

## Officer Decision Record Template

Record of Decision of Kate Faulkes (Head of Stronger Communities) taken in consultation with Phil Hollingsworth (Service Director of Safer, Stronger & Healthier Communities) and with the full approval of Kirsty Waknell (Head of Communications & Engagement) from the Barnsley Clinical Commissioning Group which funds the grant.

A copy of the approval email from Kirsty Waknell dated 11<sup>th</sup> April 2019 is attached.

### Subject – Maximising Funding Opportunities to the VCS

The decision to offer a grant to a voluntary/community sector organisation to offer support and funding advice to community organisations and groups was first approved in 2017.

The funding for this project does not come from BMBC core budgets, but is funded from a grant (the Section 75 Agreement) paid to BMBC by Barnsley CCG, which is used directly to fully fund the service. This means that there is no direct cost to BMBC whatsoever and hence no need to gain Cabinet or other internal approvals.

This project has now run successfully for two years (with South Yorkshire Funding Advice Bureau as the provider), and has brought in almost £300,000 in external grant funding to organisations and groups in the second year alone; almost a tenfold increase on the £35,000 per year originally invested.

As a result of this, the CCG has indicated that it is happy for this Section 75 Agreement money for 2019/20 to be used again to fund the same service; hence the need to go out to competitive grant again, with the current service period coming to an end on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019. An email from CCG confirming this is attached.

The competitive grant which will be advertised runs along very similar lines to the original service which ran from 2017 – 19, to meet the following outcomes:

- Funding advice is maximised and delivered from within the sector
- VCSE organisations and groups develop skills to secure resources through advice on funding and funding strategies
- Targeted support is offered to smaller groups and organisations who have not previously sought funding to enable them to become more self-sufficient & maximise funding available
- Groups and organisations who have not previously sought funding advice are actively engaged, with a particular focus on those previously reliant on Ward Alliance and other local funding
- More VCSE organisations are 'tender ready'
- Community organisations and groups are more aware of business development funding and consortia development opportunities and support
- Increase in the 'pipeline' and quality of applications to all Lottery programmes in particular the Big Lottery Fund Reaching Communities and Awards for All programmes

- Increase in the effective use of the Barnsley Crowdfund/ Boost platform by community organisations and groups
- Community groups and organisations are more aware of partner support which can help them to benefit from support from businesses/ corporate social responsibly
- Peer mentoring and networking is developed

This list of outcomes was refined based upon the learning from the existing project delivered by SYFAB and upon suggestions for future emphasis taken from the independent steering group for the project.

Other alternative options were considered (for example, funding grantfinding software without a support worker) but previous pilots have found these to be much less effective and offering poorer VfM returns.

#### Authority

As outlined above, this was taken as a delegated officer decision by Kate Faulkes and Phil Hollingsworth with the full permission of Barnsley CCG, who act as the grant funder for the project.

#### Decision Taken

To go out to competitive tender for a service (Maximising Funding Opportunities) to bring in and maximise income for voluntary and community groups and organisations by supporting them with funding applications and building their capacity to become self sufficient fundraisers in the longer term.

To go to out a competitive tender for 3 years (as a 1 year + 1 year + 1 year contract dependent on the continued availability of funding from the CCG, as well as satisfactory provider performance) for a value of £35,000 per year (total grant value over 3 years = £105,000)

#### Date of Decision

11<sup>th</sup> April 2019

Signature: 

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Signature: 

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*Scan / email the completed form and appendices to the Council Governance Unit and keep the original on the project file*