



Derby City Council

COUNCIL CABINET
18 March 2015

Report of the Cabinet Member for Adults and Health

ITEM 11

Findings of the Consultation on Updating the Outcomes for Voluntary Sector Grant Funded Services

SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Council and Southern Derbyshire Clinical Commissioning Group (SDCCG) currently have grant funding agreements with Voluntary and Community and Faith (VCF) Sector organisations for a range of preventative and infrastructure services.

The three year agreements were established after a grant funding process in 2011-12. A joint consultation with the CCG has taken place on updated grant funding outcomes and for a proposed grant bidding process. Further details of the background to the recent consultation and a list of the current grant funded organisation were provided to Members in a Cabinet Report on 21 January 2015.
- 1.2 The Council and SDCCG have consulted on joint draft outcomes for preventative services that will support the Derby Plan, the draft Derby Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the implementation of the Care Act. The consultation exercise ran in parallel with the consultation on the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and feedback on the Health and Wellbeing Strategy has been used to inform the final outcomes. Appendix 3 sets out the final outcomes for grant funding. Appendix 4 provides a report on the consultation.
- 1.3 In parallel to the Council's decision making process, SDCCG will carrying out a similar process to review the response to the consultation and plan for the proposed joint grant funding process.
- 1.4 To allow sufficient time to develop jointly agreed service specifications for the grant bidding round, consider and evaluate responses from the sector, it is proposed to extend the current grant agreements with the sector to the end of March 2016. This will bring the funding duration for these agreements in line with the Arts grants to be considered in the financial matters report, thereby delivering a consistent approach across the third sector.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To approve the outcomes for grant funded preventative services identified in this report and note the findings of the consultation process in making that decision.
- 2.2 To approve the Council's participation in a joint grant funding process that will seek applications from VCF organisations to meet the updated outcomes. This will provide

recommendations for a new set of VCF grant aid agreements and an equality impact assessment on these recommendations to a Cabinet meeting in 2015.

- 2.3 To approve the extension of the current grant funding agreements identified at appendix 2 to the end of March 2016.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The current funding agreements for the services listed in Appendix 2 come to an end in September 2015. The Council and SDCCG have identified that VCF grant funded services provide effective, value for money support for their priorities.
- 3.2 The consultation to refresh the outcomes for grant funded services has allowed the Council and SDCCG to update these outcomes to reflect current priorities and changes in the way that social care and health services are delivered in the City.
- 3.3 The focus of the updated outcomes has been to maximise the independence of vulnerable adults in the community, reduce demand upon statutory services and promote the independence and resilience of individuals and communities.
- 3.4 The extension to the current agreements will allow time for a planned bidding round with the sector.



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Report of the Strategic Director of Adults, Health and Housing

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 Cabinet members will recall they received a report at their meeting on 21st January which provided:
- Information on the Voluntary Community and Faith Sector Grant Aid Strategy and the related grant aid round in 2011
 - Information on the assessment of the effectiveness of grant aided services that took place in 2014
 - A list of the current grant funded services
 - The proposal for the updating of the required outcomes for grant funded services .

4.2 Equalities Impact

If the recommendations contained within this report are accepted there may be an impact upon people from the protected characteristics as new services may offer more effective support for the updated grant aid outcomes. A full equalities impact assessment will be part of the report on the proposals for grant aid funding in June 2015. This will identify the impact and actions required to mitigate against any

negative impact. Further details can be found in the EIA for this Report, Appendix 5.

4.3 Responding to New Developments

The Council and SDCCG are partners in the new Health and Wellbeing Strategy. The consultation on the strategy ended on 20 February 2015. This strategy provides an overarching framework for improving health and wellbeing across all health and social care services.

The draft joint outcomes for grant aided services (set out in Appendix 3) will support the Council and SDCCG to work with the VCF sector to implement the:

- the final Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- the Derby Plan
- the Care Act and the Your Life Your Choice Strategy

4.4 Consultation

The Council and SDCCG carried out a consultation to update the outcomes for grant funded services. The consultation sought the views of funded and unfunded VCF organisations, their service users, the public and stakeholders.

