

Report to Cabinet

7 July 2021

Subject:	Request to procure an adult weight management service
Cabinet Member:	Cabinet Member for Living and Ageing Well Cllr Hartwell
Director:	Director of Public Health Lisa McNally
Key Decision:	Yes
Contact Officer:	Katie Deeley- Communities and Partnerships Manager- katie.deeley@sandwell.gov.uk

1 Recommendations

- 1.1 That the Director of Public Health be authorised, in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer, to use the adult weight management services grant of £320,730 to procure a behavioural (tier 2) weight management service (during 21/22) for adults (that includes a multi-component programme addressing dietary intake, physical activity and behaviour change for adults who are overweight or living with obesity with the primary aim of promoting health behaviour change, which reduces body weight), using the dynamic purchasing system provided by Public Health England (PHE).
- 1.2 That the Director of Law and Governance & Monitoring Officer be authorised to enter into and execute, under seal as may be required, any contracts or ancillary documentation in relation to the award of contract referred to in recommendation 1.2 above.

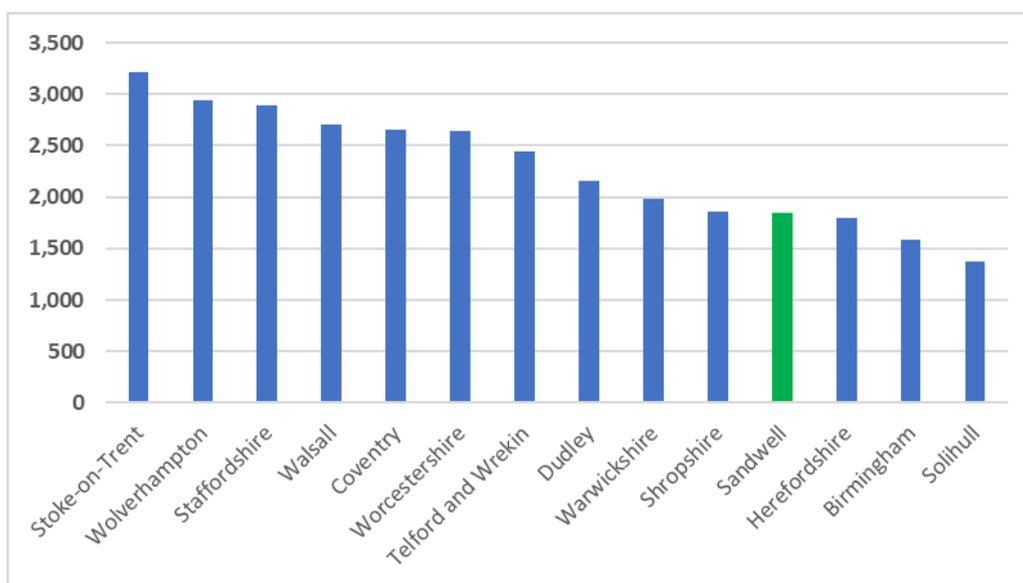


2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 Obesity causes problems at both an individual and societal level, in that it is a significant driver of ill health and demand on health services. The extent to which obesity is a challenge for any given area can be gauged in the routine data on hospital admissions in which obesity is judged by the clinician to be a primary or secondary factor in the patient's ill health.

In Sandwell last year the rate of admissions with obesity as a factor was 1842 per 100k population (see table one below). This equates to over 5585 individual admissions, which while by no means the highest in our region, still represents a significant impact on both individuals and healthcare resources.

Table One: Rate of admissions with obesity as a factor (NHS Digital 2020)



- 2.2 The public health team would like to take the opportunity to use some short-term funding to provide a service that will improve levels of physical activity, healthy eating and support people to adopt healthier behaviours.
- 2.3 We would also like to take advantage of a unique opportunity to use the dynamic purchasing system provided by PHE, which will make the procurement of this service more achievable given the short time scales.



