

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

Dearne Area Council Meeting

Report of Dearne Area Council Manager

The Dearne Area Council Social Connectivity

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 This report provides members with options for the social connectivity project post October 2020 in the Dearne

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 That Members of the Dearne Area Council approve finances and the draft specification for a social connectivity project in the Dearne

2.2 That members allocate £27,000 per year for two years to the Dearne social connectivity project.

3.0 Background

3.1 Stronger communities were successful in gaining external funding from Nesta for two years in order to pilot a social isolation project that focussed on residents 60+. The Pilot started in October 2018 and is due to finish at the beginning of October 2020. Currently Nesta contribute £25,000 per year and the Area Council £2,000 per year.

3.2 B:Friend was successful in winning the current contract and although referrals for the one to one work were initially slow, the three social groups work really well. Now in their 2nd year the service is receiving far more referrals and interest from professionals and the community at large. This project has received some very positive coverage both from the media and Dearne community. In the first year 30 pairings were made and 16 people attend the weekly social groups in Bolton, Goldthorpe and Thurnscoe.

4.0 Options

Option	Risk	Benefit	Cost
A, do not re commission a social connectivity service	People currently accessing the service will no longer have access to support. People that could	More money left in the Area Council budget to spend on other priorities	£0

	potentially use the service will not have access to support. The social groups that are currently running will cease		
B, recommission a social connectivity project	TUPE may apply therefore they maybe a lack of competition	Keep momentum that this service has provided More people accessing support and more people volunteering in their neighbourhood More people feeling less isolated	£27,000 per annum

3.4 If members approve this service for a further two years the area manager will work with the procurement team to put the specification out to advert. Because of the amount the Area Council will be able to go out for three quotes which will make it less time consuming. The contract will need to go out mid-June in order to receive submissions back no later than the end of June. The TUPE information will be requested prior to the advert going out as TUPE may apply to the service.

Officer:
Claire Dawson
Dearne Area Council Manager

Tel:
01226 775106

Date:
20th January 2020