

MAYOR & CABINET			
Report Title	Response to the referral from Healthier Communities Select Committee relating to Public Health Grant Cuts: Health Visiting		
Key Decision	No	Item No.	
Ward	All		
Contributors	Director of Public Health		
Class	Part 1	Date:	June 5 2019

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Mayor and Cabinet with a response to the request from Healthier Communities Select Committee for assurances that the decision on the cut to the Health Visiting budget be made with regard both to the Mayor's manifesto pledge relating to children and young people, and to Health Visitor to Child ratios.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 Mayor and Cabinet are asked to note the referral and the response from officers and agree that it be submitted to the Healthier Communities Select Committee

3. Policy Context

- 3.1 The Health Visiting service contributes to the following key priorities of Lewisham's Corporate Strategy 2018-2022:
- Giving children and young people the best start in life
 - Delivering and defending health, social care and support
- 3.2 Lewisham's Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership vision is: "Together with families, we will improve the lives and life chances of the children and young people in Lewisham". This is achieved through a focus upon closing the gaps in outcomes achieved by our children and young people and agreement to ensure that children's and families' needs are prevented from escalating and are instead lowered. The ideal is for all children and young people to require only universal services and where further support is needed this should be identified and provided as early as possible.

4. Referral

- 4.1 In the Spending Review and Autumn Statement 2015 the government announced an in-year cut to the ring-fenced Public Health grant, with further cuts for each subsequent year to 2019/20. In Lewisham the grant is £24,325,000 for 2018/19 and the cut for 2019/20 will be £642,000. This will reduce the grant for 2019/20 to £23,683,000 and take the total cuts in the grant to date to £3,985,000.
- 4.2 Proposals for the management of this cut to the public health grant were developed in 2018 and presented to Mayor and Cabinet for review and agreement on 12th December 2018.
- 4.3 At its meeting on 3 December 2018, the Healthier Communities Select Committee received a report on the public consultation on proposed cuts to the public health grant, including cuts to health visiting services.
- 4.4 Healthier Communities Select Committee took oral evidence from Council officers and members of the public and after questioning and discussion, resolved to refer its views to the Mayor and Cabinet in the following terms:

The Healthier Communities Select Committee notes the Mayor's manifesto pledge to continue to give the highest priority to our children and family services and to ensure all our young people – no matter what their background or challenges – achieve their potential and thrive. Having heard the responses to the public consultation on public health cuts, specifically health visiting cuts, the committee is concerned about the impact the proposed cuts would have on current and future life experiences of children and young people in Lewisham. The committee therefore asks Mayor & Cabinet to make its decision on the proposed cuts to health visiting services having regard to these points and the evidence produced on health visitor to children ratios in paragraphs 11.21 to 11.33 of the Mayor & Cabinet report on these cuts.

5. Response

- 5.1 As a result to this referral, Mayor and Cabinet deferred their decision for reconsideration of the impact on staffing resources for this service, with a further report coming back to Mayor and Cabinet on 13th February 2019.
- 5.2 In this report, officers set out a revised proposal for implementation of the cut to the Health Visiting budget as follows:
- 5.3 The proposed cut to the Health Visiting service budget of £196,306 against a budget of £6,096,224 gives a 19/20 budget for Health Visiting of £5,899,918.
- 5.4 The pricing schedule submitted by Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust in their 2016 tender gave a contract value of £6,053,976 in 19/20. This means a reduction in funding of £154,058 to the service; this would be implemented through a change

to the contract with Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust to bring into effect a revised contract value of £5,899,918.

- 5.5 Following further consultation, Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust have confirmed that this cut can be taken without being put against the Health Visitor establishment, with the Trust accommodating the cut from overheads.
- 5.6 The Trust also welcome an opportunity to contribute to the planned strategic review of Early Help during the coming year.
- 5.7 With this reassurance, the cut to the Health Visiting budget was agreed at Mayor and Cabinet on 13th February 2019.
- 5.8 This reduction, and any future year changes to the public health budgets once announced, will need to be the subject of further officer proposals to ensure expenditure on services matches the available grant.

6. Legal Implications

- 6.1 Legal implications are as set out in the report.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1 Expenditure on public health in Lewisham is funded through the ring-fenced Public Health Grant. In 2019/20 this grant will reduce by £0.642m.
- 7.2 The cut of £196,306 in this report is being taken from the Health Visiting budget line within the Council's Public Health Budget.
- 7.3 If the cut is taken, it would result in a reduction of £154,058 from the contract value with LGT for 19/20. LGT has confirmed that it will be realised with no impact on the current Health Visiting staffing establishment.
- 7.4 The cut presented in this report is part of a number of cuts proposals that deliver the level of savings required for the Council to balance its budget as a result of the cut to the Public Health Grant in 19/20.

8. Crime and Disorder Implications

- 8.1 There are no crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

9. Equalities Implications

- 9.1 The proposal in this report has been considered for equalities impact and it is considered that there will be no impact in 19/20.

- 9.2 A full EAA will be undertaken as part of the Early Help Review, including any changes to the Health Visiting service in 20/21 as a key part of any Early Help offer

10. Environmental Implications

- 10.1 There are no environmental implications arising from this report.