

Supporting information regarding proposal for use of COMF funding – Q2 2023/24

Additional Measures

Additional Measures 3 (AM3) (2023/24) has enabled voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector providers to retain the staff and systems that they have put in place from previous year's Additional Measures grants, to continue to provide support to the growing numbers of people experience financial pressures and hardship. A further year of targeted funding will also allow time for specialist delivery partners to consider funding sustainability to meet community needs.

If agreed, the fourth year of Additional Measures funding (AM4) will be allocated using the following principles:

- Ensuring 100% of AM4 funding goes to direct service delivery.
- Ensuring all existing AM4 providers working directly with residents in need continue to receive an allocation.
- Recognising that providers have different financial specialisms and geographical localities and therefore continuing to commission a wide range of providers.
- Continuity – most of AM3 is funding or part-funding staff providing or coordinating direct support to residents. The complexity and longevity of caseloads mean that providers are dependent on confirmation of 2024/25 funding in order to continue take on new cases from the start of the new financial year.

The proposal for AM4 is therefore to extend the Additional Measures grants under the same arrangement for 2024/25 to partners currently delivering front-line advice services.

The overall £87,000 funding reduction when compared to the 2023/24 allocation will be managed as follows:

- The £50,000 grant to Sussex Community Development Association (SCDA) to deliver the Money Advice and Insights Project will cease at the end of the AM3 funding period, 31 March 2024 and will not be re-commissioned under AM4 as, by this point, the project outputs will have been successfully achieved.
- A 9.25% reduction will be applied to the other direct service organisations' current AM3 funding allocation to address the remaining £37,000.

The following table shows the actual allocation this represents.

Additional Measures allocation comparison: AM3 (2023/24) and proposed AM4 (2024/25)

| Additional Measures Partner | AM3 funding allocation | Proposed AM4 funding allocation with 9.25% reduction on AM3 figure |
|---|------------------------|--|
| Age Concern Eastbourne | £25,000 | £22,688 |
| AGE UK EAST SUSSEX | £39,000 | £35,392 |
| AMAZE | £39,000 | £35,392 |
| Brighton Housing Trust | £39,000 | £35,392 |
| Eastbourne Citizens Advice | £37,000 | £33,578 |
| Hastings Advice and Representation Centre | £43,000 | £39,022 |
| 1066 + Rother Citizens Advice | £74,000 | £67,155 |
| POSSABILITY PEOPLE LIMITED | £30,000 | £27,225 |
| Lewes District Citizens Advice | £37,000 | £33,578 |
| Wealden Citizens Advice | £37,000 | £33,578 |
| SCDA - Money Advice and Insights Project | £50,000 | 0 |
| Total | £450,000 | £363,000 |

Mitigations

The reduction in overall AM funding will be mitigated as follows:

- The Money Advice Insights Project (and other reports and wider factors activities) have enabled us to gather significant insights, information and evidence to inform future Financial Inclusion Programme activity. However, continuation of the SCDA Money Advice Insight project in 2024/25 is not essential, as future insights gathering can be achieved through Multi-agency Financial Inclusion Steering Group, related networks and reports, and direct engagement with delivery partners.
- The Money Advice Insights Project has coordinated AM3 partners to deliver a training offer to support front-line workers in 2023/24. We are working with the national Money and Pensions Service (MaPS) to offer Money Guiders training in early 2024 which will be co-ordinated by the Council and provide a new information, guidance and advice training programme for front-line public sector and VCSE sector workers to access.
- AM4 direct delivery partners will identify and target cohorts of residents with greatest need and will provide regular reporting to ensure that the funding is deployed for the most positive impact.