

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

North Area Council Meeting:
30th March 2017

Agenda Item: 8

Report of North Area Council
Manager

Anti-Poverty Steering Group Recommendations

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report provides the Area Council with an update from the Anti-Poverty Steering Group regarding the opportunity to increase the service provision for the remaining 6 months of the contract.
- 1.2 This report also provides an update on the advice from procurement regarding the continuation of the service.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1. **That the North Area Council agrees to increase the capacity of the outreach provision currently commissioned.**
- 2.2. **That the North Area Council indicates if they would like to continue the service after the end of the existing contract. This will inform the procurement timeline.**

3. Background

- 3.0 The Anti-Poverty Community Outreach Project commenced on the 14th September 2015. This is a one year (plus one year) contract valued at £149,000 over two years. Due to run until September 2017.
- 3.1 At the last Steering Group meeting with the provider explained that the outreach advisors are now at full capacity. The provision has been far more popular than anyone could have envisaged. In the first quarter of year two alone the outreach service has supported 245 clients and their outputs for service users are impressive. Please refer to the performance report for further information.
- 3.2 The Steering Group advised that they would like to explore the opportunity for provision to be increased for the remainder of the contract.
- 3.3 It was agreed that because demand is highest in Darton East and St Helens that an additional venue should be identified in one of these ward to enable an additional session of outreach to be provided.

4. Recommendation and Financial Implication

- 4.1. The Community Shop (Athersley North) has offered two rooms accessed from the café area, on a Monday free of charge. This option would mean holding two sessions a week in the Athersley North Area, one on a Monday and one on a Friday.
- 4.2. The financial implication of running an additional outreach session one day a week for the remainder of the contract would be £10,500.00.

5. Procurement Advice

- 5.1. The Category Manager responsible for wellbeing procurement has advised that if a similar service is to continue to be available in the North area beyond September 17, this should be go through full procurement in adequate time to tie in with the existing contract.
- 5.2. It is recommended that this contract should be let for 2 years with a 1 year extension.

6. Item for Decision

- 6.1. Members are asked to consider if they wish to agree to the recommendations 4.1 and 4.2
- 6.2. The Area Council are asked to decide if they wish to procure a service that will deliver an outreach provision beyond September 2017. To offer 5 out reaches per week per annum would cost approximately £100,000.00 per annum. This would equate to £300,00.00 over three years.

7. Risks

- 7.1. If the service is continued to for a further 3 years this would have meant that the Area Council will have funded the service for 5 years and this make lead to dependency both form the community and other services.
- 7.2. The North provision may become inundated as core BMBC services continue to be reduced.

8. Next Steps

- 8.1. Andrea Hoyland and Liz Pitt to be invited to the March Area Council meeting to provide information on poverty within the North Area, including information specifically children facing poverty within the locality. This will help inform the decision regarding the continuation of and antipoverty outreach service.

Officer Contact:
Rosie Adams

Tel. No:
01226 773583

Date:
8th March 2017