

HeadStart Blackpool

Date: 6th November 2014

Matter for consideration: HeadStart Commissioning Process

Recommendation: For discussion

Relevant Officer: Merle Davies

1. Background

- 1.1 Blackpool was one of 12 Local Authorities identified by the Big Lottery Fund (BLF) to apply for the HeadStart funding as part of their fulfilling lives programmes. HeadStart is aimed at building the resilience of young people aged 10-14 years to reduce the likelihood of them developing mental health conditions in the future. The funding is a three stage process, Blackpool has been successful in both stage one (10K for project development) and stage two (500K to deliver an 18 month pilot project).
- 1.2 Clear guidance was given by BLF regarding what they wanted to see in the pilot project. This included an element of both universal and targeted approaches and had to cover young people's experiences at school, in the family home and in the community. The use of digital technology also needed to be included in the pilot.
- 1.3 The BLF have acknowledged that there is very little evidence available regarding what works in building young people's resilience. This has led to their decision to utilise the pilots as test and learn projects and have encourages each area to be innovative and risk taking in their approach to project design.
- 1.4 BLF have been clear that young people must be at the heart of project development and Blackpool has and continues to facilitate wide ranging participation and co-production opportunist to fulfil this objective.
- 1.5 Blackpool has developed the delivery model for this stage two pilot, consisting of two clusters of school, each containing one secondary school and two feeder primaries. A range of commissioned projects were agreed, based on feedback form young people and where possible, existing processes to access support have been utilised i.e. school processes, GIR, CAMHS etc. to avoid confusion and duplication.
- 1.6 Governance for the project is provided by an operational group and a steering group that then feed into CLT, the children's trust and health and well being board.
- 1.7 BLF are looking for a step change in the way that mental health services are designed and delivered. The ability to achieve this step change will greatly affect the chances of being successful at Stage three of the funding process.
- 1.8 The timescale for the pilot project is July 14 to December 15, and we are currently

waiting for confirmation from BLF regarding the deadline for the stage three submission; however this will not be before December 2015.

2. Supporting Information

- 2.1 Blackpool Council Commissioning Team have been involved in the project development and are represented on the operational and steering groups for HeadStart
- 2.2 Funding has been made available for the commissioning work will be led by Blackpool Council's Commissioning Team and commissioning processes are currently underway to procure the HeadStart programmes. It is estimated that this will be completed and contracts awarded by the end of the year.
- 2.3 It is accepted that this is a pilot and that if Blackpool is successful in stage three, that will provide 10 million over 5 years, and then a full commissioning strategy will be developed.

3. Key Issues

- 3.1 For a number of different reasons, the pilot project is currently running approx 12 weeks behind schedule. Therefore the commissioning process needs to be facilitated swiftly as any further delay may compromise Blackpool's chances of being successful in stage three.
- 3.2 Young people will be involved in all aspects of project delivery, including commissioning and monitoring. It is imperative that we ensure that their involvement is supported, for example times, dates and locations of meetings.
- 3.3 What processes can the project agree to ensure that all learning from this current commissioning process is recorded and utilised for the stage three submission.
- 3.4 Discussions regarding future re design of services will need to take place sooner rather than later to ensure that any possible future decisions regarding the re design of mental health services for young people can be achieved within the required timescale.

4. Recommendations and Next Steps

- 4.1 HeadStart and the model for the commissioning and delivery of young people's mental health services to be discussed at all relevant forums and with all appropriate partners.
- 4.2 Robust evaluation of all interventions must be in place to ensure effective evidence for the stage three submission.

Background papers:

HeadStart Stage two submission form
HeadStart Delivery Model
HeadStart Integrated Working Model