

CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND COHESION

**Venue: Town Hall, Moorgate
Street, Rotherham. S60
2TH**

Date: Monday, 24th February, 2014

Time: 12.00 p.m.

A G E N D A

1. To determine if the matters are to be considered under the categories suggested, in accordance with Part 1 (as amended March 2006) of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.
2. To determine any item which the Chairman is of the opinion should be considered later in the agenda as a matter of urgency.
3. Apologies for absence.
4. Declarations of Interest.
5. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 27th January, 2014. (Pages 1 - 4)
6. Integrated Youth Support Service - IT requirements. (Pages 5 - 9)
7. Community Leadership Fund - Flexibility to Carry Forward Under-Spend. (Pages 10 - 13)
8. IYSS update (Officer to report).
9. Supporting Rotherham's Voluntary and Community Sector - Single Infrastructure Grant. (Pages 14 - 18)
10. Exemption of the public and the press.

The following item is likely to be considered in the absence of the public and the press as it is exempt under Paragraph 3 of the Local Government Act, 1972 (Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular individual (including the Council)).
11. Advice Services - tender update and waiving of Standing Orders. (Pages 19 - 20)

12. Date and time of the next meeting: -

- Friday 21st March, 2014, to start at 2.30 p.m. in the Rotherham Town Hall.

**CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND COHESION
27th January, 2014**

Present:- Councillor Hussain (in the Chair) and Councillors Wallis and Burton.

E40. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

No Declarations of Interest were made.

E41. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 16TH DECEMBER, 2013.

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Cabinet Member for Communities and Cohesion held on 16th December, 2013, were considered.

Resolved: - That the minutes of the previous meeting be agreed as an accurate record.

E42. EVALUATION OF COMMUNITY FIRST NEIGHBOURHOOD MATCH FUND.

Consideration was given to the report presented by the Area Partnership Manager (Housing and Neighbourhood Services, Neighbourhood and Adult Services Directorate) that outlined an evaluation of the impact of the Community First Neighbourhood Match Fund in Rotherham to 31st December, 2013.

Nationally, there were three aspects to the Community First Neighbourhood Match Fund: -

- The Neighbourhood Match Fund - £30 million - a small grants programme for some of the most deprived areas in England, administered by the Community Development Foundation (CDF);
- National Endowment Match Challenge - £50 million;
- Community Organisers.

The Cabinet Officer for Civil Society viewed the Community First Neighbourhood Match Fund as: -

1. A means of enabling small social action projects, encouraging individuals/groups to bring change to some of the most deprived communities in the country;
2. A tool to support new and existing projects;
3. Part of a broader power shift, putting local residents in the driving seat, building their capacity and confidence to develop community led solutions.

Evaluation had been undertaken in Rotherham based on the three Cabinet Office objectives.

There was confidence that the Community First Neighbourhood Match Fund was meeting the first objective in Rotherham.

- £712,000 would be delivered into voluntary-community sector projects in some of the Borough's most deprived neighbourhoods. To date, £396,964 had been awarded by the eleven Ward based Community First Panels to 255 projects;
- The submitted report included examples of best practice in relation to the first objective, and included which of the Ipsos Mori categories each project supported.

In relation to the second and third objectives, the picture was more mixed. Funding had largely been awarded to existing projects. Panels had, however, increased their knowledge of and links to the work of existing projects in their Wards. Feedback from Panels' voluntary-community sector members had highlighted how they had welcomed the opportunity to work with Councillors and senior officers. Local residents had been involved in setting local priorities, approving projects for funding and projects representing community-led solutions to local issues. This represented a positive experience and confirmed that groups/organisations who, with support, could take on a greater role in future work.

Discussion ensued on the regrettable situation that had led to two of Rotherham's Deprived Neighbourhood's not being eligible to participate in Community First under the criteria supplied by the Cabinet Officer for Civil Society.

The next steps towards the end of the funding stream were discussed. It was noted that there was a £21,000 remaining allocation to be made from Year Three's funding allocation. Year Four's funding would need to be allocated over the nine-month period between April – December, 2014.

Discussion ensued on the submitted report and the following points were raised: -

- Working with the private sector to generate government match funding;
- Establishing how much had been raised by the end of the project;
- The role of the Local Authority in supporting and providing additional skills to the matching process;
- The role of cash or 'in kind' as part of the matching process;
- The mix of examples within the report gave a compelling evidence-base;
- Ensuring that sustainability of infrastructure remained following the end of the project.

