

Our Ref: PW/AKB/FOI-01-226

1st February 2023

Stafford Education & Enterprise Park
Weston Road
Stafford
ST18 0BF

Sent by email

Telephone: 0300 123 1461

Dear

FOI-01-226

Your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for your request dated the 18th January 2023. We can confirm that the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Integrated Care Board does hold the information that you have requested. Please see our responses in blue below:

My name is Amanda Kinsella. I work for a company that specialises in digital solutions in mental health. Our product provides an option for immediate and effective treatment, which improves patient flow, by reducing CBT waiting times and Primary Care workload.

Last year NHS England's Director of Mental Health Claire Murdoch has promised an 'absolute'. commitment to investing £2.3bn of extra spending by 2023-2024.

I am writing to you to ask the following questions pertaining to this ring-fenced budget that has been allocated to 2023/24 for investing in Mental Health Services.

It would be helpful if you could please give me information on the following points:

- 1. How much of the £2.3 billion mental health investment fund will (has) Together we're better – Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent ICS receive(d)?**

£30,873,000.

- 2. How has/ will this have been allocated and which individual / individuals are responsible for this from a commissioning perspective.**

The allocation of funds was agreed through the Mental Health Programme Board. This includes representation from all system partners including Primary Care, Local Authorities, Mental Health Providers, Voluntary Sector Representatives and ICB colleagues.

3. How will the ICS use the additional funds?

a. What type of projects will the ICS implement with the additional funds?

Projects that can be supported by the funding allocation are clearly defined by NHS England.

Please refer to:

[**B1297-mental-health-investment-standard-categories-january-2022-1.pdf**](#)
[**\(england.nhs.uk\)**](#)

b. Is any funding ringfenced to fund initiatives/projects designed to try/test new digital solutions/products?

Please refer to document detailed against question 3a for categories that funding can be allocated to.

c. What type of outcomes is the ICS hoping to achieve with the initiatives/projects funded by the additional money?

(Taken from the website): Our ICB Aims and Outcomes for Mental Health are:

- We want to increase the number of psychiatric intensive care beds and reduce significantly the number of patients being sent out to Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent to receive care.
- We are committed to providing seven-day-a-week and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS).
- We are expanding crisis and home treatment teams to ensure more people are treated in their own home avoiding inpatient stays.
- We are committed to reducing the number of people who take their own life or experience self-harm.
- We want to reduce the number of people who frequently attend A&E with mental health concerns and also reduce the number of frequent callers to ambulance services.
- We are developing a 24/7 intensive outreach service that includes support to young people with eating disorders.

d. As part of the fund allocation process, will Place Based Partnerships and/or Primary Care Networks be able to apply to receive monies from the additional funds to implement projects they believe will benefit their local patient population?

As detailed in the response to question 3a above, the ICS is mandated in terms of the projects that the investment can support. The ICS, however is working with on a number of projects involving Primary Care including:

- Continued expansion of IAPT in Primary Care.
 - Integrated primary and community services aligned to Primary Care Networks for people with Serious Mental Health Illness.
 - Increased access to training for Primary Care in relation to suicide prevention.
 - Alignment of Mental Health Practitioners to Primary Care Networks to support older people's mental health.
- e. If that is the case, is there a process by which Place Based Partnerships and/or Primary Care Network apply to receive monies from the additional funds?**

Not applicable.

- 4. If you would be able to give me the names and contact details of the commissioners responsible for managing the ring-fenced mental health investment that would be helpful.**

Under Section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act as this relates to personal information.

- 5. Could you also please let me know you let me know what the process is at the ICS for commissioning pilots for primary care.**

There is currently no set process, this is dependent on ICB programmes, however a process used previously has been:

- Practices could submit an application for a pilot if and when these are identified as part of any projects agreed through relevant ICB Programme Boards.
- The process including criteria and any relevant documentation would be made available along with timescales for submission.
- A process for assessing submissions would take place and outputs and outcomes from successful submissions would be monitored by the relevant Programme Board and project lead.

- 6. I would be interested to know who if anyone at the ICS is responsible for increasing capacity by releasing workload, again their contact details would be much appreciated.**

Under Section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act as this relates to personal information.

It is our hope to use the information provided to enable informed discussions in working with the ICS and Place Based Partnerships to offer primary care teams a clinically proven digital treatment that helps to address the huge and growing need in the community to treat depression.

Right of Appeal

Should you require any further information or clarification regarding this response please do not hesitate to contact us. If you are dissatisfied with the response, you are entitled to request an internal review which should be formally requested in writing and must be within two calendar months from the date this response was issued.

To request an internal review

You can request an internal review by contacting the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Integrated Care Board FOI team by emailing the team at StaffsStokeFOI@staffsstoke.icb.nhs.uk or by post to the address at the top of this letter.

If you are not content with the outcome of your internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Integrated Care Board's FOI complaints procedure.

The ICO can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

www.ico.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

Paul Winter
Associate Director of Corporate Governance