

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

North Area Council Meeting:
17th September 2018

Agenda Item: 5

Report of North Area Council
Manager

Reducing Loneliness and Isolation and Addressing Cold Homes Pilot for The North Area

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report is intended to update North Area Council Members aware of the current position of development, procurement and implementation of the commissioned service that is intended to address loneliness and isolation and prevent excess winter deaths in the North Area.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1. **Members to note the outcome of the procurement process, specifically section 7 of this report.**
- 2.2. **That the preferred provider attend the North Area Council Meeting on the 19th November.**

3. Background

- 3.0 In autumn 2017 representatives from BMBC Housing and Energy Team approached the North Area Manager to provide a briefing on the planned Energy Efficiency Works and other affordable warmth initiatives. The team also provided an update on recent excess winter death and fuel poverty statistics.
- 3.1 It became clear that the Darton East Ward has a higher than average excess winter death index for the borough.
- 3.2 The trend in excess winter deaths for both Darton East Ward and Darton West Ward has increased steadily since 2006.
- 3.3 The Housing and Energy Team identified that Woolley Colliery Village would benefit from the installation of first time central heating systems available for private homes made feasible by the monies secured from round one of the National Grid Warm Homes Fund.
- 3.4 The proposal suggested in this report would be complementary to the Energy Efficiency Works in Woolley Colliery Village. The North Area Council in principle agreed to fund low cost added value works for Woolley Colliery Village properties at the November 2017 meeting. Housing and Energy colleagues will also be bidding for round three which will be for vulnerable and low income tenants which would again benefit some Woolley Colliery residents.

- 3.5 Following the update that an Older Peoples Participation Worker for older people would not align with existing BMBC service provision at the November 2017 meeting. The Area Council requested a workshop to explore an Older People's Reducing Social Isolation and Preventing Winter Deaths project.
- 3.6 The Area Chair and Area Manager attended a meeting on the 29th November 2017 with colleagues from Housing and Energy and Public Health to explore the opportunity of a strategic piece of work that would splice with the work we are considering for the North Area with the preventing excess winter deaths work. It was a very positive meeting with the opportunity to do some joined up delivery and pilot a new approach in the North Area.
- 3.7 Shortly after meeting mentioned in point 3.6, the Group Leader for Housing and Energy provided an update that the National Grid and Affordable Warmth Solutions have opened their second bidding window for the Warm Homes Fund and that the Council proposes to bid for category two funding which is to enable 'specific energy efficient / health related solutions – bringing together relevant organisations and charities'. Housing and Energy Colleagues have teamed with Public Health officers to develop a core offer with borough wide partners and linked closely to the Independent Living Review. This would complement the community based provision that the North Area are considering funding to reduce loneliness and isolation which would service the North Area only. It is proposed that this service would include home assessments as part of the service.
- 3.8 An email update regarding points 3.6 and 3.7 was circulated to the North Area Council Members on the 20th December 2017.
- 3.9 BMBC were successful in the Warm Homes Fund Expressions of Interest stage of the bidding and were invited to submit a formal bid. This is completed in time for the 9th February deadline, led by Housing and Energy colleagues.
- 3.10 At the Area Council meeting held on the 22nd January it was agreed in principle to fund a Loneliness and Isolation project for the North Area with a housing and energy focus. The project would cost at least £75,000 per annum. An investment of 3 years is recommended. This would fund two social inclusion officers who would have to receive specialist training to offer home energy assessments and advice.
- 3.11 The Area Manager recommends that this work should include building a network of trained volunteers with knowledge of how to identify and address fuel poverty. This will ensure that there is active community capacity building within the community that will lead to increased resilience and leave a positive legacy once the project concludes.
- 3.12 A prospective project funded by Warm Homes presents an opportunity to develop a universal offer for the borough that will help to address need regarding housing and energy. It is hope that the North Area can develop an offer that will offer a complimentary service.

4. Developing a service for North Area

- 4.1. On 10th April 2018 representatives of the North Area Council met for a workshop to receive information from service specialists from Business Intelligence, Housing and Energy and Public Health.
- 4.2. Information received included demographics, health and causes of mortality, deprivation, fuel poverty and excess winter deaths. The group also considered the factors contributing to fuel poverty, cold homes and the groups most at risk of fuel poverty, excess winter deaths and social isolation.
- 4.3. The group also considered the provision that already exists to help address the issues listed above and officers talked through examples of national best practise.
- 4.4. As the discussions concluded the group agreed on the following points in section 5 that would help to define the specification.