The Cabinet Member commended the concise report and the overall positive description of the Community First Neighbourhood Match Fund and thanked the Area Partnership Manager for his presentation. The

Cabinet Member requested that a media release be prepared to share the continuing success of the project.

Resolved: - (1) That the report be received and its content noted.

(2) That a communications programme be undertaken to share the continuing success of the Community First Neighbourhood Match Fund, including the projects and groups that have been supported, and the benefits the funding has brought.

E43. INTEGRATED YOUTH SUPPORT SERVICE - UPDATE.

The Cabinet Member for Communities and Cohesion welcomed the Manager for Partnerships and Youth Development (Integrated Youth Support Service, Schools and Lifelong Learning) and the Director for Schools and Lifelong Learning (Children and Young People's Services Directorate) to provide an update on the Integrated Youth Support Service in Rotherham.

Current budget saving proposals relating to the Service were considered. It was noted that the Cabinet had approved the proposal at their meeting on 15th January, 2013 (Minute No. C169 refers). A consultation process would be undertaken with staff and stakeholder groups over a period of thirty days. This process would inform staff and stakeholders of the saving proposals and invite their comments and suggestions on how to make the required savings. A number of consultation meetings and communications would take place. Discussion ensued on the information provided and included issues of work and case load considerations and the Council-wide requirement to achieve savings.

The recent Holocaust Memorial Event was discussed. All agreed that the successful and moving event showcased the best of Rotherham's young people and the Integrated Youth Support Service. In particular the commitment and passion of the staff was recognised.

The resilience of the staff was further demonstrated by their positive working attitudes. They had contributed good news updates for the Cabinet Member. The good news stories included: -

- A case study about the positive effects of taking a victim awareness course following a young person receiving a nine-month Referral Order for Arson. The young person, along with their family members, had provided positive feedback about the course and how it had increased their understanding of the ramifications of crimes on the victim/s and wider community;
- A talent show at MyPlace had been designed, planned and organised by young people;
- A Targeted Roma Boys' Group had taken place that aimed to enable participants to develop a sense of self, cultural identity and pride, to tackle inequality and prejudice and to help individuals to

represent their community and other young people by taking an active voice and influencing and developing leadership;

- The Youth Cabinet held their annual Children's Commissioner Takeover Day Event. Twenty young people met with twenty professionals to talk about the barriers to young people getting support surrounding issues of self-harm;
- Dinnington and Maltby Youth Forums were working on anti-litter campaigns in their areas in conjunction with local councils, schools, area assemblies and others;
- Youth Start were offering a weekly open access mental health sessions in partnership with CAMHS;
- Wentworth Valley Locality had contributed to the recent decrease in young people 'Not in Education, Employment or Training' which was at 5.6% in December, 2013, compared to 7.5% in the previous year. In addition, youth club attendances had increased at MaltbyLinx and Bramley. More young people were receiving one-to-one support with personal issues and tracking of 16-19 year olds exceeded the target every month. Lunch clubs and evening sessions were continuing to be provided by the Locality;
- The Wentworth North and South Teams were continuing to run job clubs, residential provision, diversionary activities and voice and influence groups.

Resolved: - (1) That the information shared be noted.

(2) That the Cabinet Member receive regular updates throughout the consultation process and following its conclusion.

E44. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING: -

Resolved: - (1) That the next meeting of the Cabinet Member for Communities and Cohesion take place on Monday 24th February, 2014, to start at 12.00 noon in the Rotherham Town Hall.

(2) That the March meeting take place on Friday 21st March, 2014, to start at 2.30 p.m. in the Rotherham Town Hall.

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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	Meeting:-	Cabinet Member for Communities and Cohesion
	Date:-	24th February, 2014
	Title:-	Integrated Youth Support Service – IT Systems
	Directorate:-	NAS

5. Summary

The Integrated Youth Support Service (IYSS) is now fully operational and the transformation of the component services into a unified service continues apace.

There are two Information systems that currently support the Integrated Youth Support Service, namely Cognisoft which provides the former Youth Service and Connexions information system, and Care Works which provides the system for the Youth Offending Service. The current Cognisoft contract comes to an end on 31 March 2014.

There is a need to create a single Information system that would meet the needs of the whole Integrated Youth Support Service (Youth Offending, Connexions and Youth Services). However, the marketplace for an integrated system remains very limited and for this reason, the options for going forward are outlined in section seven.

