

## Record of operational decision

<b>Decision title:</b>	Decision to directly award funding to the East Primary Care Network to pilot earlier identification of risky drinking in patients as identified within the corporate Covid-19 Recovery Plan.
<b>Date of decision:</b>	16/09/2021
<b>Decision maker:</b>	Acting Director of Public Health
<b>Authority for delegated decision:</b>	<p>Authority is granted under the Chief Executive scheme of delegation SA04:</p> <p>To discharge any functions in relation to the corporate public health duties of the council authorised to the director of public health under the NHS Act 2006 and the Health and Social Care Act 2012, including responsibility for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The annual report on the health of the local population;</li> <li>• Improving public health, including commissioning alcohol and drug misuse services, sexual health services, child health services, smoking cessation services;</li> <li>• Planning for, and responding to, emergencies that present a risk to public health;</li> <li>• Promoting safer communities by working with local criminal justice partners and police and crime commissioners, the probation service and the prison service;</li> <li>• The council's public health response to licensing applications;</li> <li>• Developing wellbeing, implementing the health and wellbeing strategy</li> </ul>
<b>Ward:</b>	Countywide
<b>Consultation:</b>	<p>Informal consultation has taken place with partner agencies and primary care to increase early identification of risky and problematic drinking. No consultation with service users completed due to time constraints.</p> <p>This pilot project is directly aimed at a primary care population therefore approaching the market at this time would not result in better value for money.</p>
<b>Decision made:</b>	To directly award funding to the East Primary Care Network, for the remainder of the current financial year 21/22, for training and resources to increase the early identification of risky drinking through increased interventions including but not limited to; Alcohol AUDIT C screening tool, brief interventions and patient surveys.
<b>Reasons for decision:</b>	<p>Evidence suggests increased use of alcohol throughout the covid-19 pandemic, the closure of many support services and reduced contact with support networks or health services such as GP will have significantly delayed early identification of problematic and risky drinking.</p> <p>Increasing the use of the alcohol, AUDIT C screening tool and subsequent brief interventions will contribute to preventing a further escalation of alcohol related harm including liver damage and increased mental ill health.</p> <p>The East PCN has been identified as having an increasing number of dependent drinkers and currently has no community specialist alcohol</p>

	<p>services within the locality. Practices within the PCN will :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct a patient survey of drinking habits</li> <li>• Train primary care staff in alcohol awareness, motivational interviewing techniques and brief interventions for alcohol use</li> <li>• Increase the use of the audit C screening tool within practices</li> <li>• Increase the opportunity taken to discuss patients drinking habits and provide appropriate advice and information</li> </ul> <p>Nationally, alcohol related deaths rose by 19.6% in 2020, this is the highest level recorded in a single calendar year since the start of modern records (in 2001).</p> <p>Nationally evidence suggests that those already drinking alcohol moderately were likely to have increased their consumption during the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>Increased alcohol use is associated with several major diseases and impacts individuals, families and communities.</p> <p>An evaluation of the project will be completed detailing activity levels and recommendations for future provision.</p>
<b>Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:</b>	<p><b>£25,000 for 2021/22 from Covid-19 outbreak management funds</b></p> <p>Low risk of non-delivery</p>
<b>Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:</b>	<p>Alternative options are unavailable at present.</p> <p>The funding is taken from the available COVID-19 outbreak management funds for Herefordshire which requires a rapid response.</p> <p>It would be neither time nor cost effective to approach the wider market regarding this time limited project.</p>
<b>Details of any declarations of interest made:</b>	<p>None</p>