

Committee:	Executive	Agenda Item No.:	8.
Date:	1 st February 2010	Status	Open
Category	Decision within the Functions of Executive		
Subject:	Working Neighbourhoods Fund – Suspension of Contract Standing Orders		
Report by:	Partnership Consultant Programme Manager		
Other Officers Involved	Chief Executive's and Partnership Manager		
Director	Chief Executive Officer		
Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor A.F. Tomlinson, Portfolio Holder for Regeneration Councillor E. Watts, Leader of the Council		

RELEVANT CORPORATE AIMS

REGENERATION – Developing healthy, prosperous and sustainable communities.

TARGETS

The Working Neighbourhoods Fund will impact on the National Indicator 153 – Working age people claiming out of work benefits in the worst performing neighbourhoods. Bolsover District Council has agreed a holding target with the LAA of reducing the out of work claimant rate within the worst performing neighbourhoods from 28.7% to 25.4% by March 2011. The Local Authority's success in tackling worklessness will also be measured against a further 4 indicators, these being:

- NI 117 – 16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, training or employment
- NI 118 – Take up of formal childcare by low income working families
- NI 163 – Working age population qualified to at least Level 2 or higher
- NI 172 – VAT registered businesses in the area showing growth.

VALUE FOR MONEY

The principles of Value for Money – economy, efficiency and effectiveness will be applied in all interventions considered.

THE REPORT

Background

1. Executive Members will recall the Authority's award of Working Neighbourhoods Fund in 2008 (Minute No. 886 refers). The Working

Neighbourhoods Fund was introduced as part of the Local Government Finance Settlement and is one element of the new Area Based Grant. It provides resources to local authorities to tackle worklessness and low levels of skills and enterprise in their most deprived areas.

2. The WNF allocation to Bolsover District Council has been increased to £7,265,897 (an additional £200,483 for the Bolsover District was announced by the Department for Communities and Local Government on the 12th November 2009)
3. As part of the Council's approach to tackling worklessness, a Commissioning Framework has been established to allocate the funding in two ways:-
 - i) the Local Authority's focus upon the people who are **already receiving benefits** and are unemployed and try to encourage them back into work and off benefits, and
 - ii) tasking the Local Strategic Partnership for Bolsover with identifying measures to address and **prevent the need to be in receipt of benefits** or become unemployed (£3m over three years)

Suspending Contract Standing Orders

4. The Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) has recently undertaken its third round of WNF Commissioning. A priority intervention has been identified which involves the development and delivery of an education programme within schools which encompasses a preventative model for teenage pregnancy, with a defined focus on relationships and self-esteem. The proposed intervention has been informed by the findings of a pilot project which was supported by Derbyshire County Primary Care Trust (PCT) earlier this year.
5. The proposed management arrangements for this intervention involve Derbyshire County PCT, Public Health, being the lead commissioner with responsibility for overseeing and commissioning delivery through sub-contracting arrangements as appropriate. It is considered that placing the proposed intervention under the commissioning responsibility of the PCT's Health Improvement Manager for Parenting, Families and Children ensures strategic alignment taking into account that the PCT has a lead advisory role for teenage pregnancy, alongside Derbyshire County Council.
6. These reasons have been discussed and are supported by the Head of Shared Procurement and the LSP's Technical Group. Support is also being sought from Derbyshire County Council who has a lead strategic role for teenage pregnancy.
7. Further to the above, and taking into account that this initiative sits well within the PCT's Public Health role as a commissioner of teenage

pregnancy interventions, the procurement/tendering process would be unnecessarily time consuming and would seriously jeopardise the desired outcome.

8. Endorsement from the Executive is now being sought to suspend CSOs for the initiative as outlined above.

ISSUES/OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

Whether to agree the suspension of Contract Standing Orders 4.8.3, 4.8.4, 4.8.5 and 4.8.6 as set out in the report.

IMPLICATONS

Financial: Detailed in the report

Legal: The suspension of Contract Standing Orders in relation to the intervention as detailed in paragraphs 4 to 8, as a tendering process would usually be required for WNF commissioned interventions under the Local Authority's Procurement procedures.

Human Resources: None

RECOMMENDATION(S) that;

Executive suspends Contract Standing Orders 4.8.3, 4.8.4, 4.8.5 and 4.8.6 for the reasons given above in relation to Derbyshire County Primary Care Trust for the contract for relationships and self esteem.

REASON FOR DECISION TO BE GIVEN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONSTITUTION

To ensure that WNF is targeted to best effect and where needed and to ensure that the tendering process does not unjustifiably distort the result.

ATTACHMENTS: **N**
FILE REFERENCE:
SOURCE DOCUMENT: