

Partnership approval for the investment in the healthy living centre (Hope House Centre)

Summary of our journey so far:

Our Plan 2, written by the Partnership in 2018 and based on identified community need and feedback, set out the intention to invest in the (yet to be built) healthy living centre. Due to the many and increasing health challenges our population are affected by, the Partnership wanted to do something lasting that helped people to access health and wellbeing related support and skills.

The opportunity arose to invest in the new healthy living centre to secure a space for training opportunities. This would be a lasting investment and something of a legacy for our Big Local Partnership. The Partnership requested £250k from Local Trust to set up a community kitchen and training space. Local Trust were supportive but wanted us to demonstrate that it was a viable project before they released the funds.

In order to do this, first we commissioned a scoping report (Shreeve, 2019), from an independent consultant, the findings of which suggested that a community kitchen, whether in the Healthy Living Centre or elsewhere, wasn't likely to be financially viable or practical to run as the main project.

Our second investigation looked at the viability of a training space that allows usage by a variety of health and wellbeing services – the Partnership found that there was a need, a high likelihood that it would be used if placed within the Healthy Living Centre, and a suitable method of delivery i.e. managed and owned by Hope House Surgery, with risks carefully considered and mitigated.

Agreement to go ahead with the investment: On the 29th of January 2020 the Partnership held an extraordinary meeting and agreed that we still want to continue with this investment with the understanding that we have done everything that Local Trust have asked us to do:

- **understand what the £250,000 grant is for:**
A 68m² space dedicated to health and wellbeing skills learning for 20 years, within the (yet to be built) healthy living centre (called Hope House Centre). The space will be owned and managed by the GPs surgery. It will be rented out for the delivery of skill learning sessions. The rent raised will cover the cost of the maintenance and management of the space.
- **what it will achieve:**
Based on current demand – 1,500+ hours per year of health and wellbeing skills learning. (30,000+ hours by end of year 20)
- such as HENRY cooking programme, Childrens' Centre adult learning groups, numerous Wellbeing College projects, postnatal exercise classes, mental health drop-in sessions, health education programmes for long-term sufferers of health conditions, social prescriber sessions.
This should result in people making better informed health choices, and sharing good practise with family and friends.
- **the risks and how they will be mitigated was discussed, along with the terms of the grant and timelines for completion.**