

Date: 25 September 2020

Subject: Approval of the variation to the Working Well Work and Health programme contract in order to develop the Working Well Light service as part of GM's economic recovery response

Report of: Councillor Sean Fielding, Portfolio Lead for Education, Skills and Work and Joanne Roney, Portfolio Lead Chief Executive for Education, Skills and Work

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this paper is to:

- Note the Chancellor's Summer statement to approve a variation of the devolved Working Well Work and Health Programme to expand the scope of the programme in order to offer early support to those who have become recently unemployed.
- Provide information on the expected process for utilising the additional funding allocated from the Department Work and Pensions (DWP) to develop the variation to contract by utilising section 72 of the 2015 Public Procurement Regulations
- Request approval from the GM CA to proceed as recommended

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The GMCA is requested to:

1. Consider and note the updates.
2. Approve the proposed variation to the Working Well Work and Health Programme in order to expand the scope of delivery to support those recently unemployed.

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Equalities Implications: N/A at this time

Climate Change Impact Assessment and Mitigation Measures – N/A at this time

Risk Management: N/A

Legal Considerations: Internal legal advice has been sought to ensure the variation is compliant

Financial Consequences – Revenue: This report considers the allocation of a grant received by Greater Manchester from the DWP; therefore, there are no direct revenue implications for GM

Financial Consequences – Capital: N/A

Number of attachments to the report: N/A

Comments/recommendations from Overview & Scrutiny Committee

BACKGROUND PAPERS: N/A

TRACKING/PROCESS		
Does this report relate to a major strategic decision, as set out in the GMCA Constitution		No
EXEMPTION FROM CALL IN		
Are there any aspects in this report which means it should be considered to be exempt from call in by the relevant Scrutiny Committee on the grounds of urgency?		n/a
GM Transport Committee	Overview & Scrutiny Committee	
n/a	n/a	

1. INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

- 1.1 As part of the Chancellor's summer statement it was announced that there would be a variation to the devolved Working Well Work and Health Programme (WW WHP) to enable the development of the Working Well Light Programme to offer early support to those have become recently unemployed.
- 1.2 From October 2020, the Working Well Light (WWL) programme will be a separate strand of WW WHP that will help people who have been unemployed and in receipt of benefits for at least 13 weeks, to find sustained work. The WWL will provide early support, which will complement the wider labour market offer of support through a sector-based approach that responds to local priorities.
- 1.3 In broad principles, the WWL will align to the core WW WHP programme, and the changes implemented by way of a variation to the contract utilising section 72 of the 2015 Public Procurement Regulations. As this is a variation to the existing WWWHP contract, the delivery provider will be Ingeus.
- 1.4 The rationale to vary the contract is based on the requirement to commence the service in early October 2020 as a critical response to the expected steep rise in unemployment. In order to respond effectively we would not be in a position complete a robust procurement and mobilisation process to take place in time for an October start. There would be potential of a duplication of offer between the current WWWHP and new service offer; a full procurement process would not constitute value for money over a 2-year contract.
- 1.5 DWP and GMCA Skills and Work Team have been working closely over the last few weeks to develop the service delivery model. The core metrics for the service are as follows:-
 - The Programme is due to commence in early October 2020 and complete in March 2022.
 - The programme will support 13,200 GM residents to find employment.
 - It is anticipated that between 18%-22% of people will secure employment within their 6 months on programme.
- 1.6 DWP have recently confirmed that GMCA's allocation for delivering the programme is £13m (£5.06m for 20/21 and £7.94m for 21/22). This includes a minimal management fee of 1.2% of the total funding (£156k), which although insufficient to cover the full additional costs, we can utilise ESF funding to bridge the gap.
- 1.7 The GMCA are in the process of the establishing a project team to work to the challenging timeframe of having the contract variation signed in early September in order that implementation of the contract can commence as early as possible.
- 1.8 The WWL Programme will:

- provide a light touch provision that includes, but is not limited to, transferable skills analysis, CV writing, job search, interview skills, self-efficacy and confidence building and takes a sector-based approach;
- be delivered and managed separately to the core Working Well WHP contract.

1.9 In order to achieve sustained employment outcomes, Providers will be required to:

- provide Participants with targeted support which complements the wider labour market offer in their locality;
- have strong links to national and local employers; and
- link up and integrate with local services, with referral pathways developed between the Adult Education Budget and the Health and Social Care Partnership Mental Health offer (Silvercloud)