6. Recommendations

That the Cabinet Member: -

Approve a waiver of Standing Orders 48 in order to extend the contract with Cognisoft to 31 March, 2015, and approve a full tendering exercise as described in option one.

7. Proposals and Details

The Integrated Youth Support Service currently has two information systems, which are:

- Care Works: the Care Works Raise system provides a dedicated database for the Youth Offending Service, which as well as being a care planning tool, meets both local and national performance reporting requirements.
- Cognisoft: the Cognisoft system provides a joint database for the Connexions and Youth Services, which allows for the recording of interventions with individual young people and for the provision of management information and reports to meet national reporting requirements. The current contract ends on 31 March 2014.

The intention is to have a single IT system for the Integrated Youth Support Service, which will further aid the integration of the component services and will create efficiencies through ending the need to record onto the two discreet systems.

The market for Integrated Youth Support information systems that include Youth Offending management information requirements remains very limited, with only one known provider (Career vision) having developed such a system and other providers (such as Cognisoft) only just in the process of developing modules that will incorporate Youth Offending management information.

This limited market has already resulted in approval for a waiver from Standing Orders number 48 in order to achieve extensions to the Care Works and the Cognisoft contracts, with the aim of postponing a decision on tendering for an integrated system until the market had developed. The market has not developed as expected and therefore the following options for the way forward are outlined below:

Option 1 – undertake a full tendering exercise preferred option

To undertake a full tendering exercise for an Integrated Youth Support information system commencing in April 2015 for a period of five years:

IYSS IT Specification development led by RMBC Corporate IT from January to June 2014.

Tendering exercise undertaken July to September 2014

Undertake the migration of data from existing provider to new provider September 2014 to March 2015.

Estimated costs:

£50,000 contingency for implementation and data migration in 2014/15 – *this would be a maximum cost Of £50,000 i.e. the contingency for the last tendering for the current system was £18,000*

£12,000 provision of training and training materials in 2014/15

£35,000 hosting and licence costs per annum

This is all capital funding which is subject to approval from IT Capital Fund .

Benefits:

- A fully integrated IT system across all IYSS provision, including all support information, destination information, identified support needs and Youth Offending orders
- A single point of access within IYSS for any Safeguarding issue
- Able to define new and emerging recording needs for IYSS
- A single point of access for quality assurance and case management
- Potential for more joined-up local reporting
- Single system needs only support cost

Risks:

- IT Capital funding is not forthcoming
- Contingency and implementation costs are dependent on successful tender
- Transition to a new system in terms of staff understanding and training around new reporting mechanism
- Limited market, therefore in all likelihood two providers coming forward who would
- Product development would incur additional costs

Option 2- Current provider develops a Youth Offending module

Continue to contract with Cognisoft for a period of five years from April 2015, with a module developed for Youth Offending information that provides an integrated system for IYSS:

The design for a Youth Offending module developed between January and June 2014.

Cognisoft develop Youth Offending module and migrate data to the new module by March 2015.

Estimated costs:

£350 per day for Cognisoft module development costs (20 days = £7,000)

£35,000 hosting and licence costs per annum

£5,000 contingency for migration of data

This is all capital funding which is subject to approval from IT Capital Fund .

Benefits:

- By working with Cognisoft to develop, we would be in a position to heavily influence design and operability
- Less staff training needs
- A single point of access for quality assurance and case management
- Potential for more joined-up local reporting
- Single system needs only support cost

Risks:

- Against Standing Orders to continue (not only one in market) – a move from two to one preferred provider
- Explored VEET option with procurement and not applicable
- Add on module that would be fit for purpose, but existing used modules may not be able to be developed at the same pace

Option 3 – Continue with existing systems

Continue with the Cognisoft and Careworks systems for a period of five years from April 2015.

The option of continuing with the two systems will not result in a single unified IT system for IYSS

Costs

£20,000 Cognisoft hosting and licence costs per annum

£14,300 Careworks licensing, connectivity and support costs

This would be funded within current resources.

The server for Careworks is reaching the end of its life, there would be the cost of a new server £20,000 maximum which would be procured (n this financial year).

Benefits:

- Status quo – less disruption to staff
- Tried and tested individual systems that have satisfied DoE and YJB

Risks:

- Two distinct systems that don't interact
- There wouldn't be a fully integrated IT system across all IYSS provision, including all support information, destination information, identified support needs and Youth Offending orders
- There wouldn't be a single point of access within IYSS for any Safeguarding issue
- The service wouldn't be able to define new and emerging recording needs for IYSS
- There wouldn't be a single point of access for quality assurance and case management
- Not Standing Order compliant

For all of the above three options, a waiver from Standing Orders number 48 is being sought in order to achieve extensions to the Care Works and the Cognisoft contracts. This will allow sufficient time to undertake either a robust tendering exercise or to develop a Youth Offending module as described in option two.

8. Finance

The current cost per annum for the Integrated Youth Support information systems are as follows:

£34,300 licensing, connectivity and support costs (£14,300 Careworks , £20,000 Cognisoft)

Option 1

£47,000 plus £50,000 for contingency migration costs

Option 2

£47,000 plus £5,000 for contingency migration costs

Option 3

£ 34,300 (£14,300 Careworks, £20,000 Cognisoft)

It is anticipated that following initial migration and start-up costs, cost efficiencies will be achieved through the commissioning of a dedicated Integrated Youth Support information system.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

That there will be a poor market response to the tendering exercise.

That the development of a Youth Offending module will not meet the needs of the Integrated Youth Support Service and Youth Justice Board reporting.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The development of an Integrated Youth Support Service, with a robust management information system, is a priority both locally and nationally.

Contact Names:

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ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member for Communities and Cohesion
2.	Date:	24th of February, 2014
3.	Title:	Members Community Leadership Fund - Flexibility to Carry Forward Under-Spend.
4.	Directorate:	Neighbourhoods and Adult Services

5. Summary

To report the current position regarding expenditure of the Community Leadership Fund 2013/14.

To request a carry forward of funding into the financial year 2014/15.

6. Recommendations

- That Cabinet Member approves a carry forward of a maximum of £1000 per elected member into the financial year 2014/15.

7. Proposals and Details

7.1 Background

The Community Leadership Fund was established in 2003 to enable Members to address local priorities, support grassroots groups and quickly instigate changes in response to local opinion.

The budget for the current financial year 2013/14 is £63k plus a carry over from the previous financial year of £21k resulting in a total budget of £84k.

Each Member currently has £1000 per year to spend, at their discretion, on issues both within their local Ward or on borough wide initiatives that benefit local people. This can be on stand alone projects or match funding with other partners.

The Fund has proved to be a valuable tool for elected members. It encourages local community activity whilst promoting the leadership role of the local councillor.

The scheme is extremely popular and hundreds of projects are supported each year that contribute directly to the achievement of the Councils key priorities. Feedback received from groups supported within the last twelve months clearly emphasises that even small amounts of funding are valuable and can make a big difference at a time when funding options elsewhere have been vastly reduced.

As at January 2014 135 projects have been supported across the borough. During the last year a particular focus has been evident on tackling issues that have arisen as a result of the recent economic downturn:-

- Initiatives that provide help for disadvantaged families. e.g support for food banks, breaks for low income families.
- Sustaining work carried out by local charities and voluntary groups e.g confidence building activities for young people, clean up/environmental improvement days.
- Support for groups wishing to manage/provide local facilities where they are best places to do this e.g bowling green facilities, local advice services.

A full report on the impact of Community Leadership Fund activities is provided to the Cabinet Member for Communities and Cohesion during the course of the new financial year.

7.2 The Carry over Facility

The principle of the carry over facility was approved by Cabinet during 2007 and has operated each year since.

Members have indicated that it is used in the main for specific projects that are due to begin in the next financial year or as a contingency fund for issues may occur within their ward as the year progresses that may require a quick response

It has proved to be a popular option. At the end of the financial year 2012/13 92% of Members chose to carry forward monies, the majority between £200-£300.

At the end of the last financial year the following criteria for carry forward was applied:-

- That any underspends above £750 at year-end be removed (unless the monies had been approved during the 2012/13 financial year but not spent by year-end).
- Any underspends below £750 at year-end would be approved to be carried forward into the new financial year.
- That any underspend amounts lost from individual Elected Member allocations be recovered into a One Town One Community small grants panel that organisations could submit bids towards

8. Finance

Members currently have an allowance of £1000 per year equal to a total budget pot of £63000 plus any carry forward from the previous financial year. The budget is managed and administered by the Neighbourhoods Partnerships team within the Housing and Neighbourhoods service.

