

Committee:	Executive	Agenda Item No.:	8
Date:	14 January, 2013	Status	Open
Category	2. Decision within the functions of Executive		
Subject:	Partnership Proposals for Commissioning		
Report by:	Partnership Consultant Programme Manager		
Other Officers Involved	Chief Executive's and Partnership Manager		
Director	Chief Executive Officer		
Relevant Portfolio Holder	Deputy Leader of the Council – Cabinet Member for Regeneration Leader of the Council		

### **RELEVANT CORPORATE AIMS**

REGENERATION – Developing healthy, prosperous and sustainable communities. The wider determinants of worklessness will be impacted through the commissioning of activity that takes account of the effects upon the wellbeing of local communities in respect of their health, wealth and secure employment; all of which contributes to building sustainable communities in the district.

### **TARGETS**

To reduce the number of young people not in employment, education or training (NEET) through a Council led Traineeship and Apprenticeship programme;  
 To improve the quality of volunteering placements through the provision of training, and increase the number of volunteering opportunities within the district;  
 To reduce the number of people experiencing financial exclusion through the implementation of a pilot budget buddy scheme;  
 To improve partnership working for people with disabilities;  
 To lever in additional funding to gain maximum value for investments made.

### **VALUE FOR MONEY**

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

### **THE REPORT**

In April 2013, a review of the Sustainable Community Strategy was undertaken which resulted in Bolsover Partnership identifying a series of future priorities for action. Following this review, the Chief Executives and Partnership Team (CEPT) has identified a series of interventions/partnership proposals which also contribute to the Council's Corporate Aims, the district's Work and Skills Plan and, in general, support the economic and social well-being of the district. These include:

- Bolsover traineeship and apprenticeship programme;
- Volunteering in Bolsover district;
- Financial inclusion pilot project;

- Evaluating outcomes for the VCS;
- Disability issues.

Funding in the region of £100,000 is required to secure the implementation of these initiatives which, if approved, by Executive has the potential to lever in an estimated £250,460 in additional resources.

Information on each initiative is provided below along with indicative costs and match funding opportunities. Subject to funding being approved by Executive, the CEPT will put in place development and commissioning arrangements to progress these proposals.

### **Bolsover Traineeship and Apprenticeship Programme**

BDC ran a very successful Apprenticeship programme between 2010 and 2013 which saw over 100 people gain an apprenticeship, either within the Council or within other partner organisations, such as Chesterfield Royal and Groundwork Creswell, Ashfield and Mansfield. A significant amount of Working Neighbourhoods Funding (WNF) was invested in the programme which resulted in 97% of the last cohort successfully moving into employment after completion of their apprenticeship.

Following this success, work was externally commissioned to consider options for continuing an apprenticeship scheme and a report was produced which outlined a number of scenarios to utilise the Core Worklessness Group’s residual WNF. The preferred option is to deliver a BDC in-house Apprenticeship scheme that incorporates the government’s ‘Traineeships’.

#### Scope, Costs and Timeline for Preferred Model

The preferred model is aimed at 16-18 year olds and will recruit between 40-48 Trainees for up to 6 months and 20 Apprentices for 12 months **over a four year period**,

<b>Start Date</b>	<b>Trainees</b>	<b>Apprentices</b>
February 2014	10-12	
June/July 2014		5
February 2015	10-12	
June/July 2015		5
February 2016	10-12	
June/July 2016		5
February 2017	10-12	
June/July 2017		5
June 2018	Programme Ends	

The total cost of delivering the scheme based on Apprentices being paid National Minimum Wage for 12 months and receiving a contribution towards transport costs whilst on a Traineeship is £211,860.

The current model works on the basis of programme co-ordination being provided in-house so that all residual WNF can be spent on apprenticeship costs. However, taking into account learning from previous programmes, the scheme would greatly benefit from additional resources to employ a part time co-ordinator to facilitate the process.

Estimated costs for 2 days per week part time co-ordination are £15,000 per annum over three years.

***A total co-ordination cost of £45,000 is therefore required to deliver the model outlined above.***

## **Volunteering**

Volunteering has been shown to have many benefits. It can increase a person's employability, reduce isolation, build confidence and provide an opportunity to learn new skills. Bolsover does not have a Volunteer Centre based within the district. Instead, over the last 18 months, volunteering support has been provided by Volunteer Centres Derbyshire (VCD) and funded by government's Transforming Local Infrastructure (TLI) funding in the form of 2 days per week outreach support, with a base within the district. This funding ceased at the end of September 2013 which means that outreach support to potential volunteers and groups is no longer available. If this support were to continue via the Volunteer Centre Chesterfield it would cost £15,000 per annum.