Local organisations were informed of the intention to consult on a new set of outcomes for grant funded services in a mailing to grant funded services on the 18 December 2014. The consultation process opened on 8 January 2015 and closed on the 18 February 2015. The consultation was promoted through:

- a mail out to all funded organisations
- Community Action Derby's newsletter to 800 local organisations and CAD's website
- The Information and Advice Network
- The New Communities Networking Forum
- The Children and Young People's Provider Network
- Council and SDCCG website consultation pages
- A press release through the City's Facebook page
- Learning Disability Partnership Board mailing list

People responded to the consultation through an online and a paper questionnaire and responses were also accepted through letters and emails to the Council and SDCCG. In addition, the Council and SDCCG held a number of consultation events and accepted invitations from local organisations to attend their meetings to discuss the consultation. The comments made at these events and meetings were collected, shared with the attendees and included within the consultation responses. These meetings included:

- The Council House with representatives of local groups and service users
- The Right Way for Asperger's Self Help Group
- The Derby Deaf Forum

- A discussion at the Dignity Day event at the Indian Community Centre hosted by Making Space and SEWA project
- An event for people with learning disabilities, their carers and supporters hosted by St James Centre
- The City Council Diversity forums for Gender and Sexual Diversity, the 50+ Forum at the West Indian Community Centre, the Older People's Diversity Forum
- Information and Advice Network and Derby Integrated Advice Partnership Meeting
- New Communities Networking Forum
- The Hardy Group (early onset dementia support group)
- Derbyshire Positive Support (HIV and Aids Support Group)

To respond to the interest in the consultation process the consultation period was extended to accommodate additional meetings.

The Council and SDCCG sought comments on the outcomes and on which sections of the community should be a priority for grant funded preventative services. They also sought comments on the grant funding process and upon the type of local service that had the potential to deliver the outcomes set out in the consultation.

4.5 The consultation indicated that there was:

- Strong support for the outcomes and their focus on:
 - prevention, maximising independence and promoting resilience
 - person centred services that are responsive to individual needs
 - services that build on, and develop, the skills and assets of individual customers to support their independence
- Strong support for a main grant programme alongside a smaller, simpler grant programme to support one-off VCF projects.

4.6 Feedback from the consultation was used to prepare the final grant funding outcomes and will inform the proposed grant funding process.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 The following alternative options were considered:

- a) Allow currently funded grant agreements to end in September 2015.

This option was rejected because it failed to take advantage of the potential for grant funded services to provide cost effective support for the Council and SDCCG's priorities.

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer	Anita Barnett
Financial officer	Toni Nash
Human Resources officer	Liz Moore
Estates/Property officer	N/A
Service Director(s)	Perveez Sadiq
Other(s)	

For more information contact:	Ian Chennery 01332 642753 ian.chennery@derby.gov.uk
Background papers:	None
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 – Implications Appendix 2 – List of Grant Funded Organisations Appendix 3 – Final Grant Funding Outcomes Appendix 4 – Consultation Report Appendix 5a - EIA Findings of the Consultation on Updating the Outcomes for Voluntary Sector Grant Funded Services Appendix 5b – EIA Appendix: Affected Services and Customer Groups

IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

- 1.1 The Council funds the voluntary sector through a range of grants. Some grants come via central government or external agencies and some grants are made directly by the Council from its own general funds. The budget for voluntary sector grant funded services is within AHH 2015-16 Revenue Budget and has been considered at Full Council on the 4 March 2015. The one off £50k revenue budget saving shall be met from the Care Act Implementation grant for 2015/16.

Legal

- 2.1 There is no provision in the Care Act 2014 itself requiring local authorities to consult on changes to local practice. However, the Care and Support Statutory Guidance (October 2014) advises local authorities to make a conscientious engagement with stakeholders in respect of changes in policy or practice.
- 2.2 The principles of effective consultation require a consultation process to:
- be conducted at a time when the proposals are still at a formative stage
 - give sufficient reasons to enable intelligent consideration and response
 - provide adequate time for consideration and response
 - have its outcome “conscientiously taken into account” when the proposals are finalised
- 2.3 Section 2(1) of the Care Act 2014 places a duty on local authorities to provide or arrange services that reduce needs for support among people and their carers in the local area, and contributes towards preventing or delaying the development of such needs.

Personnel

- 3.1 The timescale for a decision on future grant aid agreements proposed in this report provides for a 12 week notice period for organisations whose funding is reduced or ended in the proposed grant aid process. This will allow the organisations to manage any personnel implications.

IT

- 4.1 There are no IT implications arising from this report.

Equalities Impact

- 5.1 The grant aid process has the potential to have an impact upon people from the protected characteristic groups. This will need to be considered within the June report to Cabinet on the recommendations for future grant funded services. The grant funding agreements require organisations to comply with equalities legislation

and to monitor the equality groups that their service users are from. They will be required to review their equalities performance annually and develop an equalities improvement plan that is proportionate and appropriate to their service.

Health and Safety

6.1 There are no health and safety implications arising from this report.

Environmental Sustainability

7.1 There are no environmental sustainability implications arising from this report

Property and Asset Management

8.1 There are no property and management implications arising from this report

Risk Management

9.1 There are no risk assessment implications arising from this report

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

10.1 The report supports the Corporate objective to promote self-reliance and resilience in communities so that people are less dependent on public services.