The total committed for the current financial year 2013/14 as at the 11th of February 2014 is £47k.

During the previous financial year 2013/13 in excess of 22k was spent during February and March. Based on this information it is therefore likely that 16-18k will be the approximate amount requested for carry forward into the next financial year.

Please see **Appendix 1** for the current position of expenditure by each councillor.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

Feedback from Members suggests they are receiving an increasing number of requests for assistance from the Fund at a time when national, regional and local funding to many projects and groups is being reduced or withdrawn.

Any reduction in funding will potentially have a negative impact on the community leadership role of individual ward councillors and their advocacy of the value of local democracy and active citizenship.

Feedback from projects clearly demonstrates that even small amounts of funding are valuable and can have a large impact.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The Community Leadership Fund is a key component in promoting the role of the local councillor and contributes to encouraging sustained community based activity across all areas of Rotherham.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

1. Report to Cabinet Member for Communities and Cohesion June 2013
2. Community Leadership Fund Expenditure 2013/14
3. Press Release October 2013 "Community Leadership, Rotherham Style"

Contact Names: Paul Griffiths, Community Liaison Officer – Neighbourhoods and Adult Services, Ext 23159 paul.griffiths@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward	Councillor	Left to Spend
Hellaby	Donaldson	£1750
Sitwell	Mannion	£1618
Wath	Sangster	£1442
Sitwell	Gilding	£1351
Wath	Gosling	£1281
Rawmarsh	Hamilton	£1235
Hellaby	Astbury	£1230
Holderness	Robinson	£1199
Wickersley	Hoddinott	£1104
Anston	Burton	£974
Wath	Atkin	£910
Wickersley	Read	£900
Hellaby	Andrews	£890
Anston and Woodsetts	Jepson	£866
Swinton	License	£855
Wales	Watson	£853
Rother Vale	R Russell	£852
Ellis	Wickersley	£843
Wyatt	Swinton	£842
Holderness	Smith	£828
Rother Vale	Lelliott	£802
Sitwell	Middleton	£791
Rushforth	Maltby	£771
Silverwood	Stone	£768
Brinsworth	Ahmed	£739
Maltby	Beaumont	£733
Holderness	Pitchley	£701
Rother Vale	Swift	£668
Silverwood	P Russell	£640
Swinton	Doyle	£632
Boston Castle	Mcneeley	£631
Silverwood	A Russell	£546
Hooper	Steele	£582
Brinsworth	Roddison	£464
Keppel	Clark	£396
Dinnington	Tweed	£395
Valley	Pickering	£381
Keppel	Kaye	£370
Maltby	Godfrey	£379
Valley	Lakin	£376
Hooper	Roche	£326
Anston and Woodsetts	Dalton	£302
Keppel	Barron	£302
Whelbourn	Rawmarsh	£300
Rotherham East	Ali	£279
Wales	Beck	£231
Boston Castle	Hussain	£193
Valley	Currie	£181
Wales	Whysall	£170
Hamilton	Hooper	£168
Boston Castle	Wootton	£150
Rotherham East	Wallis	£130
Rotherham East	Dodson	£129
Wingfield	Johnston	£119
Rotherham West	Sims	£100
Rawmarsh	Vines	£36
Brinsworth	Buckley	£35
Dinnington	Havenhand	£0
Rotherham West	Akhtar	£0
Rotherham West	Foden	£0
Dinnington	Falvey	£0
Wingfield	Goultly	£0
Wingfield	Sharman	£0

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member for Communities and Cohesion
2.	Date:	Monday 24th February, 2014
3.	Title:	Supporting Rotherham’s Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector – Single Infrastructure Grant
4.	Directorate:	Neighbourhood and Adult Services Directorate with the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector

5. Summary

The Voluntary Community and Faith sector (VCFS) play a vital role within Rotherham providing a range of services and support to individuals and communities throughout the Borough which complement, add value and where appropriate increasingly provide alternative provision to public services- often working with the most vulnerable and marginalised people and communities. The VCFS also provides an effective means and route to support the active engagement of service users, carers and the public enabling them to have a voice in the commissioning, planning and delivery of services.

The VCFS is a vital partner in enabling RMBC achieve its corporate priorities especially in the challenging economic environment Rotherham and RMBC continues to face. The Single Infrastructure Grant enables a co-ordinated and targeted approach to support the VCFS in the Borough to maximise opportunities, increase efficiencies and effectiveness .

