

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

North Area Council Meeting:
20th November 2017

Agenda Item: 9

Report of North Area Council
Manager

Commissioning Forward Plan

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report provides an update regarding progress that has been made since the September meeting and requested a clear indication of what which priority the Area Council wish to concentrate on over the coming months.
- 1.2 It also requests a decision from the Area Council regarding if they intend to proceed with the recruitment of a Participation Support Officer

2. Recommendation

- 2.1. **The North Area Council should note that preliminary enquires regarding the Youth Participation Worker have been positive.**
- 2.2. **That the Members note the financial implications of commissioning a Youth Participation Worker for the North Area.**
- 2.3. **The Area Council reach a decision to agree with the arrangements to be made to recruit to this post.**
- 2.4. **The Area Council note that the suggested Participation for Older People does not fit within BMBC's existing structure and the Area Council should consider an alternative option.**
- 2.5. **The Area Council give a clear steer on what topic they wish their commissioning workshop to focus on.**

3. Background and progress to date

- 3.1. At the workshop held in September the Area Council identified that they would like to explore the opportunity for two Participation Workers, one for young people and one for older people.
- 3.2. The Area Manager and Senior Management Link Officer have met to discuss the proposal with the Young Peoples Early Intervention and Prevention Service Manager who has in principle agreed that the Young Peoples Participation

Worker role for the North Area is realistic and would be a good fit for the existing structure.

- 3.3. The Senior Link Officer has discussed the Older Person’s Participation Worker opportunity with the relevant senior officer in the Customer Services Team. The Area Manager has also discussed the opportunity with Adult Social Care. It both cases it has been established that this role does not fit practically into the existing structure of the Council. Therefore alternative opportunities should be considered.

4. Youth Participation Worker Role Outline

- 4.1. Based on the initial finding the project would be in the region of £26,000 plus equipment required for the post and an activity budget.

Project	Outline costings
<p>Participation Support Worker</p> <p>This programme provides a full time worker at Grade 4 to be employed within the BMBC Early Intervention and Prevention Team.</p> <p>The post holder will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage and support individuals and groups of service users, enabling them to participate in getting their voices heard and have their views taken into account when decisions affecting them are being made. • Establish contact and maintain relationships with service users through face to face work in a variety of community settings • Promote, provide and support opportunities for service users to participate in activities in groups and on a one-to-one basis • Support service users to explore options available to them and make informed positive decisions, advocating on their behalf where necessary • To contribute to the co-ordination, organisation and implementation of local, borough wide and regional projects, programmes and activities which promote and encourage participation amongst service users 	<p>£26,000 per year to fund 1FTE worker plus their on-costs and an activity budget of £5,000. There is no management fee.</p> <p>This post would be fixed term and it is recommend that it is initially advertised as a 12month opportunity.</p> <p>It should be noted that although the worker would be employed by BMBC, this is not ‘buy back’ activity. The role will be integral in supporting the other commissioned services and the work of the ward alliances.</p> <p>The Youth Participation Worker role in Central Area Council is believed to be working well.</p> <p>N.B. However it is proposed to amend the existing role profile to ensure it has less emphasis on voice and influence and more emphasis on volunteering, positive contributions within the community and social action. This will mean additional time whilst the role profile is under evaluation.</p>

5. Financial Implications – Participation Support Worker (Young People)

- 5.1. The North Area Council considered the financial implications of this post at the September Area Council Meeting. This role can be comfortably accommodated within the Area Councils Annual Budget.
- 5.2. However this will still mean that there is a significant surplus budget for 2017/18. This currently valued at £180,000.

6. Item for Decision

- 6.1. The Area Council are requested to reach a decision regarding the proposal to recruit to the post of Participation Support Worker for the North Area.

7. New Opportunities

- 7.1. The Area Council recognise that although the Stronger Communities Grant monies are currently supporting a range of different activities, there is not currently a commissioned service that seeks to address the Health and Wellbeing and Opportunities for Young People.
- 7.2. Information gleaned from the North Area's Public Health link officer is that there are gaps in provision for older people linked to dementia, loneliness and isolation and depression. There is also a lack of support for carers, this includes young carers.
- 7.3. It was proposed to explore the opportunities for two Participation and Engagement Officers, one for young people and one for older people. The inquiries regarding the feasibility of incorporating an older person's role have concluded that the role would not fit into the existing BMBC Structure.
- 7.4. Taking into consideration point 7.2 above and Item 6 on today's agenda it would suggest that a further consideration for a project that would help to address loneliness and isolation, preventing winter deaths, healthy housing and social inclusion / befriending, should be considered.

8. Next Steps

- 8.1. The Area Council has requested a workshop to help identify a project that will help to identify an area of need that would benefit from a project or intervention commissioned by the North Area. It is important to have a focus for such workshops to ensure that relevant specialist officers can be requested to attend.
- 8.2. The Area Council are asked to indicated if they wish the workshop to be centred around the points highlighted in section 7 of the report. If this is the case it would require support form Strategic Housing and Public Health.

Officer Contact:
Rosie Adams

Tel. No:
01226 773583

Date:
9th November 2017