant Director – Children and Families Service

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To recommend that the Executive Member for Children and Families, in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer, and the Executive Member for Finance authorise the acceptance of an increased offer of grant funding from the Department for Education's 'Sector Led Improvement Partner (SLIP)' Programme up to a total sum of £500,000.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In September 2023, the Department for Education (DfE) announced funding for a further SLIP Programme which will run during 2024-2025.
- 2.2 On 17th October 2023, NYC received approval to apply for grant funding up to £350,000 from the Executive Member for Children and Families and Assistant Director- Resources.
- 2.3 On receipt of the DfE's final funding criteria for 2024/2025 NYC calculated and submitted a bid for a final funding figure for up to £325,000.
- 2.4 On 21st December 2023, the DfE wrote to NYC to confirm in writing that their bid has been successful.
- 2.5 On 16th January 2024, the Executive Member for Children and Families in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer and the Executive Member for Finance, authorised the acceptance of grant funding for up to £325,000 from the DfE under the Sector Led Improvement Partner Programme.
- 2.6 Subsequently, the DfE have since made NYC aware of some additional funding that may be applied for by the three 'innovator' LAs from their Strengthening Families Protecting Children's (SFPC) Programme – of which NYC are one. This is with the purpose of maintaining the legacy and learning of the innovation models, including NYC's 'No Wrong Door'.
- 2.7 The DfE have invited NYC to adjust their SLIP grant funding figure from £325,000 in order to increase the available number of NYC support days. This would be to specifically incorporate work with LAs identified as those who would learn and benefit from No Wrong Door, as part of the DfE SFPC Programme legacy.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

OFFICIAL

- 3.1 The DfE have confirmed NYC will decide how we manage our resources within the additional funding, across SLIP and SFPC legacy work, meaning we are able to ensure the scope of work to be delivered is manageable in terms of resources and capacity to deliver the Programme.
- 3.2 NYC have already received approval to accept £325,000. NYC are proposing to consider accepting additional grant funding of up to an additional £175,000 to and to attain the associated funding required to cover costs and contribute to wider council benefits.
- 3.3 If approval to accept this is received, the total amount funding that would be accepted during 2024/2025 would be up to £500,000.
- 3.4 The DfE have confirmed any additional funding will continue to be paid through the existing SLIP Programme and via a Section 14 Grant.

4.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The DfE terms and conditions have been reviewed by legal services.

5.0 IMPACT ON OTHER SERVICES/ORGANISATIONS

- 5.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval to accept an increased offer of grant funding from the DfE.
- 5.2 NYC's participation will be to support local authorities external to North Yorkshire and therefore there will not be any impact on North Yorkshire service provision.

6.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no direct equalities implications arising from this report. Consideration for equalities issues have been undertaken within the scoping for grant application and acceptance, in addition to adhering to any terms and conditions imposed by funding bodies. The Equalities Impact Screening Form has been appended to this report.

7.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no direct climate change implications arising from this report. Consideration for climate change issues have been undertaken within the scoping for grant application and acceptance, in addition to adhering to any terms and conditions imposed by funding bodies. The Climate Change Impact Assessment Form has been appended to this report.

8.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 Reputationally, participation in the SLIP Programme as a Lead Partner has resulted in extremely positive feedback by DfE colleagues, who see NYC as a credible and trustworthy partners.
- 8.2 Financially, participation has enabled NYC to use any variance in funding to secure

additional resource capacity and training, to support internal improvements, and this would be expected to continue if able to participate through 2024/2025.

- 8.3 The additional SFPC legacy funding being made available by the DfE, under SLIP, is directly related to the impact of the NYC 'No Wrong Door' model being adopted and adapted in other LA areas across the country. As a result, the DfE have assigned this extra funding to provide the opportunity to continue the legacy of this Programme.

9.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 The Executive Member for Children and Families in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer and the Executive Member for Finance authorises the acceptance of grant funding of up to £500,000 from the DfE under the Sector Led Improvement Partner Programme.

Mel Hutchinson
Assistant Director – Children and Family Services
COUNTY HALL, NORTHALLERTON
2.1.24

Author of Report – Samantha Clayton

Appendices:

- Equality Impact Assessment Screening document
- Climate Change Impact Assessment Screening document

Background documents:



Exec Report - SLIP
2024 2025 - Grant Ap

Initial equality impact assessment screening form
 This form records an equality screening process to determine the relevance of equality to a proposal, and a decision whether or not a full EIA would be appropriate or proportionate.

Directorate	Children and Young Peoples Services
Service area	Children and Families Service
Proposal being screened	To apply for approval to accept grant funding under the Department for Education's 'Sector Led Improvement Programme' 2024-2025
Officer(s) carrying out screening	Sam Clayton
What are you proposing to do?	To apply for approval to accept an increased amount of grant funding to cover the costs of NYC participation in the DfE's Sector Led Improvement Programme 2024-2025. NYC are a confirmed DfE lead partner who would provide support to eligible local authorities who require support to improve their children's services. NYC will work with other LAs to understand what priority areas they want to improve in their own authority and to scope work accordingly to help them to move toward understanding the changes they would want to take forward. This will be undertaken via meetings (mostly online with occasional face to face/site visits if this was the only way to facilitate a session).
Why are you proposing this? What are the desired outcomes?	The desired outcome is to successfully apply for approval to accept an increased amount of grant funding (up to £500k during 2024/2025) to cover the required programme costs and ensure NYC can deliver the programme with no financial detriment.
Does the proposal involve a significant commitment or removal of resources? Please give details.	The proposal requires a time commitment from existing NYC employees, pre-agreed with line managers. Up to a total of 280 working days commitment across CYPS.