6. Recommendations

That the Cabinet Member,

- Continues the integrated Rotherham Infrastructure generalist support to the Voluntary, Community and Faith sector in Rotherham provided by the current Service Level agreement with Voluntary Action Rotherham (VAR).
- This support enables the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector (VCFS) to deliver against the following revised outcomes:
 - Increasing individual and community engagement, resilience and self-help
 - Increasing high quality VCFS service delivery, innovation and effectiveness
 - Targeted support to some of our more deprived communities and responding to Welfare Reform Agenda
 - Increasing the resources to the Borough and maximising value for money

- That the VCFS infrastructure support and services are developed and delivered in line with the Rotherham VCFS Strategy and the Rotherham VCFS Annual Survey.
- That the SLA agreement is subject to a detailed delivery plan to be agreed with Zafar Saleem , Community Engagement Manager RMBC, with ongoing regular quarterly monitoring and reporting and six monthly progress reports to the Cabinet Member for Communities and Cohesion meetings.

7. Proposals and Details

The current VCFS Infrastructure support agreement was developed in 2011 as part of a 3 year agreement funded by NHS Rotherham and RMBC. The decision to bring together the work under a single agreement was forward thinking and has set the precedent for other LA's to follow a similar agreement.

VAR has acted as the accountable body for the current Service Level Agreement and has to date delivered the agreement with 5 other partners – VAR, Rotherham Ethnic Minorities Alliance (REMA), Together for Regeneration (TfR) South Yorkshire Funding Advice Bureau(SYFAB) and Rural Action Yorkshire (RAY). The original partners were all subject to a Partnership Agreement and their services have been independently assessed and evaluated as part of this agreement.

Since the proposal was first developed some of the organisations have undergone significant changes both in delivery and organisational structure notably TfR, RAY and SYFAB. In recent months both TfR and SYFAB have ceased to exist as separate organisations although some of SYFAB activity appears to been transferred to South Yorkshire Community Foundation (SYCF).

The agreement has been subject to regular quarterly monitoring and reporting and all partners have delivered against the agreed outcomes and outputs. Where partners have not been able to progress some activity because of changes in their organisational structure activity has been, where appropriate, incorporated within the delivery of the Rotherham based partners -VAR and REMA- so that no detrimental effect would be felt by the VCFS in the Borough. Progress reports have been brought to previous Delegated Powers meetings and a Impact report has been produced. The funding provided has enabled a number of key deliverables over the current 3 year agreement including

- Services and support to over 500 groups and organisations annually within the Borough
- Raised over £3 million for Rotherham groups and organisations
- Provided bespoke support over 300 people from migrant and emerging communities plus work with over 300 individuals/ families from the ROMA community including engaging members of the community as health champions
- Dealt with over 5700 volunteering enquiries and brokered over 3800 volunteering opportunities

- Enabled significant consortia and partnership approaches to new forms of service delivery and input into planning of services

As a result of these reports and ongoing discussions and consultations the proposal has been reviewed and refined to ensure that the outcomes it will deliver against meet RMBC's current and future priorities and the economic challenges that Rotherham and RMBC in particular will continue to face.

The proposal will enable continued support to the numerous and diverse VCFS groups in Rotherham and further develop the potential and capacity of these groups to contribute to the strategic aims set out in RMBC's revised Corporate Plan and the Community Strategy. The proposal also delivers against each of the priorities identified within the Health & Wellbeing strategy, Welfare Reform priorities, Deprived Neighbourhoods work etc. In particular it will enable the development of :

- Increased engagement of individuals and communities within the Borough, improved citizenship and community cohesion and increased individual community and economic resilience and self help.
- Further innovative partnerships of co-production and integrated delivery of services both between VCFS organisations and between VCFS organisations and other public sector/ RMBC providers.
- Offer some alternative and lower cost solutions to meeting the needs for efficiency and high quality service provision this includes developing community based options which increase individuals and communities ability to support their own needs and the provision of a range of preventative and early interventions which reduce the need for more costly interventions.
- Targeted work with some of our more deprived communities within the Borough who experience some of the worst challenges and outcomes and the unacceptable inequalities that are a consequence of this and consequently risk being left behind e.g. specific work with BME, Migrant and ROMA communities and targeted work as part of the Deprived Neighbourhoods and Welfare Reform agenda.
- Further opportunities to draw down additional resources to the Borough both in terms of increased individual involvement and engagement through volunteering and increased funding through external resources and funding opportunities and income generated through charged services and social enterprise opportunities. In particular targeted and dedicated 1:1 work is needed within Rotherham with specific individual communities and groups to help draw down additional funding and redress the imbalance that currently exists in Rotherham groups accessing Lottery funding and other external grants and funding bodies.

