



**REPORT TO:** Conwy and Denbighshire Public Services Board

**DATE:** 23 March 2023

**LEAD OFFICER & ORGANISATION:** Amanda Jones, Corporate Performance and Improvement Manager, Conwy County Borough Council

**CONTACT OFFICER & ORGANISATION:** Hannah Edwards, Conwy County Borough Council

**SUBJECT:** North Wales Public Service Board Support Grant 2023-24 to 2025-26

## **1. What is the report about?**

- 1.1 This report is to inform the Board about the grant that has been made available from Welsh Government (WG) to the North Wales region in 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26 and how the funds have been allocated across the criteria set out by WG, detailing the type of activity proposed. Please find the grant submission form in Appendix A and the grant criteria in Appendix B (for 2023-24).

## **2. Recommendation(s)**

- 2.1 That Public Services Board members note the report, and in particular the change to the duration of the funding (now over 3 years rather than annually), the amount of funding available and the criteria that applies.
- 2.2 That Public Services Board members have opportunity to suggest areas of work that may be considered for inclusion, aligned to the high-level categories outlined in the funding proposal.

## **3. Report Details**

- 3.1 The funding is intended to assist Public Services Boards (PSBs) to build their strategic capacity and capability, as well as strengthen community engagement and involvement to support PSBs deliver the next cycle of local well-being plan.
- 3.2 North Wales Public Services Boards (supported by officers) have considered how this funding can be used in the region to support the delivery of their Well-being Plans. The submission that has been developed is deliberately high-level and broad to accommodate all the Public Services Boards in the North Wales Region and allow flexibility. Funding has been allocated as follows (further detail of proposed activity can be found in Appendix A):

| Summary of Proposal   | Expected Timescale  | Indicative Figures |
|---|---------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Build strategic capacity and capability across the region</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delivering a leadership and change maker programme.</li> <li>Continuing to build a strong regional partnership at NWIP.</li> <li>A programme to improve how we communicate PSB activity across our region, with each other and with our communities.</li> </ul> | 01/04/23 - 31/03/24 | £20,000            |
| <b>Support delivery of Well-being Plans - across PSBs</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An engagement programme of communication and branding.</li> <li>A regional solution to storing, updating and sharing data, evidence and insight.</li> </ul>  |                     | £20,000            |
| <b>Support delivery of Well-being Plans across – communities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A comprehensive programme of community engagement and capacity building.</li> <li>A pilot engagement programme with Town and Community Councils.</li> <li>A regional approach to communicating well-being that is co-created with our communities.</li> </ul>   |                     | £64,000            |
| <b>Total grant awarded</b>  |                     | <b>£104,000</b>    |

3.3 As in previous years, funding is offered on a health board footprint, with £103,892 being made available for the North Wales Region in the 2023-24 financial year. Flintshire County Council, as lead authority, has worked with North Wales Public Service Board Management Group (comprising of officers with a role in supporting PSBs across partners) to submit the proposal for 2023-24.

3.5 Funding must not be used for:

- Development / delivery of or maintaining of specific projects chosen by PSBs.
- Monitoring and evaluation activity to evidence outcomes and track progress over time (except for data portal maintenance).
- General partnership support.
- Funding of permanent salaried posts (i.e. funded only through this support grant).

3.6 Flintshire County Council will monitor the progress of work funded, ensuring adequate financial controls. Under-spend or over-spend will be particularly monitored by the lead

authority, with regular updates provided through the North Wales Public Services Board Management group.

3.7 Quarterly progress reports will be provided to WG demonstrating how objectives are being met, and how the work being funded relates to Public Service Boards more generally.

3.6 The funding period will be from 1 April 2023 - 31 March 2024 with the funding being paid in one instalment by Welsh Government at the end of the funding period, on completion of a satisfactory claim form. With agreement from the lead authority, partners will initially accept billing for any work that is progressed, then invoicing Flintshire County Council for the total amount owed at the end of the financial year.

#### **4. Consultation**

4.1 The proposal was first discussed with North Wales PSB Management group in February 2023. A draft proposal was shared for feedback with each of the PSB support officers prior to submission. The proposal was then shared with all of the Public Services Board chairs for their attention.

#### **5. What are the risks and what can we do to reduce them?**

5.1 There is a risk of over-spend of this grant, which would be likely to result in financial liability for partners.

5.2 There is a risk of underspend of this grant, which could be indicative of missed opportunities for the region.

#### **6. Power to make the decision**

6.1 This support funding has been made available to support Public Services Boards to meet their commitments in relation to the Well-being Of Future Generations (Wales) Act) 2015. Specifically it is to assist with the development of well-being plans, and the ongoing development and maintenance of assessments of local well-being.

6.2 If we are successful, we expect that:

- Our assessments of local well-being are up-to-date, relevant and easy to use (at least in relation to the priority areas that PSBs have set).
- Active and meaningful involvement of stakeholders, including hard-to-reach groups.
- Well-being plans and annual reports are clearly communicated and understood by stakeholders, avoiding duplication.
- Steps taken or planned in support of well-being objectives have been scoped collaboratively, and informed by evidence and best practice.