

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 10 November 2021	<b>Decision Taker:</b> Cabinet Member for Equalities, Neighbourhoods and Leisure
<b>Report title:</b>		Community Support Alliance: Test and Learn project	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All wards	
<b>From:</b>		Director of Communities	

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Cabinet Member for Equalities, Neighbourhoods and Leisure approves the allocation of grant funding to Pembroke House for the 'Test and Learn' project for the period October 2021 to March 2022 for a total sum of **£200,000**. A £100,000 will be sourced from the support grant that the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) provided for Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) residents and the other £100,000 will be from the allocated budget for the Community Support Alliance. This is in order to build long-term sustainable change and support for our residents who are vulnerable and financially insecure.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. The cabinet agreed in October 2020 to implement the Southwark Community Support Alliance. As part of this agreement, there was an instruction to council officers to test new ways of providing housing, employment, skills, money, social care and immigration support in local communities. Including testing how support from established public & VCS providers can be made accessible in partnership with local community 'anchor' organisations such as food hubs rooted in each part of the borough.
3. A cross-partner coordination group was established in November 2020 to support the implementation, of the Community Support Alliance (CSA). See appendix one for the 16 recommendations and the progress to date.
4. A terms of reference was agreed by the coordination group and five working groups were set up to focus on the following recommendations:
  - Volunteering: 7, 12
  - Food Security: 9, 8
  - Wider Social Needs: 5,10,11,4, 14
  - Hubs: 2,15, 3,13, 16, 1
  - Data / CRM: 6

Leads were allocated to each working group and the CSA project team supported with coordinating the working group meetings and agendas. Following a meeting in January and then February 2021 the Hubs working group proposed that the CSA needed to take practical steps that will enable the CSA achieve tangible outcomes and allow the CSA to refine its aims, objectives and operating model, as briefly summarised below.

5. The Hubs working group, provided a paper of recommendations for the Coordination group on the CSA in February 2021. It briefly mentioned:
  - a. That the development of the CSA culminates several years of developing partnerships and exploring different ways to address the issues explored in the CSA review paper. It also highlighted that further clarity was required in order for the CSA to develop the scope and therefore important that the overall ambition for what the CSA is trying to achieve is clear and that all are working to a common blueprint.
  - b. The Initial Covid-19 community hub response had clear objectives and now the next phase is to seek to test the principles and ways of working that would underpin the CSA through practical joint work – ensuring that we focus on function and not just form.
  
6. The CSA coordination group meeting in March 2021 was an interactive session to discuss the vision and priorities of the CSA. All 32 attendants took part in five breakout rooms and were facilitated by a chair that was involved in the review of the Community Hub in July 2020. As a collective decision, it was decided that the next steps was to test and implement the 16 recommendations on smaller scale within a neighbourhood area. Please see detail within appendix two for a summary of the discussions from the breakout rooms and the test and learn project plan.
  
7. Public Health Intelligence wrote a *Community hub statistical briefing* (May 2021) which included the number of residents that have accessed the Community hub. This is shown in the table below:

<b>Vulnerability status</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage %</b>
CEV (established in March 2020)	Clinical high risk to COVID-19 severe disease and mortality.	UK Government – shielded patient list (SPL), updated weekly.	11,303	27.0
EV (established in February 2021)	Increased risk of COVID-19 infection, hospitalisation and death based on wider factors known to	UK Government – shielded patient list (SPL),	15,429	36.8

	influence these factors (QCovid).	updated in <b>Feb 2021</b>		
Non-CEV/EV (received since March 2020)	Residents who are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Identified as vulnerable by council services</li> <li>- Referred by members</li> <li>- Referred by voluntary sector</li> <li>- Self-referred (online, email, phone)</li> </ul>	No formal source – referrals from a range of sources (see definition).	15,212	36.2
<b>Total</b>			<b>41,944</b>	<b>100</b>

8. The table above highlights that those that were considered clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) in the first group represented a smaller cohort than those that were neither CEV nor EV.
9. The Walworth neighbourhood plan that Pembroke House wrote also developed a view that those most vulnerable to the COVID-19 didn't, require as much support as those that lacked local connections and were seen to be more vulnerable to the national lockdowns.
10. There were two meetings in May 2021 with the proposed project group that approved the direction of travel and to implement the Test and Learn project within the Walworth neighbourhood in order to take forward 11 of the recommendations and test them on a neighbourhood level.

## KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

11. The test and learn project (see appendix 2 for project plan) will target those populations where there is the greatest inequality and ensure that an experience-based insight and co-design approach with residents to ensure the development of the CSA delivers tangible impact for people's health and wellbeing.

As part of the 16 recommendations, 11 (see below) of these will be tested and implemented as part of the test and learn project – within the Walworth neighbourhood project:

- 4, 5,6,7
  - 10, 11, 12, 13
  - 14, 15 and 16
12. Alongside this project the emerging Walworth Neighbourhood Food Model also offers a clear opportunity to test new approaches and activities rapidly. Once the test and learn project is established within Walworth, then another neighbourhood will be selected to test activities alongside

Walworth, with the aim of identifying clear common features and principles of neighbourhood-working that can be adopted across the borough through the CSA.

13. The overall aim is for these test-and-learn activities to help refine the future goals and operating model of the CSA, and inform decisions around future resource requirements to support this. Recognising that this may be using resources differently as well as bringing inward investment in.
14. Pembroke House in partnership with the Walworth network Group will be the project lead partner. They will be supported by the CSA project group that is made up of a number stakeholders and partners, as stated within test and learn project plan. Pembroke House is one of the key Food Hubs that have been providing food deliveries to an average of 1800 vulnerable residents per week, since March 2020 and throughout the COVID-19 national restrictions.
15. The test and learn project will be part funded from the £100K allocated to the CSA by Southwark Council and £100K from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) grant funding, that was provided for those Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) residents. The purpose of the MHCLG grant is to provide support to local authorities in England towards expenditure lawfully incurred or to be incurred by them in support of CEV residents during the national restrictions.
16. As stated by the MHCLG and within the: *Guidance to Local Authorities on support to Clinically Extremely Vulnerable individuals V5.0 17 March 2021* - that all Councils should have plans in place, should shielding return and councils should prioritise plans and: **Develop sustainable models of ensuring access to food locally.**
17. The allocated project funding of £200K will be spent in the following areas:

(Figure one)

Item	Work Area requirements	Cost £	Lead
Transition funding for the Walworth Community Food Hub until end of September 2021	Staff, services, food	30,000	Pembroke House
<b>People</b>			
Walworth Neighbourhood Support Network Programme manager	1 FTE (potential secondee)	40,000	Pembroke House
Walworth Campaign manager	1 FTE	25,000	Walworth network Group, CSA

			project Group
<b>Campaign and resources</b>			
Cohort facilitation and training & bursaries for resident and local group involvement	Support from VCS	10,000	Walworth network Group and Community Southwark
Volunteer engagement and coordination	Support from VCS	10,000	Community Southwark
Campaign and communication resources	Support from VCS	5,000	CSA project group, Walworth network Group and Community Southwark
<b>Assets &amp; test-sites</b>			
Service innovation fund	LBS, Digital support	30,000	CSA project group and Walworth network Group
Walworth Living Room test-site refurb		10,000	Pembroke House
Aylesbury Kitchen 'community clinic' rooms-fit out		10,000	Notting Hill Genesis
Other spaces identified to support project		10,000	CSA project group, Walworth network Group and Community Southwark
<b>Data &amp; learning</b>			
Walworth neighbourhood data model development	Partners, Ratio	20,000	Pembroke House, Walworth network Group
Developing second neighbourhood		<b>Tbc</b>	CSA project group
<b>Total</b>		<b>£200,000</b>	

18. This funding will be used to achieve the overall aims and objectives of the test and learn project as stated within paragraph 14 and appendix two and within the test and learn project plan.
19. Figure two below shows the allocation and spend to date for the MHCLG grant funding and the CSA allocated funding.

