

## SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

### OFFICER EXECUTIVE DECISION RECORD (Non Key)

The following decision was taken on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021 by the Executive Director, People Services.

Date notified to all members: 10<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Officer Non-Key decisions are not subject to call-in.

#### 1. **TITLE**

South Yorkshire Teaching Partnership Covid 19 Funding

#### 2. **DECISION TAKEN**

That the Executive Director – People Services

- a) Approves Sheffield City Council accepting Grant Funding in the sum of £139,329 from the DfE for the South Yorkshire Teaching Partnership and for Sheffield City Council to be the Accountable Body in respect of the grant on behalf of the South Yorkshire Teaching Partnership and for the funding to be utilised as detailed in this report.
- b) Approves the Council entering into a funding agreement with the DfE.

#### 3. **Reasons For Decision**

The purchase of IT equipment and phones for our social work students has allowed them to complete their mandatory university placements in order to pass their social work degree programmes and has allowed the placements to be blended by way of part working with service users and part working from home due to restricted access to worksites during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The learning that students have missed due to curtailment of placements will be replaced by additional virtual workshops provided by the Teaching partnership local authorities. This includes additional virtual tuition from the University.

The Teaching Partnership income generation plan has failed this financial year due to not being able to deliver face to face masterclass sessions for which places were previously charged. It has not been possible to replicate these virtually due to key speakers no longer being available. The DfE funding for loss of income generation supports the Teaching Partnership masterclass funds which will allow the budget to balance.

The provision of funding to support the backfill of social work apprentices for an extended period has allowed services to retain trained agency workers which has

been not only more cost effective and efficient but has provided consistent support to young people and those leaving care.

#### **4. Alternatives Considered And Rejected**

SYTP is one of the leading Social Work Teaching Partnerships in the country. We have two prestigious Universities in our partnership and meet Partner local authorities monthly to discuss strategies and contingency planning.

All University teaching and placements were paused in March 2020 and as a Partnership we spent two months converting worksite placements into virtual placements and purchased IT equipment and mobiles so that students were not disadvantaged.

We converted all face -to- face training onto an online platform so that business could continue as usual.

No other option could be considered as students would have failed their degree programmes which would have led to legal implications for Universities and damage to our partnership's reputation. Our local universities are our supply chain for newly qualified social workers as most students who study in Sheffield wish to remain and be employed in Sheffield. The support given to students who have had their placement curtailed by the impact of the pandemic has allowed us to fulfil our recruitment and retention strategy of employing and training newly qualified social workers.

#### **5. Documents used in making decision:**

1. ASYE bolster report and blended placement report
2. SYTP contingency planning report

#### **6.1 Any conflict of interest declared by any Executive Member who is consulted by the Officer when making the decision**

None

#### **6.2 Any dispensation granted by the Head of Paid Service**

None

#### **7. Respective Director Responsible for Implementation**

Executive Director, People Services