As an alternative, Limestone Journeys, a five year programme which focuses on the North East Derbyshire Magnesium Limestone area, offers a wide range of volunteering opportunities through local partners. There are a number of reasons why it may be advantageous to extend the remit of the volunteering service provided by Limestone Journeys. Firstly, this project is based within the district and already works with a mix of partners offering good quality volunteering opportunities. It also has systems in place for tracking volunteer hours and monitoring outcomes which could easily be extended to organisations outside of the Limestone Journeys family. Furthermore, the cost to extend the service by a further 2 days could be less than the proposal from the Volunteer Centre, thus potentially increasing the duration of any investment.

The focus for 2 days per week additional support would involve:

- Signposting potential volunteers to available volunteering opportunities;
- Providing training to groups offering volunteering opportunities;
- Tracking and monitoring the outcomes of volunteers and their placements;
- Evaluating the impact of volunteering and the social return on investment.

The estimated cost to extend volunteering brokerage through Limestone Journeys is £11,000 per annum. This includes staffing costs, overheads, the cost of a one day per week base within the district and a small allowance for equipment. There may also be a cost involved with the Volunteer Centre in Chesterfield continuing to maintain the Do It database of volunteering opportunities, which would need to be explored further.

***A contribution of £15,000 is required to develop this service for a minimum duration of 18 months.***

## **Financial Inclusion**

The government's welfare reforms amount to over £18 billion per year of welfare cuts by 2014–15. Many elements of the changes to the welfare system mean that many households are financially worse off. A report commissioned by Sheffield Hallam University concluded that Britain's older industrial areas are hit hardest and identified Bolsover in the top 50 local authority districts worst affected by the reforms, measured on

a per capita basis. The detrimental effects of debt on one's health and well-being is well proven. With the current Welfare Reform changes the number of people experiencing debt will undoubtedly increase significantly.

For one year commencing early 2014, it is proposed that a financial inclusion pilot project is established in (a) Clowne, and (b) South Normanton and Pinxton. This is likely to involve two one-day training courses, one in each location, with the capacity of 25 people attending each day. The aim being to recruit four people from each course to become actively involved as buddies/mentors in their areas. Their role will be to:

- assist clients' to prepare for an initial interview with a debt advisor (saving valuable debt advisor time);
- contact their clients' as frequently as is appropriate, ensuring they are supported with dealing with their debts and are taking the action needed to change their behaviour;
- support clients' for as long as they require, on a case-by-case basis.

In addition to this, the buddies/mentors would be supported by a co-ordinator through advice, guidance and mentoring in order to ensure quality information/advice is provided to clients.

The scheme would link to other provision in the area, for example, the Job Club in Clowne, Credit Unions, Jam Jar accounts, and Adult Education courses. The pilot would also be promoted using the 'factor of seven' principle; an approach which came out of the evaluation of the Scottish Financial Inclusion Champions which identified that to raise the level of awareness of people they need to see a message seven times, preferably in different ways or mediums. This is intended to change the culture, which currently exists, from people only seeking help when they are in crisis to people recognising the need for help in both budgeting and overall financial management.

The social return on investment of this approach would consider:

- i. 'distance travelled' - impact on clients', the improvements from being able to make informed choices, maybe more conducive family life, improved quality of life and health and well-being;
- ii. impact on local economy, more money spent locally and not going out of district.

***The estimated cost of delivering the pilot scheme over a period of 12 months is £13,650. Quotes will be obtained via Source Derbyshire and there may be an opportunity to access some partnership funding for health priorities of up to £5,000.***

## **Evaluating Outcomes for the Voluntary Community Sector**

In 2012, the Chief Executives and Partnership team undertook an internal review of the Council's 'Grants to Voluntary Organisations' programme. This resulted in an assessment of the grants awarded and the outputs/outcomes achieved on a case by case basis. This was a valuable exercise, demonstrating that the social return was always higher (and in some cases significantly higher) than the original investment.

Some organisations and their services lend themselves much more easily to a social return on investment analysis, i.e. those that provide frontline services to beneficiaries. Evaluating the impact of services delivered by infrastructure organisations is far more

difficult. This was the case of CVP who, by the very nature of their remit, do not provide services directly to individuals; instead they support community and voluntary groups who, in turn, provide services to individuals.