### Policy framework implications

20. The test and learn project directly contributes to Southwark Council's Fairer Future Commitments for the following themes:

- a. Theme 1 - COVID-19 response
- b. Theme 2 - Southwark Together
- c. Theme 5 - Tackling health inequalities
- d. Theme 8 - Thriving neighbourhoods<sup>1</sup>

## **Community, equalities (including socio-economic) and health impacts**

### **Community impact statement**

- 21. COVID-19 continues to impact residents and partners across the borough. As previously noted by cabinet the issues raised demonstrate, the full impact of COVID-19 on the borough cannot yet be known. This will become clearer in the months ahead. Some impacts may not be clear for some years.
- 22. This test and learn project intends to provide targeted support for those Communities and groups that have been disproportionately affected by the Pandemic COVID-19. One such area of inequality is access to food and Pembroke House played a pivotal role in food provision. Pembroke House works closely with the Community hub and the Southwark Food Action Alliance to address food insecurity that has been further exposed by COVID-19.
- 23. The Public Sector Equality Duty will be taken into account as the project deliver services and respond to the continuing impact of COVID-19 on the borough as well as plan any changes to operations arising from that impact.

### **Equalities (including socio-economic) impact statement**

- 24. A key objective of the project is to learn the lessons of the pandemic and to begin to build a neighbourhood where everyone can contribute. By building a local campaign, engaging with and tapping into the energies of the whole Walworth neighbourhood. The project will ensure that services provide a wide provision of support, which is accessible and relatable for Southwark residents that require social and welfare support.
- 25. The Public Sector Equality Duty has been considered and no additional consultation is required. The project team in line with the Community hub will be collecting data on residents including protected characteristics.

### **Health impact statement**

- 26. This test and learn project will look at the needs of residents beyond just requiring food , or support with welfare payments but will address, measure and support those that need support and advice around
  - Self-efficacy

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.southwark.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/fairer-future/fairer-future-commitments>

- Health & Wellbeing
- Education & skills
- Employment

### **Climate change implications**

27. As the project will take a neighbourhood approach, services and support will be within the local Walworth area. This will promote active travel and a reduction in requiring car or bus transport. In addition, the food banks that will be part of this project receive food surplus from the Felix Project. The Felix project rescues good quality, surplus food from the food industry that cannot be sold and would otherwise go to waste. This is high-quality and nutritious, including a high proportion of fresh fruit and vegetables, baked goods, salads, meat and fish. Suppliers include supermarkets, wholesalers, farms, restaurants and delis.

### **Resource implications**

28. As stated in paragraph 16 the allocation of the £200,000 will be provided by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) grant and the CSA allocated fund.

### **Legal implications**

29. Please refer to the concurrent report of the Director of Law and Democracy in paragraph 35.

### **Financial implications**

30. As stated in paragraph 16 the allocation of the £200K will be provided by the Ministry of Housing, communities and Local Government (MHCLG) grant and the CSA allocated fund.
31. Once the project is, approved Southwark council will make the £200K grant payment to Pembroke House who will be managing the funds with wider governance and oversight provided by members of the Walworth network group.

### **Consultation**

32. The review of the community hub has involved extensive consultation with partners in the VCS and health sectors and with residents impacted by COVID-19. It has also involved consultation with officers across the council. Moving forward co-design with partners and residents is a key principle of the approach to meeting the needs of vulnerable residents.
33. The Coordination group chaired by Cllr Alice MacDonald, have a met a number of times where partners and stakeholders shared their thoughts, ideas and challenges on the CSA where noted and minutes have been shared with attendees.

