

Community Health and Wealth Delivery Fund

Community Health and Wealth Building in Huntingdonshire is the way that the council and its strategic partners seek to work, embedding new ways of working that contribute to positive outcomes for residents. It sets out how we will improve the quality of life for local people, and how we engage with residents to support solutions that will impactfully contribute to positive outcomes.

For the Community Health and Wealth activity to have the scale of impact that our residents want it must be appropriately resourced. Whilst the council will maintain focus on delivering our core services in the most effective way, making changes to the way we work, altering our arrangements with partners, and working and supporting community activities will all require support to succeed.

We see this as an investment, and we will implement strict criteria to monitor and demonstrate the impacts these investments are having. We propose creating an initial £750,000 fund, for use over the next 3 years. We would hope this fund extends beyond HDC being the only contributing partners. We believe partners will see the benefits of contributing to this fund to support cross-organisational outcomes and will seek opportunities to replenish the fund through available sources in the future. It provides a framework to use project funds in the future in a more joined up way, reducing overhead and administration.

What is being proposed

The creation of a Community Health and Wealth Fund (CHWF, or the Fund) to support the delivery of the Community Health and Wealth Building Strategy (CHWBS or the Strategy). The fund will follow the principles of a sovereign wealth fund, whereby one-off windfall income is treated as exceptional and is invested for the longer-term benefit of the residents who live there, aiming at supporting recurring benefits and (ideally) a replenishing fund. We anticipate that some of the return on investments may come in the form of improved social benefit (or community wealth), which will be carefully tracked to demonstrate return on investment.

We will encourage other partners to contribute to the fund to embed a holistic approach to social success, and to support cross partner working. This will be shaped by ongoing community co-production. It offers the opportunity to support early intervention and prevention work, which is a core duty of the Integrated Care System.

Purpose of the fund

The Huntingdonshire Futures Strategy brought together residents, businesses and partners to define how they wanted Huntingdonshire to look in 30 years' time. This process identified 5 journeys. 3 of those in particular: Pride in Place, Inclusive Economy and Health Embedded, will be supported by the CHWB Strategy. These journeys all align to the key factors that the ONS evidence are most impactful to Quality of Life of our residents and form the basis of the objectives in the CHWB Strategy, namely good health, social connection and relationships and employment.

Delivering great outcomes take resource, and our May 2024 Corporate Peer Challenge identified as a priority the need to properly resource the delivery of the Huntingdonshire Futures Strategy. This fund will in part enable us to do so. Key to the Huntingdonshire Futures Work was working in partnership with our resident and our partners. This is equally true of the Community Health and

Wealth Building approach, which places residents and their outcomes at the centre of what we are trying to achieve and how we will work. Residents' needs are no respecter of organisational boundaries, and often the way services are delivered can prove a barrier to some of the outcomes we are trying to achieve. Everyone agrees that prevention is better than cure, but organisational budgets too often do not stretch to working in partnership to create the conditions for success.

These challenges are often exacerbated by an environment that increasingly sees a range of isolated one-off activity, and rigid funding formula, that see well-intentioned projects often fail to deliver the transformative benefits that we would hope for. The flexible approach taken by the ICB in regard to Health Inequalities and Community Health Prevention projects over the last two years, are examples of projects that have done the opposite, and seen the community, Councils and health using core capacity to transform outcomes. We are keen to continue this innovative work, that has led to partners working in new ways, removing duplication, and funnelling released capacity into services for residents.

The community co-production aspect of the scheme will help ensure that the resident voice informs project design boosting impact and sustainability. We see the fund as a flexible pot and are keen to encourage partners and local businesses to contribute to it, so increasingly it is seen as a shared and co-owned impact fund to support better outcomes.

This fund is designed to support enduring co-production (deciding things together) with our communities, to support the delivery of activity that will deliver the objectives in the Community Health and Wealth Building Strategy,

- **Supporting communities to make changes for themselves, we are committed to delivering improvements that residents will see and value** - Residents are the experts in their own lives – The scheme would be heavily directed to the key priorities emerging from community co-production and engagement activities. Supporting the do-enable-influence approach of the Corporate Plan and linked to the Council's Engagement Strategy.
- **Improving quality of life - Commissioning and supporting project activity which will deliver against the objectives of the Corporate Plan and CHWB Strategy.** Measured carefully to track and report on impact through a series of Impact and performance indicators and outcome measures.
- **Changing the way we work - Bending and influencing core delivery to unlock benefits additional** – Using the fund to support a "Transformation" in internal and cross-partner ways of working. Piloting approaches that transform the way we meet residents needs in line with the commitments in the Huntingdonshire Futures Strategy.

How will this work in practice?

If we are serious about supporting outcomes, then the feedback from residents and partners on what we need, and what works, is critical. The mechanisms for delivery of the Community Wealth and Health Fund will be brought forward following more detailed discussion with the community. That said, our expectations at present are that the fund will make use of three main forms of distribution:

1. Grant giving – with clear criteria and reporting expectations to show impact. (Immediate term)

2. Subject matter expertise resourcing and capacity – commissioning work, buying services, or recruiting staff to support the delivery of the programme of work, again with delivery measures in place. (Short-medium term)
3. Project delivery – universal or match funding, with formal project governance supporting delivery against outcome measured. (Medium-Longer term)

Proposed Community Health and Wealth Delivery Fund Principles

1. Demonstrable delivery on the outcomes within the Community Health and Wealth Strategy e.g. delivering local employment, or increasing physical activity with supporting measures to enable us to demonstrate progress across inputs, activities, outputs, and outcomes
 - Inputs – E.g. funding for a community lead.
 - Activity measures – e.g. number of events held
 - Output – number of people attended; number of people trained etc.
 - Outcome and benefits generated – Increase in employment, increase in happiness, decrease in depression etc.
2. Minimise bureaucracy
 - Within the requirements of strong financial control, it is important that governance and administration are proportionate to the funding being provided. We are keen to make sure that the fund is responsive and is available to support activity that will contribute to our objectives. Therefore, we will seek to minimise complex and laborious bidding processes and make use of assurance and partnership arrangements such as the principles already available through the integrated care system, the Good to Go accreditation and the previously used delivery partner model attached as Appendix 1.
 - We are keen to explore joint input into the oversight of the fund, to support collective ownership of solutions, and commitment to the approach. We will bring back proposals in relation to this.
3. Who is best placed to deliver the work?
 - The Corporate Plan commits the council to not just doing but also “enabling” and “influencing”. This fund presents opportunities to fund activity by partners best able to deliver outcomes, and to influence the delivery of others. There is an expectation that some funding will pass through to other delivery organisations or support joint activity, be that through Parish Councils, Community groups or others.
4. How do we simplify processes and deliver services that better meet resident needs?
 - Feedback from residents is that the way services are delivered do not always make sense. Opportunities exist to join these up in ways that will benefit everyone. That could involve dedicated activity to link local young people with jobs in local businesses or to enable community groups services to reach out to isolated older people. Where we can use resource to target and support services more effectively for the benefit of our residents we will seek to do so.
5. Clear reporting – as part of the quarterly reporting to Scrutiny on Priority one of the Corporate Plan, we will bring updates on the current usage of the fund, and the impacts being delivered. We would propose bring an annual report updating on the status of the fund.
6. Governance – whilst we would aim to keep governance simple, the objectives of the scheme ensure there is significant benefit in a broad governance that brings expertise, but also the opportunity to ensure good ideas influence core service delivery. We would propose a

governance proposal that engages key stakeholders, the community but also the full cross-section of political representation at the Council.

Next steps

Subject to endorsement of the proposal for the creation of the Community Health and Wealth Delivery Fund we will:

1. Continue the collaborative work with the community to ensure the Fund is designed in the most effective way
2. Develop the detailed Community Health and Wealth Delivery Fund policy and re-present to members for agreement with clear governance, processes, templates and reporting mechanisms for the operation of the scheme.
3. Subject to the above begin operation of the scheme and supporting the delivery of the Community Health and Wealth Delivery Fund.



Delivery Partners Min
Req v5 for Assurance