

## REQUEST FOR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR DECISION – ADD2529

### Title: Out of COVID-19 – Health Conversations with Young Londoners

#### Executive Summary:

There is an urgent need to increase the take-up of the COVID vaccine among London's young people. Young leaders have fed back they want space to hold conversations on vaccines and wider young people's health and wellbeing at events in their own communities. A grant programme, funded by Public Health England and NHS London, will support this. Successful grant applicants will deliver creative community events for young Londoners between 23-30 August.

#### Decision:

That the Assistant Director of Communities and Social Policy approves:

1. the receipt of £16,500 from Public Health England to spend on vaccine youth engagement events
2. the receipt of £16,500 from NHS London to spend on vaccine youth engagement events
3. expenditure of £30,000 for grants to community organisations who will host vaccine youth engagement events
4. expenditure of £3,000 on the administration fee for distribution of grants to London Plus.

#### AUTHORISING ASSISTANT DIRECTOR/HEAD OF UNIT

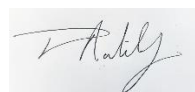
I have reviewed the request and am satisfied it is correct and consistent with the Mayor's plans and priorities.

It has my approval.

**Name:** Tom Rahilly

**Position:** Assistant Director  
Communities and Social Policy

**Signature:**



**Date:**

6 September 2021

## **PART I - NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE**

### **Decision required – supporting report**

#### **1. Introduction and background**

- 1.1. The Greater London Authority, Public Health England and NHS London have been jointly working together to promote the COVID vaccination programme.
- 1.2. As part of the work to promote the COVID vaccination programme, a series of ‘Big Conversation’ events have taken place with diverse communities across London. The GLA received £5,000 from Public Health England and £5,000 from NHS London, approved through a Delegated Authority Record (DAR) decision in March 2021 to deliver this work. A Service Level Agreement was set-up with London Plus to disburse honorariums to compensate community organisations.
- 1.3. Public Health England data from July 2021 shows evidence that young Londoners aged 18-25 have lower levels of vaccination take-up than other cohorts and age groups.
- 1.4. Young leaders, including from the Mayor’s Peer Outreach Team, were brought together in July 2021 to discuss their ideas in engaging young people in the vaccination campaign. The young leaders shared their desire to hold conversations on vaccines and wider health and wellbeing in their own communities.
- 1.5. “Out of COVID-19: Health Conversations with Young Londoners” will allow community-led creative events across London, in which conversations about COVID vaccines can take place in safe and trusted environments.
- 1.6. Public Health England and NHS London will provide money for grants to community organisations, which will be disbursed by London Plus for an administration fee. There is expected to be 30 community events on the week between Monday 23 August and Monday 30 August 2021.

#### **2. Objectives and expected outcomes**

##### **2.1. Objectives:**

- to increase COVID-19 vaccination take-up in 18-25-year-old Londoners
- to connect health and care professionals with trusted community organisations
- to create environments where 18-25-year-old Londoners can discuss the impact of COVID-19 on their mental health and wellbeing, and the impact of COVID-19 restrictions on their lives.

##### **2.2. Deliverables:**

- support to host 30 creative community events across London
- engagement of at least 1,000 18-25-year-old Londoners in conversations at these community events.

##### **2.3. Outcomes:**

- evidence of increases in COVID-19 vaccination take-up in 18-25-year-old Londoners in the areas where events take-place
- insights and evidence gathered through events that can be used and shared to support increases in COVID-19 vaccination take-up amongst 18-25-year-old Londoners

- insights and evidence gathered on wider health and wellbeing concerns used to develop wider support for 18-25-year-old Londoners.

### 3. Equality comments

- 3.1. Under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, as a public authority, the GLA must have 'due regard' of the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), that is the need to:
- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation
  - advance equality of opportunity
  - foster relations between people who have a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 3.2. "Out of COVID-19: Health Conversations with Young Londoners" has been designed specifically with the aim of ensuring that young Londoners who have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 have opportunities to have conversations peer-to-peer and with health and care professionals.
- 3.3. The Community Engagement team will work closely with Public Health England and NHS London to ensure the organisations that receive grants take account of the most up-to-date evidence regarding the COVID-19 vaccination rates and the impact of COVID-19 on communities. Due consideration will be taken in relation to the portfolio of grantees and partners involved in the programme to ensure it is inclusive and addresses intersections between age and other protected characteristics.
- 3.4. Compliance with the Public Sector Equality Duty will be kept under review throughout.

### 4. Other considerations

*Key risks:*

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Mitigation measures</b>	<b>Current probability (1-4)</b>	<b>Current impact (1-4)</b>	<b>RAG</b>
The short timeframe for the grant applications and preparation for events will hinder the number of applications.	Teams across the GLA will promote the grants, as well as promotion by NHS London and Public Health England across multiple channels.	2	2	A
The short timeframe means there are fewer health and care professionals available to support events.	We are working with NHS London and PHE to ensure health and care professionals are lined-up, and we utilise community champions and Healthwatch teams.	1	2	G

*Links to Mayoral Strategies:*

- 4.1. These events focus on recovery for young Londoners, directly linked to A New Deal for Young People Mission.

- 4.2. These events will provide a catalyst to conversations on mental health and wellbeing, directly linking to the Mental Health and Wellbeing Mission.
- 4.3. This workstream will directly respond to the London Health Inequalities Strategy focus on Healthy Communities and Healthy Minds – by allowing younger Londoners to participate in health conversations in their area.
- 4.4. There are no conflicts of interest to note for any of the officers involved in the drafting or clearance of this decision form.

## **5. Financial comments**

- 5.1. Approval is sought for receipt of £33,000 in grant funding from Public Health England (£16,500) and NHS London (£16,500) as contributions to the youth vaccination engagement events.
- 5.2. The GLA will provide London Plus with the £33,000 grant funding to further distribute as grants to community organisations who will host youth vaccine engagement events.
- 5.3. The income and expenditure will be managed by the Community Engagement Programme held within the Communities and Social Policy Unit.

## **6. Planned delivery approach and next steps**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
Announcement of grants	Monday 2 August
Applications close	Wednesday 11 August
Delivery start date	Monday 23 August
Delivery end date	Monday 30 August
Short evaluation reports submitted	Friday 3 September

## **Appendices and supporting papers:**

None.

**Public access to information**

Information in this form (Part 1) is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA) and will be made available on the GLA website within one working day of approval.

If immediate publication risks compromising the implementation of the decision (for example, to complete a procurement process), it can be deferred until a specific date. Deferral periods should be kept to the shortest length strictly necessary. **Note:** This form (Part 1) will either be published within one working day after it has been approved or on the defer date.

**Part 1 - Deferral****Is the publication of Part 1 of this approval to be deferred? NO**

If YES, for what reason:

Until what date: (a date is required if deferring)

**Part 2 – Sensitive information**

Only the facts or advice that would be exempt from disclosure under FoIA should be included in the separate Part 2 form, together with the legal rationale for non-publication.

**Is there a part 2 form – NO****ORIGINATING OFFICER DECLARATION:**

Drafting officer to  
confirm the  
following (✓)

**Drafting officer:**

Clifford Fleming has drafted this report in accordance with GLA procedures and confirms the following: Yes

✓

**Corporate Investment Board**

This decision was agreed by the Corporate Investment Board on 23 August 2021.

**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF FINANCIAL SERVICES:**

I confirm that financial and legal implications have been appropriately considered in the preparation of this report.

**Signature**



**Date**

23 August 2021