

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

**South Area Council Meeting:
14th June 2019**

Report of South Area Council Manager

South Area Council – Procurement and Financial Update

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide an update on a number of South Area Council contracts, funding and commissioning work.
- 1.2 To outline timescales for Social Isolation commission and request the South Area Council nominate membership for the tender interview panel and evaluations on the 16th July 2019.
- 1.3 To provide an update on the current Private Sector Housing post.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Members note all updates and associated timescales.**
- 2.2 That Members nominate membership for the Tackling Social Isolation tender interview panel and evaluations on the 16th July 2019.**
- 2.3 That Members consider the two recommendations for the Private Sector Housing Officer post at 5.5 and make a recommendation based on the preferred option.**

3. South Area Council commissioning intentions update

3.1 At a South Area Council workshop held on the 28th February 2019 members discussed and agreed their commissioning intentions for 2019 /2020. The following was recommended :

- South Health and Wellbeing Fund - £10,000
- Healthy Holidays Ward Alliance top up funding - £10,000
- Social Isolation commission - £60,000 per year for 2 years

These areas were approved by the Area Council on 12th April,2019.

South Health and Wellbeing Fund

3.2 The South Health and Wellbeing fund was opened at the start of May 2019 with a closing date of the 4th June 2019. The fund is aimed at any voluntary or community group which is locally led and run, registered charities, social enterprises and not for profit organisations, local businesses, public service organisation and Ward Alliances within the South Area Council.

3.3 The funding consists of £25,000 from the Healthier Communities Wellbeing service and £10,000 from the South Area Council commissioning budget to bring the total funds available to £35,000.

3.4 A panel will have met on the 13th June 2019 to consider applications to the fund. Any projects / campaigns / services that receive funding must have the South Area Council priorities and Health and Wellbeing at their core. Applications are scored against these priorities.

3.5 The timescales:

- Fund was advertised during May 2019 with a closing date of 4th June 2019
- Panel meeting held on the 13th June 2019
- Projects will be notified of the decision within 4 weeks of the closing date
- Projects to be delivered for a maximum of 12 months and all delivery completed by the 30th June 2020

4. Tackling Social Isolation commission

4.1 As part of ongoing discussions into future commissioning intentions the South Area Council have been discussing Social Isolation and loneliness across the area. Last year Public Health presented information to the Area Council outlining the following:

- National data shows that the quality and quantity of social relationships affect health behaviours, physical and mental health, and risk of mortality, with recent studies finding that social isolation and loneliness are associated with 50% excess risk of coronary heart diseases (Public Health England, 2015, 9).
- The scale of the effects of social isolation on survival was comparable to the effect of giving up smoking and greater than the effect of obesity and physical inactivity (PHE, 2015, 23). Although the true cost of social isolation is difficult to determine, studies have found that financial support can provide a substantial return on investment to the value of £5.96 for every £1 invested (PHE, 2015, 9).
- Local predictions reveal that by 2020, 40% (17,647) of Barnsley's 65+ yr olds will be living alone. Based on the 40%, by the year 2020 the number of 65+ year olds living alone will be approximately 3640 (9100 is the total number of 65+ years living in the South Area). *Source: Mid-Year 2016 Population Estimates, ONS.*

4.2 The South Area Council Manager has also presented further information outlining anecdotal information and local research evidencing a demand for support and interventions to tackle social isolation and loneliness across the South Area.

4.3 At the South Area Area Council meeting on the 12th April 2019 Members recommended £60,000 per year for 2 years to fund a tackling social isolation and loneliness commission for older people. A specification for the service has been circulated to Members for comment. The timescales:

- Publication of tender on YORTender - 10th June 2019
- Deadline for clarifications – through YORTender only 3rd July 2019
- Submission deadline by provider - 10th July 2019
- Evaluation and tender presentations – 16th July 2019 – all day TBC
- Contract awarded – 30th July 2019
- Pre contract meetings – between 31st July – 31st August 2019
- Contract start date – 1st September 2019

4.4 Members are requested to nominate Members to take part in the tender evaluations and presentations to be held on the 16th July 2019.

5. Private Sector Housing Service update

5.1 There is currently a vacancy for this post as the post holder has secured a permanent position. The post holder had been seconded from the Community safety team and had been in post just less than two years. Under BMBC HR guidelines secondments are usually limited to two years.

5.2. The current Service Level Agreement is for a full time, 37 hours per week officer. At the South Area Council meeting on the 15th June 2018 funding was agreed for the period from 1st April 19 – 31st March 2020. As the last working day for the officer was 1st March 2019 this has resulted in a one month underspend for the Area Council budget agreed up to March 2019. As such the recruitment for the post was advertised for 13 months.

5.3 A recruitment process has been undertaken and subject to HR checks in place it is anticipated that the new officer will start the post in July 2019.

5.4 The successful applicant has requested 30 hours per week and the role has been offered on this basis subject to HR checks and for a period of 13 months. The post will remain on the organisation structure as a 37 hours post for any future recruitment.

5.5 The gap in not having an officer in post and reduced hours per week for the 13 months would result in an underspend based on the £32,580 agreed by the Area Council for 2019 /2020. Members are asked to consider the options below:

- Maintain the post at 13 months with an anticipated start date of July 2019 and end date of July 2020. This would result in an underspend of £6100 which would go back into the South Area Council commissioning budget to be allocated to different priorities.
- Agree to ringfence the underspend for the Private Sector Housing Officer post in order to extend the post for a further two months at the end of the 13 months contract period. This would be subject to agreement by Safer Communities and continued evidence of satisfactory performance, continued need and availability of funding.

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