

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT OF: Executive Director of Public Health and Communities

TITLE: Procurement of the Older People's Physical Activity Alliance (BOPPAA)

REPORT TO:	CABINET
Date of Meeting	13 December 2023
Cabinet Member Portfolio	Public Health and Communities
Key Decision	No
Public or Private	Public

Purpose of report

This report provides an overview of the business case for the procurement of the Older People Physical Activity Alliance. The brand name of the service outlined is widely known as BOPPAA. The contract for the current offer is due to expire at the end of March 2024, and the business case provides recommendations for the procurement of the service in the longer term.

Council Plan priority

Healthy Barnsley

Recommendations

That Cabinet:-

- Approves the joint approach outlined at option 3 and budget detailed at paragraph 3.1 of the report;
- Authorises officers within Barnsley Council to approach the market to inform the procurement of a provider organisation to co-ordinate the Alliance, which works collaboratively to prevent falls and improve the strength and balance of older people; and
- Delegates authority to the Director of Public Health and Communities to award the contract for the Alliance following a competitive process.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Age UK Barnsley has led the Older Peoples Physical Activity Alliance since 1 October 2021. The pilot programme to adopt an alliance-based approach has become widely known as the BOPPAA. The Alliance ensures a collaborative

offer between partners and a community-based approach to strength and balance work. Gaps in provision had been identified and this was considered an important way forward to promote both physical activity, address deconditioning, improve mental wellbeing and maintain independence for older people.

Alongside the Barnsley 2030 priorities, this work also forms a key part of the developments across the health and care system and the Barnsley Health and Care Plan 2023-2025, which works towards the following priorities;

- **Make services more accessible** – so you get the right support when and where you need it
- **Provide more joined up care in the community** – removing barriers to health and care across different places so you experience seamless care
- **Support people to keep healthy** – giving you opportunities to keep a healthy lifestyle for yourself and your family
- **Offer the best possible start in life for people** – helping you to nurture a lifetime of good health and happiness for your child from birth to adulthood
- **Develop our talented workforce** – so they are equipped to make sure you can experience excellent healthcare

This work is important in terms of the frailty and falls prevention agenda as part of these priorities, and benefits residents and the wider system.

The attached business case provides more detail in relation to the evidence base and commissioning intentions in full, as well as information regarding the outcomes for the service.

- 1.2 Age UK Barnsley lead and coordinates the BOPPAA but works closely with a core group of organisations, including Barnsley Premier Leisure (BPL) and Barnsley FC Community Trust (formerly Reds in the Community) who actively work in local communities to support older people to maintain independence and wellbeing. Over 70 organisations are now part of the Alliance (of which 46 are providers), and they offer over 180 different activities across Barnsley. Some have been directly funded through the BOPPAA; others are part of existing provisions.

The programme improves health outcomes for older people by improving their strength, balance and movement. As a result, people are less likely to experience deconditioning, which increases the risk of falls, which, in turn, increases pressure on the health and social care system.

Based on the programme's success, impacts and outcomes we have seen from the pilot, it is essential for this work to continue.

- 1.3 Barnsley has an ageing population, and as people live longer, it is imperative to support them to age well and support their independence and wellbeing into later life. As people get older, the risk of falling increases, and so any preventative work to maintain strength and balance and reduce the risk of falls is beneficial, not only for people but for the wider health and care system,

which remains in high demand.

The BOPPAA also provides a sense of social support within the community, which is important for mental health and wellbeing. Additionally, the Council's commissioning of BOPPAA improves the representation and visibility of an age-friendly environment within local communities.

2. PROPOSAL

2.1 BOPPAA continues to meet its targets and improve health outcomes for local people, and involves a number of provider organisations that support falls prevention work in Barnsley.

The proposal is to commission a provider, using the brand name BOPPAA, for three years from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2027, with the option to extend for an additional two years should funding be identified.

2.2. The programme will benefit from this joint commissioning approach as the outcomes support health and social care. Any opportunities to reduce the pressure across the system should be considered, and therefore, resource from both budgets is welcomed.

Sustainability for the programme is important as BOPPAA remains a key feature of the wider falls and frailty pathway and access work. This is recognised by senior leaders at Health and Care (Place) DMT, who have already pledged their support to the approach.

2.3 Options Appraisal

Proposal	Advantages	Disadvantages
Option 1 Do nothing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunity for cost savings as part of the transformation approach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No alternative service in place Gap in provision to support older people's wellbeing Risk of increased demand on other council services Questions regarding the council's commitment to inclusivity, ageing well and an age-friendly approach
Option 2 Procure a reduced offer using only BCF funding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue delivering part of the existing offer Opportunity for cost savings as part of the transformation approach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Less opportunity for further development of the Alliance Risk of capacity issues as demand increases Limited capacity to extend the BOPPAA timetable No grant funding available to kickstart new activities Lack of monies to promote current offer to attract new participants

Proposal	Advantages	Disadvantages
<p>Option 3</p> <p>Joint procurement approach using BCF and HC funding</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain, manage and expand the current offer • Longer contract term provides security to the local community voluntary sector • Tried and tested approach that has been evidenced effectively • Increased capacity to support more people and provide a full offer • Increased capacity to identify and fill any gaps in provision • Widen opportunities for developing the BOPPAA offer, e.g., 1:1 support in homes and care homes • Continued working across the Barnsley Health and Care System to maximise resources • Improved health outcomes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial commitment for longer term

Given the programme's success to date, it would be beneficial to continue the work over an extended period to enable maximum impact and benefit.

