

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:
- Age UK Barnsley – Better Together Service
 - Barnsley CAB – community outreach project
 - South Area Council commissioning budget

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Members consider the updates and recommendations within the report regarding a welfare and debt advice service and isolation and loneliness commission and grant scheme.
- 2.2 That Member agree a variation to contract extension of up to two months for the current 'Better Together' service if required. This would ensure sufficient time for any contract mobilisation and setting up for the new contract.
- 2.3 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 specification and grant scheme in line with this report and agree up to two months variation to contract extension for the current 'Better Together' service if required.

3. Barnsley Welfare rights and debt advice commissioned service update

- 3.1 Members agreed at the last Area Council meeting to recommission advice drop-in services on an updated tender specification.
- 3.2 The tender specification is for a value of £88,000 for a one plus one-year contract to allow for an annual review of performance, continued evidence of need and funding availability.
- 3.3 Councillor Osborne and Councillor Stowe have been nominated to take part in the tender process, scoring and sit on the tender panel. The scoring panel will take place on the 19th April 24.

4. Tackling loneliness and isolation commissioned service

- 4.1 At the last Area Council meeting Members agreed to deliver social isolation and loneliness support on a new service specification with a different model of delivery.
- 4.2 The tender specification will deliver one to one support to tackle social isolation and loneliness with a maximum contract value of £34,000 for a one plus one contract. This will allow for an annual review of performance, continued evidence of need and funding availability.
- 4.3 Members have nominated Councillor Sumner and Councillor to take part in the tender process, scoring and sit on the tender interview panel.
- 4.4 The South Area Council Manager is currently working with procurement and legal on the new requirements for a specification and grant scheme. The current contract end date is August 24. Having taken advice, the South Area Council are being asked to agree a variation to contract extension of up to two months for the current 'Better Together' service if required. This would ensure sufficient time for any contract mobilisation and setting up for the new contract.

5. Tackling loneliness and isolation grant scheme

- 5.1 At the last Area Council meeting the Members agreed funding to deliver a social isolation and loneliness grant scheme which will offer support to volunteers, groups, communities, and organisations. The grant scheme will be a total value of £30,000. This is currently in development.

6. Procurement update

- 6.1 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.
- 6.2 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.

7. South Area Council Finances

- 7.1 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.

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