

29<sup>th</sup> July 2019

**Health Led Employment Trial Extension Approval**

**Purpose of Report**

This paper seeks approval from the board to extend the Health Led Employment Trial by 7 months, extending the delivery window from the 31st March 2020 to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020 and accept a further £1,499,206 from the Work and Health Unit who fund the trial.

**Thematic Priority**

Develop the SCR skills base, labour mobility and education performance.

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

This paper and any appendices will be made available under the Combined Authority Publication Scheme. This scheme commits the Authority to make information about how decisions are made available to the public as part of its normal business activities.

**Recommendations**

That the board approves the 7-month delivery extension and accepts the grant of £1,499,206

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 On the 24<sup>th</sup> July 2017, the Combined Authority resolved the recommendation from the Skills, Employment and Education Executive Board to endorse the trial proposal and its principles.
- 1.2 The Working Win, Health Led Employment Trial is the first global 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.
- 1.3 Working within the budget window of the Work and Health Unit (which includes the Department for Work and Pensions and the Department for Health) who fund the trial, the original go live date was profiled for November 2017. This allowed the minimum of 12 months support which was a key design principle of the trial and to engage with the profiled 7,500 residents.
- 1.4 Delays within the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) in the procurement of an evaluation team meant delivery couldn't start until May 2018 following an intensive 18-month design period.

## **2. Proposal and justification**

- 2.1** Originally the Work and Health Unit (WHU) were unable to allocate funds past the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020. However, this meant that referral and participants numbers on the trial would be compromised as the referral and delivery window was shortened.
- 2.2** Through on-going dialogue with the WHU an extension of 7 months was agreed which would allow referrals to take place until October 2019. This would also include an additional grant allocation of £1,499, 206. Of which £335,234 is assigned to the Combined Authority for ongoing contract management and £1,163,972 to the provider, South Yorkshire Housing Association.
- 2.3** To date over 3,118 residents have joined the trial with 1,557 in the trial receiving support. 215 people have moved into work when they were previously unemployed and 34 have sustained their employment when they were at risk of becoming unemployed because of their condition. A further 16 have been supported to return to work from being off sick.

## **3. Consideration of alternative approaches**

- 3.1** Significant consideration was given to the implications of this delay both within SCR but also within the WHU. This is the first global clinical trial of its size which is testing the concept of a modified 'individual place and support- IPS' model for those with a health condition who want to find work or stay in employment.

A key element of the modified IPS is a 12-month time limited support window (historical IPS has offered unlimited support which makes it a very expensive model, a modified version is testing the effectiveness of a reduced window and a lower cost model)

Not extending the trial to maximise the number of referrals and participants could have serious implications on the validity of the trial and the evidence it provides.

## **4. Implications**

### **4.1 Financial**

The Mayoral Combined Authority received an offer of £7,558,310 from the WHU in 2017/18. Due to the extension window officers have submitted and have had accepted a reprofiling request which will ensure that there is sufficient funding to cover the later workstream in 2019/20.

The grant offer letter from WHU states that the funding is solely to be used for the delivery of the trial

### **4.2 Legal**

Funding agreement variations would need to be put in place between the Mayoral Combined Authority and its partners. These will follow the Mayoral Combined Authority approved terms and conditions and will be subject to legal officer sign off.

### **4.3 Risk Management**

There is 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.

## 5. Communications

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

## 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

Other sources and references: