

**Bolsover District Council**

**Executive**

**8<sup>th</sup> September 2014**

**Partnership Commissioning Update**

**Report of the Chief Executive's & Partnership Manager**

This report is public

**Purpose of the Report**

- To provide Executive with an update on activities that have been commissioned following the award of £100,000 Council monies in January 2014.

**1 Report Details**

**Partnership Commissioning**

1.1 Members will recall the award of £100,000 Council monies to support the following initiatives identified by Bolsover Partnership following a review of the Sustainable Community Strategy in April 2013:

- Bolsover traineeship and apprenticeship programme;
- Volunteering in Bolsover district;
- Financial inclusion pilot project;
- Evaluating outcomes for the voluntary/community sector (VCS);
- Disability issues.

1.2 It was also identified that cash and in-kind match funding in the region of £250,000 would be secured to progress the initiatives identified above. All initiatives have now been commissioned and this report provides an update of activity.

**Bolsover Traineeship and Apprenticeship Programme**

1.3 In March 2014, BDC launched its Traineeship and Apprenticeship programme for 16-18 year olds. The programme involves a six month Traineeship whereby participants undertake two days per week work placement either with BDC or North East Derbyshire District Council (NEDDC), and two days per week on Maths, English and Employability skills. The programme is aimed at those who require additional support to prepare them for an apprenticeship. In April 2014, 10 Trainees commenced on programme; 8 remain to date.

- 1.4 After completion of the Traineeship, all participants will be given the opportunity to apply for one of five new apprenticeship positions, to be created internally and funded through residual Working Neighbourhoods Fund (WNF).
- 1.5 A part-time co-ordinator has been recruited to facilitate the programme, ensure participants are suitably matched to apprenticeship opportunities and provide the liaison between work placement employers. The cost of the post is £46,750 over four years, funded through the Council's allocation of funding.

### **Volunteering in Bolsover District**

- 1.6 Following a competitive tendering process, a contract to increase volunteering activity within the district was awarded to Chesterfield Volunteer Centre, for activity to commence at the beginning of September 2014. A minimum of 2 days per week outreach support in the north and south of the district will be available for volunteers on a 1-2-1 basis which will include signposting/matching to volunteering opportunities. The project will also identify and promote new volunteering opportunities, and provide training and 1-2-1 support to groups/VCS organisations to increase the quality of volunteering placements within the district.
- 1.7 This contract has been awarded over an 18-month period and uses a combination of residual WNF (£5,000), BDC (£15,000) and in-kind contributions (£21,067). Additional funding will be sought to extend the lifetime of the project beyond 18-months.

### **Financial Inclusion Pilot Project**

- 1.8 A small charity based in South Normanton called 'Release' has been successful in securing this contract to deliver a 12 month 'Budget Buddies' pilot project in (a) Clowne, and (b) South Normanton/Pinxton. The project will recruit and develop active buddies (approximately 4-5 in each area) that will work in a voluntary capacity to support people to manage their finances more effectively either through face-to-face, telephone or email contact. The buddies will signpost to other services that are available locally, and will be quality assured through the support of a co-ordinator.
- 1.9 This contract uses a combination of residual WNF (£6,350), BDC (£8,650) and in-kind contributions (£4,611). Depending on the outcome of the pilot project and availability of funding, it is envisaged that the programme will be rolled out across the district.

### **Evaluating Outcomes for the VCS**

- 1.10 'Ideas to Impact' were appointed following a competitive tendering process to undertake an evaluation that would assess the impact of the work of Community Voluntary Partners (CVP). This work was successfully concluded and presented to Council in July 2014. This work will inform the Grants to Voluntary Organisations performance monitoring undertaken by the Partnership Team.

### **Disability Issues**

- 1.11 Bolsover is the fourth highest district in the country for people with disabilities. To address some of the issues around levels of unemployment and disability, a contract has been awarded to Disability Dynamics who have previously been successful at delivering partnership activity in the district aimed at helping people with disabilities to gain employment. This new area of work will drive forward the cross-cutting theme 'Communication' within the Work and Skills Plan, with support from the Chief Executives and Partnership Team (CEPT), by developing and implementing a Communication Plan, maintaining the Help to Work directory and undertaking partnership working to increase employment opportunities for local unemployed people.
- 1.12 This contract has been awarded over a two year period and uses a combination of residual WNF (£5,000), BDC (£21,600) and Partnership Funding for Health Priorities (£18,360).
- 1.13 The table on the next page shows the total cost of each project and how much has been allocated from Council funding. It also shows that the £260,828 match funding (cash and in-kind) is anticipated to be levered in during the lifetime of the projects. This means that for every £1 invested, a further £2.60 is levered in to add value to the projects.

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Target Communities</b>	<b>BDC Funding Allocated</b>	<b>Other Funding Identified (cash and in-kind)</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Contribution to Corporate Plan Aims</b>
<b>Apprenticeships</b> (4 year project)	District wide	£46,950	Residual WNF £200,710	£247,660	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	£15,000	Residual WNF £5,000 Chesterfield Volunteer Centre £11,623 1200 volunteer hours x £7.87 = £9,444	£41,067	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	£8,650	Residual WNF £6,350 Release £2,250 300 volunteer hours x £7.87 = £2,361	£19,611	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	£7,800		£7,800	CP: Provide services that are fair, equitable and open SCS: Build healthy communities
<b>Disability</b> (2 year project)	District wide	£21,600	Residual WNF £5,000 Partnership funding for health priorities £18,360	£44,690	CP: Contribute to improving the health of the district SCS: Build healthy communities
		<b>£100,000</b>	<b>£260,828</b>	<b>£360,828</b>	

## **2 Conclusions and Reasons for Recommendation**

2.1 That Executive notes the contents of this report.

## **3 Consultation and Equality Impact**

3.1 The Joint Chief Executive Officer, Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council – Cabinet Member for Regeneration have been consulted.

3.2 The commissioning process has been overseen by Bolsover Partnership's Commissioning Group which consists of representatives from each of the thematic Action Groups, Community and Voluntary Sector, Older People's Forum and the Parish Council Liaison Group.

## **4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection**

4.1 Alternative options for the delivery of initiatives have been considered through the competitive selection process.

## **5 Implications**

### **5.1 Finance and Risk Implications**

5.1.1 Project performance will be monitored quarterly using the CEPT's performance management systems which were used to manage previous funding programmes, such as WNF and Neighbourhood Renewal Fund.

### **5.2 Legal Implications including Data Protection**

5.2.1 Beneficiary data will only be stored by project leads, not the CEPT.

5.2.2 All commissioning has been overseen by the Shared Procurement Unit at the NHS.

### **5.3 Human Resources Implications**

None.

## **6 Recommendations**

6.1 That the report be received.

**7 Decision Information**

<b>Is the decision a Key Decision?</b> (A Key Decision is one which results in income or expenditure to the Council of £50,000 or more or which has a significant impact on two or more District wards)	No
<b>District Wards Affected</b>	All
<b>Links to Corporate Plan priorities or Policy Framework</b>	See links to Corporate Plan priorities detailed on page 4 of this report.

**8 Document Information**

<b>Appendix No</b>	<b>Title</b>
<b>Background Papers</b> (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet (NEDDC) or Executive (BDC) you must provide copies of the background papers)	
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Report Reference –