The recommendation is Option 3 – A joint approach using BCF and HC funding.

Option 3 would be the preferred option, with an annual contract value of £185,000.

Contract term proposed: Three years with the option to extend for two additional years should funding become available.

Timescales: April 2024 – May 2029

3. IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

3.1 Financial and Risk

Consultations have taken place with representatives of the Director of Finance (S151 Officer).

The proposal is to recommission for the provision of the Strengths and Balance service, using the brand name BOPPAA, for three years from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2027, with the option to extend for an additional two years should funding be available.

The current contract is with Age UK and is due to end on 31st March 2024. The contract has an annual value of £185,000, which is currently funded £92,500 Public Health Funding (one off funding) and £92,500 Healthier

Communities' Base budget.

The Service is not statutory; however, the service delivers a number of benefits, improving health outcomes for older people's strength, balance and movement. As a result, people are less likely to experience deconditioning, which increases the risk of falls, which, in turn, increases pressure on the health and social care system. The service also provides a support network within the community which is important for their Mental health and wellbeing.

It is proposed that the contract is commissioned at the annual value of £185,000 and will be funded jointly by Healthier communities £85,000 per annum Base budget and Adult Social Care £100,000 (Better Care Fund) per annum. With the agreement from Adult Social care to contribute towards the contract for the initial 3 year period, with a review thereafter.

Healthier communities are currently undertaking a zero-base budget review as part of the council wide transformation programme and are due to propose savings in line with the timetable for review. The funding for this service has been considered as part of the ongoing service improvements. Any savings will be captured as part of the review and will contribute towards their target.

Risk

The latest MTFS / Transformation paper, which requires Services of the authority to undertake zero-based service reviews, covers a period to the financial year 2025/26 - the recommendation to re commission this contract for an initial 3 year basis and would extend beyond that period.

As there is a potential risk that future BCF funding is secured over the duration of the contract, the contract will be scalable in the event that funding is withdrawn.

A Risk Assessment will also be undertaken as part of the development of the new service specification to identify any issues.

3.2 Legal

Advice and consultation will be undertaken with the legal team in connection with the tender process and/or contract implementation. The Council will comply with the Public Contract Regulations 2015 and has power to implement services relation to BOPPA pursuant to the Care Act 2014 (s2).

3.3 Equality

A full Equality Impact Assessment has been completed for the first phase of this work, and this will be updated as part of the new procurement, pending approval to take this forward.

3.4 Sustainability



The BOPPPA will positively impact a number of the 2030 priorities, particularly about 'healthy' and 'learning' priorities. Although the focus of the service is primarily around health and wellbeing and reducing inequalities, it was important to show that a key part of the educational part of the work includes providing information, support and advice to improve skills. Both 'Education' and 'access to services' are two examples of wider factors that we know can have a positive impact on health and wellbeing, and reducing poverty.

3.5 Employees

Currently, there is one member of staff employed by Age UK to co-ordinate this work. TUPE regulations would be considered as part of any tender process.

3.6 Communications

Communications have been part of discussions regarding the delivery and promotion of the BOPPPA over the last 12-18 months, particularly in showcasing the work as part of the shortlisting for the LGC award and developing video case studies about the programme's impact. This has all been part of the development of the business case.

The Communications and Marketing team will support the team regarding the outcomes of the cabinet papers and any announcements arising from procurement results. Their primary objective is to ensure effective communication and dissemination of information to the public. By closely collaborating with partner communications teams, they ensure clear messaging and direct the public towards relevant services. Through strategic planning, they enhance public awareness, engagement, and understanding.

Using various communication channels, such as social media, press releases, and website updates, the team ensures that the community is well-informed and can access the necessary information about cabinet decisions and services.

4. CONSULTATION

People who have been involved in the BOPPAA programme to date continue to provide ongoing feedback and insights relating to their experience of the services so local needs and requirements can continue to be addressed.

The experiences to date have been overwhelmingly positive, and several participants have also been actively involved in local promotional information about BOPPAA.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d6M-dO8jcLE>

5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 Three options were identified within the business case. The analysis provides the council with two other alternatives.

Option 1 to 'do nothing' was ruled out as a significant gap in provision would remain should no service be procured. This would be detrimental to residents and also heighten health inequalities, as well as increased pressure on the health and social care system.

Option 2 would be only to make use of the BCF funding available. However, this would create less opportunity for the development of the Alliance and increase the risk of capacity issues as demand is likely to increase. There would also be fewer resources and opportunities to develop new activities to meet a broader range of needs.

6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

The current contract for BOPPAA ends on 31 March 2024, and not procuring the service moving forward would leave a significant gap in provision.

Maximising the joint funding available via healthier communities and the BCF would be the preferred option, as demand is likely to increase further based on local needs.

Procuring the offer for up to five years not only provides some sustainability to the local provider(s) in delivering the model, but, more importantly, it benefits residents and helps to maintain and improve wellbeing and independence for older people.

A competitive tender process is preferred in line with procurement regulations.

7. GLOSSARY

BOPPAA – Barnsley Older Peoples Physical Activity Alliance

8. LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Business Case

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

[Details of background papers **MUST** be included]

If you would like to inspect background papers for this report, please email governance@barnsley.gov.uk so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

10. REPORT SIGN OFF

Financial consultation & sign off	Vanessa Hunter <i>Strategic Finance Business Partner</i>
Legal consultation & sign off	<i>Hussona Begum</i> <i>08/11/2023</i>

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Date: 9 November 2023