## **SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS**

### **Director of Law and Governance**

34. This report builds on the Cabinet decisions in September and October 2020 to establish the Community Support Alliance. It recommends the establishment of a test and learn project to identify how the recommendations set out in the October report might be effectively implemented on the ground and its conclusions will form the basis of an update to the Cabinet on the CSA in January 2022. The report recommends the provision of a grant to Pembroke House to facilitate this project.
35. The council is able to make these arrangements in accordance with the general power of competence for local authorities set out in section 1 of the Localism Act 2011.
36. The cabinet member is delegated authority to make this decision in accordance with 3D of the constitution and particularly under paragraph 3 (agreement to the provision of grants) and paragraph 14 “monitor the effectiveness and appropriateness of the plan or strategy or programme within the portfolio holder’s responsibility and agree any necessary changes.”
37. Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, in making this decision the cabinet member is reminded that the council must comply with its public sector equality duty which requires it to have due regard to the need to (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act; (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it. Reference to consideration of these equality issues is set out in the report and should be given due regard.

### **Strategic Director of Finance and Governance (Finance Concurrent Reference FIN1279 - JB)**

38. The report recommends approval of the allocation of grant funding for the ‘Test and Learn’ project for the period October 2021 to March 2022 for a total sum of £200k. Paragraph 32 notes the £200k will go to Pembroke House who will manage the project along with the Walworth group.
39. The table at paragraph 18 presents the categories of activity funded via the proposed grant.

40. Paragraph 31 notes the activity is funded from central government through both specific funding allocations and the MHCLG claims process. The Strategic Director of Finance and Governance in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources will determine the most appropriate allocation of Covid-19 emergency funding to council priorities

## BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Cabinet paper 20 <sup>th</sup> October: Southwark Community Support Alliance Update	Communities Division, Environment & Leisure 160 Tooley Street	Stephen Douglass 0207 525 0886
<a href="http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=302&amp;MId=6663&amp;Ver=4">http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=302&amp;MId=6663&amp;Ver=4</a>		
Cabinet paper 8 <sup>th</sup> September: Community Hub - supporting the needs of the most vulnerable	Communities Division, Environment & Leisure 160 Tooley Street	Stephen Douglass 0207 525 0886
<a href="http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=302&amp;MId=6662&amp;Ver=4">http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=302&amp;MId=6662&amp;Ver=4</a>		
Papers of the review working group	Communities Division, Environment & Leisure 160 Tooley Street	Stephen Douglass 0207 525 0886
<a href="https://www.communitysouthwark.org/southwark-community-hub-one-stop-support-during-the-covid-19-coronavirus-crisis">https://www.communitysouthwark.org/southwark-community-hub-one-stop-support-during-the-covid-19-coronavirus-crisis</a>		
Fairer Southwark Food Plan	Communities Division, Environment & Leisure 160 Tooley Street	Rosie Dalton Lucas 020 7525 0271
<a href="https://www.southwark.gov.uk/health-and-wellbeing/public-health/for-professionals?chapter=4">https://www.southwark.gov.uk/health-and-wellbeing/public-health/for-professionals?chapter=4</a>		
Transitional Funding Food hub and bank Funding: For the Food hubs and Food bank that support the Southwark Community Support Alliance	Communities Division, Environment & Leisure 160 Tooley Street	Stephen Douglass 0207 525 0886

## APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	16 Recommendations update July 2021
Appendix 2	Test and Learn Project Plan

## AUDIT TRAIL

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Stephen Douglass, Director of Communities	
<b>Report Author</b>	Public Health, Health Improvement Interventions & Referral Manager	
<b>Version</b>	Final	
<b>Dated</b>	10 November 2021	
<b>Key Decision?</b>	Yes	
<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER</b>		
<b>Officer Title</b>	<b>Comments Sought</b>	<b>Comments Included</b>
Director of Law and Governance	Yes	Yes
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	Yes	Yes
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Yes	Yes
<b>Date final report sent to Constitutional Team</b>	10 November 2021	