

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 project intentions for:

- Environmental Enforcement services
- South Area Caretaker service
- Age UK Barnsley – Better Together Service
- Barnsley CAB – community outreach project
- Private sector housing support
- South Area Council commissioning budget

2. Recommendations

2.1 That Members consider the following recommendations within the report regarding a welfare and debt advice service, isolation and loneliness commission, isolation and loneliness grant scheme, private sector housing officer service level agreement and an environmental enforcement service level agreement.

Barnsley Welfare rights and debt advice commissioned service

2.2 That Members agree the preferred option, option 2 at 5.3 to recommission advice drop-in services on an updated tender specification to be agreed by the South Area Council.

2.3 The tender specification should include the points outlined at 5.4 for a value of £88,000 for a one plus one year contract. This would allow an annual review of performance, continued evidence of need and funding availability.

2.4 That Members are asked to nominate two Members to take part in the tender process, scoring and sit on the tender interview panel.

2.5 That Members are asked to delegate responsibility and authority to procure a service in line with a specification agreed by the South Area Council and appropriate changes made by the South Area Council to the Executive Director Public Health and Communities as outlined in this report following consultation with Members of the South Area Council.

Tackling loneliness and isolation commissioned service

2.6 That Members agree the preferred option, option 3 at 6.3 to deliver social isolation and loneliness support on a new service specification with a different model of delivery.

2.7 The tender specification should include the points outlined at 6.4 to deliver one to one support to tackle social isolation and loneliness. The maximum contract value of the contract will be £34,000 for a one plus one contract. This would allow for an annual review of performance, continued evidence of need and funding availability.

2.8 That Members are asked to nominate two Members to take part in the tender process, scoring and sit on the tender interview panel.

2.9 That Members are asked to delegate responsibility and authority to procure a service in line with a specification agreed by the South Area Council and appropriate changes made by the South Area Council to the Executive Director Public Health and Communities as outlined in this report following consultation with Members of the South Area Council.

Tackling loneliness and isolation grant scheme

- 2.10 That Members agree the preferred option, option 3 at 6.3 to deliver a social isolation and loneliness grant scheme.
- 2.11 The grant scheme will be agreed by the South Area Council and should include the points outlined at 6.4 to offer support to volunteers, groups, communities and organisations to tackle loneliness and isolation. The grant scheme will be a total value of £30,000.
- 2.12 That Members are asked to delegate responsibility and authority to the Executive Director Public health and communities to develop a Tackling social isolation and loneliness grant scheme in line with this report and appropriate changes made by the South Area Council.

Private Sector Housing Officer Service Level Agreement

- 2.13 That Members recommend and agree the extension of the Private Sector Housing Officer Service Level Agreement for a further two years on a Barnsley Council service level agreement.
- 2.14 The Service Level Agreement Value to agree is £46,000 for a two year period from 1st April 2024.

District Enforcement Ltd Service Level Agreement

- 2.15 That Members recommend and agree the extension of the service on a Service Level Agreement for one year from the 1st July 2024.
- 2.16 That Members approve the one-year Service Level Agreement at a cost of £6666 for 5 hours per week supporting schools and providing educational support to improve parking around schools and £24,000 plus £1740 Barnsley Council Service Level Agreement for parking enforcement and educational support for hot spot locations identified by the South Area Council.

3. Procurement update

- 3.1 The South Area Council has a commissioning budget of £400,000 across the four wards of Hoyland Milton, Rockingham, Wombwell and Darfield. The South Area Council have commissioned a number of services to meet gaps and need identified in the community.
- 3.2 The following commissioned services are in their final year of contract:
- Age UK Barnsley, Better Together Service: £59,944 Contract ends 30st August 24
 - CAB, Outreach advice services, £83,000: Contract ends 30th June 24
 - District Enforcement Ltd: £24,000 Service Level Agreement + £1740 BMBC Service Level Agreement ends 30th June 24
 - District enforcement Ltd school education and patrols: £6666 Service Level Agreement ends 30th June 2024
 - Private Sector Housing Officer, £42,844: Service Level Agreements ends March 24
 - South Caretaker service, £120,963, Service Level Agreement ends August 24
 - Environmental Project Officer, £34,804. Strat date: 1st January 2024 for a 12 month period.
- 3.3 Members are being asked to make recommendations on how the South Area Council would like to allocate its funding for 2024/2025.
- 3.4 In order to support the consideration of future priorities and commissioned services the South Area Council held a workshop on the 19th January 2024 to review the contracted services to date.

3.5 The South Area Council manager presented at the workshop the performance information for the commissioned services and options for future commissioning.

4. South Area Council Finances

4.1 The South Area Council currently has a commissioning budget of £49,616 which is unallocated, and £37,996 ringfenced for Children and Young people's activities. In addition, there is an in-year underspend of £40,321 for the gap in start date of the South Environmental caretaker service and £31,323.60 for the delayed recruitment of the Environmental project officer. The budget for these activities were allocated for an April 2023 start. Total budget = £159,256.