Impact on people with any of the following protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010, or NYC's additional agreed characteristics

As part of this assessment, please consider the following questions:

- To what extent is this service used by particular groups of people with protected characteristics?
- Does the proposal relate to functions that previous consultation has identified as important?
- Do different groups have different needs or experiences in the area the proposal relates to?

If for any characteristic it is considered that there is likely to be an adverse impact or you have ticked 'Don't know/no info available', then a full EIA should be carried out where this is proportionate. You are advised to speak to your directorate representative for advice if you are in any doubt.

Protected characteristic	Potential for adverse impact		Don't know/No info available
	Yes	No	
Age		No	
Disability		No	
Sex		No	

Race		No	
Sexual orientation		No	
Gender reassignment		No	
Religion or belief		No	
Pregnancy or maternity		No	
Marriage or civil partnership		No	
People in rural areas		No	
People on a low income		No	
Carer (unpaid family or friend)		No	
Are from the Armed Forces Community		No	
Does the proposal relate to an area where there are known inequalities/probable impacts (for example, disabled people's access to public transport)? Please give details.	No		
Will the proposal have a significant effect on how other organisations operate? (for example, partners, funding criteria, etc.). Do any of these organisations support people with protected characteristics? Please explain why you have reached this conclusion.	No – NYC will provide short term peer support and ideas on areas where a local authority can improve their services but NYC will not directly develop or implement any changes into other organisations.		
Decision (Please tick one option)	EIA not relevant or proportionate:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Continue to full EIA:
Reason for decision	No changes will be implemented by NYC as part of this work.		
Signed (Assistant Director or equivalent)	Mel Hutchinson		
Date	22.2.24		

Initial Climate Change Impact Assessment

The intention of this document is to help the council to gain an initial understanding of the impact of a project or decision on the environment. This document should be completed in consultation with the supporting guidance. Dependent on this initial assessment you may need to go on to complete a full Climate Change Impact Assessment. The final document will be published as part of the decision-making process.

Title of proposal	To apply for approval to accept grant funding under the Department for Education's 'Sector Led Improvement Programme' 2024-2025
Brief description of proposal	<p>To seek approval to accept grant funding from the Department for Education (DfE) to participate in, and to cover the associated programme costs of, the DfE's Sector Led Improvement Programme (SLIP) 2024-2025. NYC have been selected again as a DfE SLIP Lead authority under the new SLIP programme for 2024/2025, which is a programme set up to provide short packages of advice and support from Good our Outstanding LAs into LAs who require support to improve their children's services.</p> <p>NYC are approved to be part of the next Programme and NYC will work with eligible LAs to understand and scope priority areas they want to improve in their own authority. NYC will then work to develop a joint plan with agreed activities and meetings required to support them to achieve this.</p> <p>This work will be undertaken via meetings with individual LA colleagues of which the vast majority of are online (over 90% for the current programme) with occasional face to face/site visits if work cannot be undertaken virtually. At the point of starting the Programme NYC do not know which LAs will be eligible and therefore it is not known who we would be working with, to reasonably estimate any impact on travel arrangements. However, as noted, the main option is to seek virtual sessions, and minimise any need for travel by car or by public transport.</p> <p>This Impact Assessment is to accompany an application to seek approval to apply for additional grant funding under the SLIP Programme for 2024/2025.</p>
Directorate	Children and Young Peoples Services
Service area	Children and Families Service
Lead officer	Samantha Clayton
Names and roles of other people involved in carrying out the impact assessment	Sarah Whorlton, Senior Project Manager

The chart below contains the main environmental factors to consider in your initial assessment – choose the appropriate option from the drop-down list for each one. Remember to think about the following;

- Travel
- Construction
- Data storage
- Use of buildings
- Change of land use
- Opportunities for recycling and reuse
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Environmental factor to consider	For the council	For the county	Overall
Greenhouse gas emissions	Increases emissions	No Effect on emissions	No effect on emissions
Waste	No effect on waste	No effect on waste	No effect on waste
Water use	No effect on water usage	No effect on water usage	No effect on water usage
Pollution (air, land, water, noise, light)	No effect on pollution	No effect on pollution	No effect on pollution
Resilience to adverse weather/climate events (flooding, drought etc)	No effect on resilience	No effect on resilience	No effect on resilience
Ecological effects (biodiversity, loss of habitat etc)	No effect on ecology	No effect on ecology	No effect on ecology
Heritage and landscape	No effect on heritage and landscape	No effect on heritage and landscape	No effect on heritage and landscape

If any of these factors are likely to result in a negative or positive environmental impact then a full climate change impact assessment will be required. It is important that we capture information about both positive and negative impacts to aid the council in calculating its carbon footprint and environmental impact.

Decision (Please tick one option)	Full CCIA not relevant or proportionate:	✓	Continue to full CCIA:	
Reason for decision	<p>The service to provided through funding from this grant is in relation to providing support and guidance to other local authorities outside of North Yorkshire, in the form of peer reviews and workshop sessions, of which the large majority are delivered through online sessions.</p> <p>The team involved in the Programme would be small (1 or 2 lead colleagues) and travel is minimalised wherever possible.</p>			

Signed (Assistant Director or equivalent)	Mel Hutchinson
Date	22.2.24