3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

	<p>Best start in life for children and young people</p> <p>This programme is also likely to impact positively on children’s levels of physical activity healthy eating as parents adopt and encourage healthier behaviours within the home.</p>
	<p>People live well and age well in Sandwell</p> <p>The behavioural (tier 2) adult weight management service is defined as multi component programmes addressing diet, physical activity and behaviour change.</p> <p>This programme will increase levels of physical activity, improve healthy eating and behaviour change. This programme recognises the benefits from exercising at the right level and maintaining healthy weight on health and wellbeing, reducing the risk of disease and illness and improving mental health; and improving physical and psychological quality of life for individuals, families and communities.</p>

4 Context and Key Issues

- 4.1 On 26th March 2021, Public Health England (PHE) published information about the adult weight management services grant for local authorities. This is funding to support local authorities to commission weight management services in 2021 to 2022. ([Adult weight management services grant 2021/ 2022 - GOV.UK](#))
- 4.2 PHE have provided information to local authority weight management leads through online webinars and consulted on the grant allocations. Sandwell does not currently commission a tier 2 adult weight management service, which is a similar situation amongst neighbouring local authorities. Recognising the challenging timeframe of this one-year programme, PHE is developing a dynamic purchasing system (DPS) to support local authorities to procure the service. This is expected to be available from summer 2021.



- 4.3 Utilising the dynamic purchasing system would potentially negate the need for us to do a full procurement. We would work with the public health procurement team to use the system and are taking advice as from the ASC health and wellbeing procurement team.
- 4.4 The voluntary and charity sector will be eligible to join the DPS providing they can demonstrate that they have the capability to deliver weight management services.
- 4.5 PHE is also developing a 'model' service specification for local authorities to utilise in line with NICE guidance (<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/PH53>).

4.6 Consultation

The Director of Public Health has briefed Cabinet Member for Living and Ageing Well. We have also consulted with the adult social care health and wellbeing commissioning support unit on the use of a dynamic purchasing system.

4.7 Sustainability

Funding is not currently recurrent, so the grant is available to local authorities for 12 months from the beginning of the 2021/2022 financial year. PHE aim to use learning from this year to make the case for further investment in weight management services in the next spending review. We will work with the local community voluntary sector to capacity build and upskill during the period of delivery of this programme to ensure they are able to deliver tier 2 weight management services utilising local grants such Vision 2030 community grants.

4.8 Timescales

Funding can only be used for the delivery of a tier 2 adult weight management service between April 2021 and March 2022. Any expenditure beyond 31st March 2022 will need explicit consent from the department of health and social care. Expenditure beyond June 2022 generally won't be considered.



5 Alternative Options

- 5.1 Develop a service specification and commission the service using SMBC's internal procurement processes. The implication of this is that an internal procurement exercise for anything over £100k could take between 2 and 9 months. Given that this funding may only be used for eligible expenditure between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022, we may not have enough time to go through a full procurement process and deliver the service within the timescales specified. Capacity is also currently stretched in public health due to additional Covid-19 duties.

6 Implications

Resources:	There are no match funding requirements for the grant. We will draw on Public Health staffing resources to manage the local programme
Legal and Governance:	Full terms and conditions of the grant are set out in the grant determination information provided on the link below: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/adult-weight-management-services-grant-determination-2021-to-2022/annex-a-grant-conditions#financial-management
Risk:	Breach of conditions and recovery of grant outlined in the link above, states that- “If the authority fails to comply with any of these conditions, or if any overpayment is made under this grant or any amount is paid in error, or if any of the events set out in paragraph 26 occurs, the Secretary of State may reduce, suspend or withhold grant payments or require the repayment of the whole or any part of the grant monies paid, as may be determined by the Secretary of State and notified in writing to the authority. Such sum as has been notified will immediately become repayable to the Secretary of State who may set off the sum against any future amount due to the authority from central government.”



Equality:	Evidence suggest that certain social groups experience greater barriers to accessing weight management services. These include families from certain minority ethnic groups, low socio-economic communities and those living with intellectual and/or physical disabilities. The service specification will outline the need to engage marginalised groups in Sandwell to ensure the service is accessible and equitable.
Health and Wellbeing:	This funding opportunity will support interventions that are designed to improve health outcomes for adults in Sandwell by encouraging regular physical activity, healthy eating and general wellbeing.
Social Value	The service specification will include criteria based on social value. Any provider will need to evidence how their service will meet the principles of social value. Local providers will be given the opportunity to be included in the dynamic purchasing system.

7. Appendices

Appendix 1 – PHE healthier weight programme presentation slides.

8. Background Papers

Grant determination information-

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/adult-weight-management-services-grant-determination-2021-to-2022>

