

27th July 2020

Skills Grant Acceptance

Purpose of Report

This paper requests approval to accept the Careers and Enterprise (CEC) Careers Hub Grant and Working Win Health Led Trial extension grant for 6 months from 01st November 2020 until 31st March 2021 and seeks delegated authority be given to the S73 Officer in conjunction with the Head of Paid Service and Monitoring Officer to enter into legal agreements for the schemes.

Thematic Priority

Cross cutting - financial

Freedom of Information and Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972

This paper will be made available under the MCA publication scheme.

Recommendations

Members are asked to

1. Approve acceptance of the CEC Careers Hub grant allocation for £146,000.
2. Approve acceptance of the Working win extension funding for 6 months and accepts the grant of £500,000.
3. Delegate authority to the S73 Officer in conjunction with the Head of Paid Service and Monitoring Officer to accept the grants of £646,000 subject to their acceptance of the terms of the agreements when these are received.

1. Introduction

1.1 The Careers Hub 2020/21

The MCA, as accountable body for the LEP, already has an agreement in place with the CEC and also with LA's for the established Enterprise Advisor Network. This activity would be an extension to the agreement with the CEC. The CEC, in addition to supporting activity to deliver the Enterprise Advisor Network and providing additional support to the Opportunity Area Doncaster, is also supporting the development of localised careers hubs. The CEC has now expressed its willingness to fund the LEP to deliver a Careers Hub in the remaining areas of South Yorkshire, in addition to the current programme in Doncaster.

1.2 Working Win Extension 2020/21

The Working Win, Health Led Employment Trial is the first trial of its size which tests the innovative combination of health and employment support for those with mild to moderate

health conditions to either find work or remain in work. The current value of the trial is £9,057,516 and it is now in its final year of delivery.

The Combined Authority first approved the acceptance of grant from the Work and Health Unit – as cross department unit jointly sponsored by the Department for Work and Pensions and the Department for Health and Social Care – in July 2017.

In July 2019 the MCA further approved a 7-month extension to the trial, and as part of the Government’s Covid-19 response, the Work and Health Unit have now offered the MCA the opportunity to further extend the trial by six months.

2. Proposal and justification

2.1 Acceptance of Career Hub grant 2020/21

The Careers Hub funding will allow the development of a network of highly committed employers that have experience of working with schools in creative ways, known as Cornerstone Employers. It will provide additional capacity to support and advise schools on how they engage with employers and will link schools and employers on curriculum-specific pieces of work. There will be additional opportunities for schools to network and support each other both within their local authority and across local authorities, particularly with Doncaster schools who have been part of career hubs for the last two years.

Doncaster Careers Hub will support the development of the wider SY Hub in preparing initial plans and potentially carrying out early engagement activity. This will allow other areas to benefit from Doncaster’s learning and enable the proposed projects, if endorsed by members, to hit the ground running.

Good practice and resources will be shared throughout the region through regional learning events, increased use of the EAN website, and coordination of activity across both hubs through close working of all staff engaged in this activity, building on the strong links already in place.

Proposed reach of the Hubs (noting Doncaster’s Hub is already in existence) is presented below:

Number of mainstream schools proposed	Rotherham–16, Sheffield–15, Barnsley–5 Doncaster-20 Total 56
Number of FE colleges proposed	Rotherham-2, Sheffield–0, Barnsley–0 Doncaster–3 Total 5
Number of SEND schools proposed	Rotherham–6, Sheffield–7, Barnsley–1 Doncaster–7 Total 21
Number of Alternative Provision/ Pupil Referral Units proposed	Rotherham–2, Sheffield–0, Barnsley–0 Doncaster–3 Total 5

2.2 Acceptance of Working Win extension grant 2020/21

Originally the Work and Health Unit (WHU) were unable to allocate funds past the 31st March 2020. However, this meant that referral and participants numbers on the trial would be compromised as the referral and delivery window was shortened.

Through on-going dialogue with the WHU an extension of 7 months was agreed which allowed referrals to take place until October 2019. Further dialogue has led to the WHU offering a further extension, to offer a post-trial service as part of a Covid-19 response, of 6

months to the programme until March 2021. This would also include an additional grant allocation of c£500k of which £50k is assigned to the MCA for ongoing contract management and £450k to the provider, South Yorkshire Housing Association.

To date over 6,117 residents have joined the trial with 3,060 in the trial receiving support. 512 people have moved into work when they were previously unemployed and 528 have sustained their employment when they were at risk of becoming unemployed because of their condition. A further 240 have been supported to return to work from being off sick.

3. Consideration of alternative approaches

3.1 Careers Hub - Do Nothing – The support from the CEC to broaden the support for the Careers Hub concept in South Yorkshire, could be declined. It is recommended this is discounted for a number of reasons:

- The economic recession following the Covid pandemic is likely to disproportionately affect the outcomes and opportunities of the city regions young people. Therefore, any activity to ramp up their exposure to business and quality careers advice is felt to be essential to the city regions recovery.
- Young people (SEND and from socially deprived areas) are most likely to be affected as a result of the downturn and therefore to focus on piloting an approach to this, will provide valuable evidence to support a broader model in the future,

Working Win – Do Nothing – Without the funding SCR would not be able to support the targeted 430 residents with health conditions who are sick or struggling in work to stay in work or successfully change jobs. A risk would be weakening relationships with important strategic partners in the health and employment field such as the Integrated Care System and the Work and Health Unit if SCR do not have a programme of activity on which we work collaboratively.

4. Implications

4.1 Financial

This report proposes the acceptance of two grants, subject to satisfactory grant conditions being received and accepted by the statutory officers

It is proposed that the grants be used to resource two discrete programmes of activity, of which the MCA has experience of administering successfully.

No further resource is required from the MCA to deliver the proposed activity and the report notes that grant resource may be used to support the appropriate administration and control of activity from within the MCA.

4.2 Legal

The MCA, as accountable body for the LEP, already has agreement in place with the CEC and also with LA for the established EAN work and with the WHU. This activity would be an extension to the agreements. The Monitoring Officer will confirm his acceptance to the conditions of the grant award prior to entering any legal agreement.

4.3 Risk Management

Risks to delivery are actively managed by the Programme and Performance Unit of the MCA Executive Team and high risks will be raised with the Skills and Employment Board as part of the performance dashboard.

There is also a robust risk management strategy already in place for the trial which is monitored monthly with the trial provider, WHU and wider stakeholders.

4.4 Equality, Diversity and Social Inclusion

An equalities impact assessment was undertaken as part of the development of the trial. The trial has received approval by the Research Ethics Committee of the Medical Research Council and is delivered within those values and judgements. The performance of the trial is monitored against a series of indicators enabling us to ensure all who can participate are able to.

The Careers Hub proposal outlined, in focusing on improving access to careers information and business engagement in socially deprived wards and with SEND young people is seeking to target and test activity which breaks down some of the barriers to participation in further learning or into employment. Learning from the activity will be shared across South Yorkshire

5. Communications

5.1 The Working Win, Health Led Employment Trial already has a comprehensive communication and marketing plan.

The extension of the CEC current scheme provides an opportunity to deliver an element of the additional support to young people facing the additional challenges as a consequence of the pandemic.

6. Appendices/Annexes

6.1 NONE

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Background papers used in the preparation of this report are available for inspection at: 11 Broad Street West, Sheffield S1 2BQ