5. Workshop (10th April) Conclusions:

Beneficiaries

There was a discussion about whether this project should be specifically for older people or available to everyone. The workshop participants agreed that this should be a universal service; befitting people experience fuel poverty as well as those at risk of excess winter deaths (under 5s and over 65).

Aims and Objectives

- Reduce loneliness and isolation
- Reduce fuel poverty
- Reduce the number of times a person has to tell their story in order to benefit from support services
- Identification of personal needs and home environment needs so that both can be addressed holistically
- Provide solutions to improve the living conditions of local people
- Increase the knowledge and understanding of the local community regarding energy. This early intervention and prevention model will encourage community resilience through empowering residents and communities to address fuel poverty by tackling the root causes such as income maximisation, energy efficiency improvements and seeking out cheaper tariffs.

Suggested Outcomes

- Reduction in feelings of loneliness and isolation within the community
- Isolated and vulnerable people having a much greater involvement in designing services and actively participating in improving their lives and Barnsley
- Highlight the health and wellbeing of individuals as a 'whole community issue'.
- Inclusion and support of Volunteers in the delivery providing opportunities to use their skills , knowledge and expertise to help others to live independently

- Reduction in the number of households that have poor insulation, inadequate heating systems, are a poor energy deal
- Increase in local knowledge about energy efficiency solutions

Project Outputs (not exhaustive)

- No. Individual Needs Assessments
- Increase in No. of isolated people accessing local amenities and community provision
- No. of new community groups established
- No. Home Energy Assessments completed
- No. of homes benefiting from warm homes discount
- Savings derived as a result of energy switching
- No. Community Energy Champions Recruited and Trained
- Number of households switching to a better value energy deal.

Resourcing / Area Council Input

- Contract Length (3 year commitment aiming to achieve medium term outcomes)
- Contract Value (£75k per annum has been agreed at Area Council)
- **In May 2018 the Area Council approved the recommendation to increase the maximum £85K per annum)**
- Price / Quality Split for procurement evaluation purposes – 20/80

6. Procurement and Implementation

6.1. The timelines for procurement and project implementation were as follows:

EVENT	DATE
Publication of Tender	01/06/18
Deadline for Clarifications – through YORTender only	04/07/2018
Submission Deadline	11/07/2018 – 12:00 Noon
Evaluation of Tenders	11/07/2018 – 30/07/2018
Provider Presentations	25/07/18 and 26/07/18
Notification of Intent to Award (Start of Standstill period)	30/07/18 – 09/08/18
Contract Award – Issue of contract for signature	10/08/18
Start Date	01/09/18

- 6.2. The procurement panel included the following representatives and will be supported by strategic procurement:

<u>Representative</u>	<u>Role</u>
Cllr David Leech	Area Chair
Jen McPhail	Senior Health Improvement Officer, Housing and Energy
Kate Ripley	Health and Wellbeing Officer, Social Isolation
Rosie Adams	North Area Council Manager

7. Procurement Update

- 7.1. Thirty organisations registered their interest for this opportunity.
- 7.2. Seven organisations submitted tender responses.
- 7.3. Six organisations were interviewed on the 25th July and one on the 26th July.
- 7.4. Tenders were evaluated based on a split of 20% price, 80% quality.
- 7.5. The moderation process was completed on the 26th July.
- 7.6. The preferred provider is DIAL Barnsley who scored 73.1% overall.
- 7.7. The total contract value for three years is £224,210.00

8. Next Steps

- 8.1. DIAL Barnsley's contract will commence on the 1st September 2018 and run till 31st August 2020, with the opportunity to extend for a final year until 31st August 2021.
- 8.2. DIAL Barnsley's project includes an inception period and the project will be fully operational from December 2018.
- 8.3. DIAL Barnsley already receive NAC Stronger Communities Grant Funding and due to their hOurbank project are becoming well established in the North Area.
- 8.4. It is recommended that the provider attends Area Council meeting on the 17th November 2018 to enable Members to fully understand the service that will be delivered within the North Area.

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Date:
29th August 2018