CVP is the only infrastructure organisation within the district, providing the Council and partners with a route in to meaningfully engage and consult with the voluntary and community sector. It would be useful therefore to commission an external review to assess the impact of CVP upon the individuals and organisations it supports. This would involve addressing a series of related objectives in terms of the extent to which CVP:

- enhances the 'voice' and influence of the community and voluntary sector over policy, planning, service development and delivery;
- enhances opportunities for strategic partnerships between community and voluntary organisation and with other agencies;
- facilitates networks and forums that provide opportunities for closer partnership working within the sector;
- supports community development by working with groups and residents in local neighbourhoods to identify and address community needs.

***It is estimated that the cost of this work is between £5,000 - £8,000. Three quotes will be sought via Source Derbyshire to obtain best value for money.***

## **Disability**

Bolsover is the fourth highest district in the country for people with disabilities. Of the England population, people with some limitations represented just over one fifth with a fairly even split between those with a lot of or little limitation. However, in Bolsover nearly one in three people have some limitation, and there was a higher proportion who were limited a lot.

The Help to Work project, funded through EU PARES, finishes December 2013. An Expression of Interest (EOI) to build on the achievements of the Help to Work Plus project was submitted to the Nesta Innovation Fund in October 2013, but unfortunately was unsuccessful. Whilst other funding opportunities are being explored for the one-to-one mentoring and support provided by the project, funding to support some of the partnership activity that the district has benefitted from for the past three years is now required. This includes the continuation of the Help to Work online directory, partnership meetings for providers assisting people with disabilities, regular information updates, and responding to partnership opportunities, for example, developing joint bids, creating delivery models etc.

***The cost of the partnership activity as outlined above is estimated to be in the region of £21,600 per annum.***

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Target Communities</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>Funding Required</b>	<b>Match Funding</b>	<b>Contribution to Corporate Plan Aims</b>
<b>Apprenticeships</b> (3 year project)	District wide	£256,860	£45,000	Residual WNF £211,860	CP: Promote the development of skills and learning SCS: Support activity that will create opportunities for individuals to gain employment
<b>Volunteering</b> (18 months delivery)	District wide	£27,000	£15,000	Residual WNF £4,500 Limestone Journeys £7,500 Volunteer time as leverage – each voluntary hour represents £7.35. Estimate 1,000 voluntary hours over 18 months = £7,350	CP: Promote the development of skills and learning SCS: Support activity that will create opportunities for individuals to gain employment
<b>Financial Inclusion</b> (12 month pilot)	Clowne and South Normanton	£13,650	£8,650	£5,000 partnership funding for health priorities Estimate 1,008 voluntary hours over 42 weeks = £7,408	CP: Reduce poverty CP: Contribute to improving the health of the district SCS: Enhance access to transport, infrastructure, accommodation and finance for residents and businesses
<b>CVP Evaluation of Outcomes</b> (one-off piece of work)	District wide	£8,000	£8,000		CP: Provide services that are fair, equitable and open SCS: Build healthy communities
<b>Disability</b> (2 year project)	District wide	£43,200	£21,600	£21,600 match funding for second year delivery will be sought from CCG/partnership funding if priorities are co-terminus	CP: Contribute to improving the health of the district SCS: Build healthy communities
		<b>£348,710</b>	<b>£98,250</b>	<b>£250,460</b>	

## **ISSUES/OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

None.

## **IMPLICATONS**

Financial: The additional funding required from Bolsover District Council in order to enable the activities outlined within this report amounts to £98,250 as detailed in the above table. There is no provision with existing approved Revenue Budgets to support this expenditure and therefore it is recommended that this is funded by way of residual Transition Grant funding.

Legal: None

Human Resources: CEPT resources for commissioning/contract management.

## **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- (1) That the report be received.**
- (2) That up to £100,000 is approved in principle to support the initiatives detailed within the report.**
- (3) That the Chief Executive, following consultation with the Leader of the Council, be granted delegated powers to agree final activity and resulting spend.**

## **REASON FOR DECISION TO BE GIVEN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONSTITUTION**

That Council underspend is tailored to meet the needs of local communities and responds to the priorities of the Sustainable Community Strategy and Corporate Plan.

ATTACHMENTS: N  
FILE REFERENCE:  
SOURCE DOCUMENT: