



## Health Inequalities Funding in Milton Keynes

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### **Purpose of Report:**

To seek the Health and Care Partnerships approval of the recommendation for the use of £500K Health Inequalities funding.

## Recommendation

**The Partnership is asked to note and approve the recommendation detailed in the paper:**

- 1. To approve the recommendation to deploy 70% of the available Health Inequalities funding on a large scale intervention as a part of the Bletchley Pathfinder work, with the remaining 30% to be used for community and primary care projects.**

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## Health Inequalities Funding in Milton Keynes

### **Background**

1. The BLMK Integrated Care Board has allocated some of its health inequalities funding for 2023/24 to place. £500K is being made available to each of the four places.
2. The use of the funding is not prescribed in detail other than to support measures which will help tackle inequalities that have an impact on health. The funding is likely to be transferred to the council under a Section 256 grant which means it does not all have to be spent by 31 March 2024, although clearly the funding is intended for use as soon as practicable.
3. There is separate funding (£300K across the Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes area) to support the implementation of the Denny review of health inequalities the ICB has commissioned. The funding will support the delivery

of the recommendations set out within the report, for instance using video, translations, accessible documents to communicate how we are implementing feedback from people and communities.

4. There was a discussion at the Joint Leadership Team (JLT) on 3 August which has informed the development of this short proposal.

## Recommendations

5. We can use all of the £500K on one large scale intervention or break it down to fund several initiatives. Recent allocations of funding to tackle inequalities have been broken down and used on smaller initiatives. **On that basis the recommendation is to use around £350K (70%) of the funding for a larger intervention which will enable us to undertake further work at scale with around £150K (30%) set aside for community and primary care.**
6. Given the developing focus on Bletchley through the pathfinder work, the Joint Leadership Team had a strong view that the funding should be used to support this work over the next 12-18 months. The Bletchley work will be cross-cutting and so the use of the funding could, in practice, fund activities such as:
  - Lower cost access to fitness activities
  - School breakfast clubs
  - Community cooking classes and access to healthy food
  - Free bike loan scheme
7. It is likely whichever activities are funded, the design and delivery of them will be done in partnership with other organisations, in particular the voluntary and charitable sector. We know that interventions that work through established and respected community organisations are more likely to be effective.
8. If agreed, Vicky Head, Director of Public Health for Milton Keynes would advise on the use of the funding as part of the Bletchley Pathfinder to ensure we take an evidence based approach to selecting the activities to fund. The Health and Care Partnership would be updated on a regular basis on the use of this funding.
9. The Joint Leadership Team recommend setting aside around £150K (30%) of the funding for community and primary care. Although it was recognised that there is specific NHS funding for Primary Care Networks aimed at targeting inequalities (the Network Contract Direct Enhanced Service directs resource to participating PCNs to, among other things, tackle the unmet needs of a

population experiencing inequality in health provision or outcomes), there may be innovative and additional activities that community and primary care colleagues want to bring forward.

10. If agreed, Vicky Head, Director of Public Health for Milton Keynes would also advise on the prioritisation of funding for activities brought forward by community and primary care through the JLT. Activities funded are likely to be:

- Linked to the MK Deal agreed priorities
- In line with the NHS 'Core20PLUS5' framework for health inequalities
- Coordinated across Milton Keynes PCNs
- Bring clear additional benefit over standard primary care
- Respond to an evidenced inequality.