Whilst increased involvement with the VCFS offers a range of opportunities for service delivery and increased individual and community involvement the sector is comprised of very diverse independent organisations (estimated over 1200 in Rotherham and up to 50,000 volunteers). To harness the capacity and further

develop the opportunities available it needs co-ordinated support and leadership. Without this the risk is that efficiencies will not be maximised and opportunities lost.

The Voluntary ,Community and FaithSector are user led organisations that operate to strict governance requirements often set down in charitable law. Their aims and activity are determined by their users and members. VAR and REMA are Rotherham based membership based organisations whose purpose, values and aims are developed and implemented in accordance with their member's needs. Members are from across all spectrums of the VCFS, varying in size, geographic location and scope – e.g. providing services support to children, young people, disabled communities, rural communities, older people and BME communities. VAR's membership is now over 650 organisations and groups and is still increasing. REMA supports a richly diverse and ever-changing BME community with groups from over 35 ethnic backgrounds from a population that has doubled in the last decade.

We regularly consult and involve our members, the wider sector, public and partners through both formal mechanisms e.g. surveys, specific areas of research and a range of informal events, meetings and specific work with our main consortia of groups/ individuals associated with Children, Young People and Families, Adult Health & Social Care and BME Communities. We provide a regular weekly flow of information through our weekly bulleting which is sent to over 500 groups/ organisations/ individuals. VAR website receives over 6,000 visitors viewing on average 26,000 pages a month. Many of the VCFS organisations we support work with some of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged parts of the Borough dealing with service users who are experiencing the highest needs and inequalities. We specifically target work within the most deprived neighbourhoods and provide an effective and trusted means of engaging with and delivering services to some of the hardest to reach and most vulnerable individuals, groups and communities within Rotherham.

This involvement of all of our stakeholders – within the VCFS and Public sector provide the basis for the development of our plans and delivery of our activity. The proposal is supplemented by a detailed delivery plan with clearly defined targets and agreed areas of financial spend which are monitored on a quarterly basis.

8. Finance

The total RMBC financial allocation is £203,606 per annum. This funding is allocated between the different outcome headings and supports a number of staff posts and areas of activity. The funding is split between the delivery partners who are part of the original SLA agreement. There is an additional funding element set aside for small grants.

The funding from RMBC has enabled VAR and other delivery partners to draw down further investment both to support areas of delivery within the proposal and

additional activity. This investment has been from other partner agencies eg Rotherham CCG and also external funding bodies eg BIG Lottery Fund. It is anticipated that further investment will be able to be drawn down in the future supporting activity both as part of this proposal and further specific activity and funding within the sector thereby significantly increasing the resource available to the VCS and the Borough.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

Without co-ordinated support and leadership to the sector there is a risk that the opportunities for the VCFS to continue to support and deliver much needed services will be lost, future opportunities will not be maximised, the VCFS will lose out on additional financial resources that may be available and further efficiencies will not be maximised.

Risks associated with failure to deliver against the detailed action plan by the delivery partners are mitigated through the regular reporting mechanisms that have already been established.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The proposal support supports the revised Council corporate priorities:

- Stimulating the local economy and helping local people into work
- Protecting our most vulnerable people and families, enabling them to maximise their independence
- Ensuring all areas of Rotherham are safe, clean and well maintained
- Helping people to improve their health and wellbeing and reducing inequalities within the Borough

The proposal also supports the Community Strategy priorities:

- Ensuring the best start in life for children and families
- Supporting those who are vulnerable in our community
- Supporting the growth of a sustainable and competitive local economy

The proposal supports the six priorities of the Health & WellBeing Strategy in particular

- Priority 1 – Prevention and Early Intervention
- Priority 2 – Expectations and aspirations
- Priority 3 – Dependence to Independence
- Priority 6 – Poverty

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Previous reports to Cabinet Member Communitise and Cohesion –on 24.06.13, 04.11.13. 02.12.13

Quartely monitoring reports since 2011

Annual Survey of Infrastructure Organisations conducted in December/ January 11,12,13/14

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