

Urgent Approval for Public Health to Submit a bid for funding (as a partner) to the National Energy Action Warm and Healthy Homes Fund

Recommendation

That approval is given for the submission of a Grant Funding bid, in partnership with Worcestershire County Council (lead and managing authority) and Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council to the National Energy Action Warm and Healthy Homes Fund on behalf of the County Council in connection with Public Health's Warm and Well in Warwickshire programme of work.

Please note that this funding has been offered to our partnership due to an underspend on the NEA Warm and Healthy Homes fund to which Worcestershire, Warwickshire and Solihull Metropolitan Borough Councils submitted a successful bid in 2016/17. This is, hence, in effect not a new funding bid.

1.0 Outline of Bid

1.1 This report seeks urgent approval in relation to a bid connected with the Warm and Well in Warwickshire programme of work. Public Health have been unable to follow the regular approval process due to the short turnaround time for this funding stream. Warwickshire County Council is a partner in this bid, and not the managing authority, which will be Worcestershire County Council. Bidding was opened on 8th September 2017 and closes on 27th September 2017, leaving only a short period of time for officers to complete the bid writing.

1.2 Warm and Well in Warwickshire

The Warm and Well in Warwickshire programme is delivered by our commissioned provider Act on Energy to enable Warwickshire residents to be safe and well during cold weather. They provide advice, information and guidance to all Warwickshire residents around fuel bills, tariff switching, and energy efficiency via a Freephone helpline. They also work with vulnerable citizens who are experiencing fuel poverty, the elderly and those with long term health conditions to look at benefit maximisation, and where eligible, provide physical measures to move people out of fuel poverty and into a warm home. There is strong evidence that shows living in a cold home can exacerbate existing health conditions, increase pressure on health and care services and lead to excess winter deaths. Act on Energy also deliver a 'Boilers on Prescription' work stream, which seeks to evaluate the health and

wellbeing benefits of providing efficient boilers to eligible residents with long term health conditions, assessing them pre and post installation.

The NEA Warm and Healthy Homes Fund is offering funding to previously successful bidders to support physical intervention measures (heating and insulation measures) to vulnerable households (those dependent on benefits and with at least one member of the household who has a chronic health condition)

The partnership is bidding for a total of £174,000 (approx. £58,000 for Warwickshire) which will support approximately 19 boiler replacements (maximum cost £3000 per household) across Warwickshire for vulnerable households. The grant funding would be received and managed by Worcestershire County Council working closely with Act on Energy, who support fuel poverty programmes for all three of the partnership authorities. The programme would run as per the original programme for which we successfully bid as a partnership, and was delivered in 2016/17.

The proposed bid will need to be delivered (heating and insulation measures installed) by the end of February 2018. .

2.0 Financial Implications and Risks

There are no inherent financial implications for the County Council in terms of submitting the bids other than the officer cost of working up and submitting the bids. The cost of activity will be met from within existing resources.

Warwickshire County Council currently contract with Act on Energy for £100,000 per year and the match funding offer for this bid will be found within that overall cost envelope

Background papers

Warm Homes Healthy People's Fund call for proposals.

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