

South Area Council – Procurement and Financial Update

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide a financial and procurement update and provide a steer on future commissioning and projects intentions for:
- Age UK Barnsley – Better Together Service
 - South Area Environmental Caretaker Service update
 - South Area Council commissioning budget

2. Recommendations

Age UK Barnsley – Better Together Service

- 2.1 That Members note the information at section 3 on the Age UK Barnsley Better Together Service and give approval to option a) which is to continue the contract for 1 year from 1st September 2023 to 31st August 2024. The cost would be £59,944. This funding is currently ringfenced to this contract from the South Area Council commissioning budget.

South Area Environmental Caretaker Service update

- 2.2 That Members note the update at section 4.

South Area Council commissioning budget

- 2.3 That Members note the information on the South Area Council commissioning budget at section 5.

3. Age UK Barnsley – Better Together Service

Background

- 3.1 In 2021 the South Area Council tendered for a provider to deliver a service that addresses loneliness and isolation amongst older people living in the four wards that make up the South Area Council. The aim of the service was to complement existing service provision, increase the security, independence and health and well-being of older people at risk of, or experiencing loneliness and isolation.
- 3.2 Age UK Barnsley successfully tendered and won the contract to deliver the 'Better together' service which started in September 2021. Quarterly report attached for information.

Aim of the contract

- 3.3 The service:
- Provides one to one support and interventions to help people become more independent.
 - Provides support to increase the number of people accessing services that they need.
 - Helps to increase the number of people engaged in physical activity.
 - Provides support to community groups and partners to become more inclusive and help understand the needs of the community.
 - Supports and develops opportunities for volunteering within the South Area.
 - Provides information, advice and guidance to residents in the South.

- Aims to Increase the number of people reporting improved levels of loneliness and isolation.
 - Supports services, community groups, businesses, and partners to become more Dementia Friendly.
 - Actively refers people to appropriate services including the South Area Council Commissioned services.
 - Helps to support and improve the relationship between the Council and the Community.
 - Delivers projects and community activity to improve social isolation and loneliness in the South Area.
 - Acts as eyes and ears in the community, developing supportive networks and gathering local intelligence that can help improve the understanding and better delivery of support to tackle social isolation and loneliness.
- 3.4 The contract will finish its second year of delivery on the 31st August 2023. There is an option to continue the contract for a further year from 1st September 23 to 31st August 24.
- 3.5 Members are asked to make a decision on the contract based on the options below following the quarterly performance information and Age UK Barnsley presentation:
- Option a)** Continue the contract for 1 year from 1st September 2023 to 31st August 2024. The cost would be £59,944. This funding is currently ringfenced to this contract from the South Area Council commissioning budget.
- Option b)** Instruct South Area Council manager to work with the commissioning team and legal to issue 3 months' notice to cease the contract and reallocate the budget.

4. Neighbourhood Services, Environmental Caretaker service update **New Service update**

- 4.1 All roles have now been recruited to and are now in post. The Team leader started in June 2023, followed by the driver operative and apprentice in August 2023.
- 4.2 The first month has included training for all the team members to ensure they are able to work in a community setting safely. The team leader has been carrying out an assessment of tools that will be needed based on previous work requests. Equipment has been ordered and will be available to the team in September. Equipment is currently being loaned from internal services.
- 4.3 The team have been getting to know the area and locations and meetings are being planned with Ward Councillors to develop monthly scheduling meetings.
- 4.4 Ward Councillors have already shared some hotspot locations that require attention and the team have been working with Area council commissioned services and the area team to join up the work.

Community Development Officer post update

- 4.5 The South Area Council agreed to fund an Environmental project officer post to help deliver the South Area Council priority of 'improving the environment'. The job specification has been amended and the post has been regraded to grade 6 and hours increased to 32 hours per week for a 12-month temporary post.
- 4.6 The post will be out to advert in September 2023. The post will be advertised on BMBC's job vacancy pages and promoted through the South Area Council mailing list and Facebook page.

South Area Council Finances

- 5.1 The South Area Council currently have a commissioning budget of £42,950 which is unallocated, and £37,996 ringfenced for Children and Young people activities. The list below outlines funding to date including external funding being managed by the South area.

Contract / Service / Project	Contract start / end date	Value
Welfare rights drop in service	1 st July 21 – 31 st August 24	£81,261 per year
Environmental Caretaker Service – Service Level Agreement	1 st April 23 – 31 st March 24 Not started so will roll over from start date,	£120,963
Environmental Community Development Officer	1 st April 23 – 31 st March 24 Not started so will roll over from start date,	£34,804
Private Sector Housing Officer – Service Level Agreement	1 st October 22 – 31 st March 24	£42,844 per year
Environmental Enforcement – District Enforcement Ltd	£24,000 + £1740 Service Level Agreement – up to June 2023	£25,740
District revenue	To be allocated	£334 (£6666 allocated to 12 months resource for education and school parking issues)
Better Together service – Age UK Barnsley	1 st April 21 – 31 st March 24	£59,935
Summer Sports Van	Summer 2022, 1 day per week X 5 weeks.	£1875
Healthier Communities Covid Pot	Ringfenced to Children and young peoples activities	£37,996 Income
Household support grant – South Area application	Support to schools, residents and groups for cost of living support – Funding approved June 23.	£20,000
Safer Street Funding – Community safety funded devolved to South area.	£10,000 Wombwell £10,000 Darfield £5000 Hoyland, Milton £5000 Rockingham To be spent by August 2023	£30,000
UK Shared Prosperity funding – South Area application	Allocated – 2022/ 23 Provide cost of living support to residents, schools and groups.	£19,000
Health & Wellbeing Funding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age UKB – Men in Sheds in Wombwell • Reds in the Community (Fit Red session left to 	Allocated in 2019 – 2020.	£10,000

deliver in a community setting)		
Tackling off Road Biking initiative	Allocated - Community safety have the equipment	£2130
Covid Practical Support Fund	Allocated and distributed in 2022 to schools and targeted through PSAs and Private sector housing officer.	£20,000 Income
Functional Fitness MOT training	No longer required. Reallocated into commissioning budget.	£1200

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