5. Barnsley CAB outreach advice service contract

5.1 The South Area Council commissioned Barnsley CAB to deliver an outreach service across Darfield, Wombwell, Rockingham and Hoyland Milton Wards. The contract is a 3-year contract with an end date of 30th June 24.

5.2 Contract value: £83,000 per year for 3 years.

Staffing:

- 37 hours welfare rights worker
- 37 hours generalist advisor
- 3 hours generalist advisor

One to one support:

- 14 hours face to face support: welfare rights worker
- 14 hours face to face support: generalist advisor
- Capacity for digital appointments to deal with complex cases.
- Case work and associated back-office paperwork.

Additional support:

- Freephone helpline: 0800 144 8848
- Online contact form - <https://barnsleycab.org.uk/contact-us/>
- Online advice: <https://barnsleycab.org.uk/>
- Volunteering opportunities

5.3 South Area Council recommendations

At the workshop on the 19th January 2024 the Area Council was asked to make recommendations on the future of the CAB advice drop-in sessions.

The Members considered the following options:

- 1) Let the contract expire and end all South Area Council funded provision.
- 2) Recommission advice drop-in services on an updated tender specification to be agreed by the South Area Council.
- 3) Recommission advice drop-in services on a new service specification with a different model of delivery.
- 4) Consider reallocating the funding to a new priority.

5.4 Members are being asked to consider the options. Option 2 was the preferred option at the workshop with the South Area Council Manager being instructed to develop a specification for tender to include the following:

- Face to face drop in sessions per week to cover each ward.
- One evening session to support people at work during the day.
- Telephone and online support.
- Proposals to increase the
- Volunteering opportunities.
- Clear communication plan to promote the advice service across all four wards.
- Triage capacity and resources to maximise the face to face drop in sessions.
- Value of contract recommendation from workshop: £88,000

- One year plus one year contract.

6. Social Isolation and loneliness commission: Age UK Barnsley, Better Together Service

6.1 The South Area Council commissioned Age UK Barnsley to deliver a service to help identify and support individuals, families and communities dealing with social isolation and loneliness across Darfield, Wombwell, Rockingham and Hoyland Milton Wards. The contract is a 3-year contract with an end date of 30th August 24.

6.2 Contract value: £59,944 per year for 3 years.

Staffing: 2 x Social Inclusion Officers (SIOs) (32.5 hours per week), Information and advice worker (7.25 per week), Deputy CEO support (2 hours per week).

Support:

- Social Inclusion Officers work with isolated individuals, develop new community activities, support existing groups and work to engage the wider community on an age friendly and dementia awareness agenda.
- An Information and Advice Worker for one day each week offering support with a range of issues affecting older people including pension credits, social care, housing, health, travel, and claiming benefits (specialists in state retirement age benefits).
- Good Neighbour scheme providing befriending and support with tasks like shopping.
- Community Car volunteers to take people to appointments and social activities. A developed structure alongside Dial a Ride.
- Supporting volunteers, group activities and events.

6.3 South Area Council recommendations

At the workshop on the 19th January 2024 the Area Council was asked to make recommendations on the future of the Age UK Barnsley.

The Members considered the following options:

- 1) Let the contract expire and end all South Area Council funded provision.
- 2) Recommission Social Isolation and Loneliness support on an updated tender specification to be agreed by the South Area Council.
- 3) Recommission Social Isolation and Loneliness support on a new service specification with a different model of delivery.
- 4) Consider reallocating the funding to a new priority.

6.4 Members are being asked to consider the options. Option 3 was the preferred option at the workshop with the South Area Council Manager being instructed to develop a specification and a separate grants programme.

Tender specification:

- One to one support working with individuals who are isolated and or lonely and need support to improve wellbeing, independence, mobility and access to information and support.
- Information and advice support for a range of issues.
- Signposting to providers and agencies.
- Value of contract recommendation from workshop: £34,000
- One year plus one year contract.

Tackling social isolation and loneliness grants:

- Support to volunteers, groups, communities and organisations to tackle loneliness and isolation.
- Supporting existing and new groups to help people aged 50 plus to become more independent, improving wellbeing and mobility.
- Providing support to and for community groups, volunteers and activities.

- Helping local communities become more age friendly and increasing dementia awareness.
- Total grant value: £30,000

7. Private sector housing officer

- 7.1 At the South Area Council meeting on the 16th December 23 and the following workshop on the 19th February 24 it was agreed to recommend the extension of the Private Sector Housing Officer post for a further two years on a Barnsley Council Service level agreement.
- 7.2 Service Level Agreement Value: £46,000. Starts 1st April for two years.
- 7.3 The post will continue to be a proactive role supporting tenants, landlords and owner occupiers to improve the quality of living conditions and quality of life.

8. District enforcement Ltd

- 8.1 It was agreed at the workshop on the 19th February 24 to extend the contract on a Service Level Agreement for one year from the 1st July 2024.
- 8.2 The one-year Service Level Agreement will be at a cost of £6666 for 5 hours per week supporting schools and providing educational support to improve parking around schools and £24,000 plus £1740 Barnsley Council Service Level Agreement.

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