

NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL**EXECUTIVE BOARD COMMISSIONING SUB-COMMITTEE****MINUTES**

of meeting held on **21 NOVEMBER 2012** at

Loxley House from 2.06 pm to 3.40 pm

Voting members

- ✓ Councillor Collins (Chair)
- ✓ Councillor Liversidge (Vice-Chair)
- ✓ Councillor Mellen
- Councillor Norris
- ✓ Councillor Trimble

Co-opted/non-voting members

- ✓ Jo Dean Nottingham Community and Voluntary Service
- Shamsher Chokhan Nottingham Equal
- Councillor Heaton Chair, Health and Wellbeing Board

Michael Lene	- Director of Operations)	Framework
Andrew Redfern	- Chief Executive)	
Lorel Manders	- One Nottingham)	
Irene Andrews	- Market Development Programme Manager)	Children and Families
Katy Ball	- Head of Early Intervention and Market Development)	
Candida Brudenell	- Director, Quality and Commissioning)	
Ian Curryer	- Acting Deputy Chief Executive and Corporate Director for Children and Families)	
Antony Dixon	- Strategic Commissioning Manager)	Resources
Martin Parker	- Constitutional Services Officer	-	

- ✓ indicates present at meeting

54 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Norris (on other City Council business) and Shamsher Chokhan.

55 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Councillors Collins and Mellen advised the Committee that they had interests in agenda item 7 Key Decision – Streamlining Investment to the VCS – Area Specification and the Phase Two Programme (minute 60) as City Council appointed representatives to the Renewal Trust and Bakersfield Community Association, which received financial assistance from the City Council. They considered that their interests were not so significant as to prevent them participating in the debate or voting on the decision(s) regarding the matter.

56 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 19 September 2012 copies of which had been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

57 WORK PROGRAMME

The work programme was updated at the meeting. The following items were rescheduled to be considered at the December meeting:

- NHS Transferred Funding 12/13 – Further Allocation;
- Procurement Plan;
- 12/13 Strategic Commissioning Review Social Exclusion;
- Mental Health, Accommodation, Care and Support Pathway;
- Priority Families Commissioning Intentions;
- Streamlining Investment to the Voluntary and Community Sector Area Specifications and Phase 2 (further report).

The following items were rescheduled to be considered at the January/February 2013 Meetings:

- Care and Support Enablement Framework Procurement;
- Homecare Framework Procurement;

RESOLVED

- (1) that the amended work programme be agreed;**
- (2) that the date of the December 2012 meeting be reviewed and re-arranged as necessary to minimise clashes of diary commitments.**

58 VOLUNTARY SECTOR UPDATE

Jo Deane reported that the majority of items of interest were covered under pre-existing agenda items. It was announced, however, that she would shortly be leaving NCVS and that the organisation would nominate a replacement in due course.

RESOLVED that the update be noted and the best wishes of the Sub-Committee to Ms Dean for her future career and previous contributions to the work of the Sub-Committee, be recorded.

59 BIG LOTTERY FUND - 'FULFILLING LIVES'

Andrew Redfern, Chief Executive and Michael Lene, Director of Operations, Framework Housing Association, provided an overview of work being undertaken by Framework and other partners to secure funding from the Big Lottery Fund under its 'Fulfilling Lives' initiative to target and assist people who presented with multiple, complex needs, to provide a route to stability and reduce the disproportionate impact that individuals had on services including housing adult social care, health, etc.

Nottingham was one of 15 locations eligible to bid for funds and, if successful, could attract an amount up to £10m over 5 - 8 years. Successful schemes must be voluntary sector led and the first bid element – a Vision and Strategy document would need to be submitted by December 2012. If approved, a Business Plan would need to be submitted by October 2013. The City Council, together with the Healthcare Trust and Probation Trust, were core partners and the bid process was overseen by a Bid Reference Group.

An initial assessment from questionnaire returns received from local organisations indicated 81 people in Nottingham with a complexity score of 5, 191 with a score of 4 and 89 people still to be assessed. Of those already assessed, 79% were homeless and of this figure, 31% were women and 17% from Black and Ethnic Minorities. Both levels were unexpectedly higher than anticipated and the overall total presented issues of how best to serve the various client groups so as to maximise delivery, benefits and value for money, possibly by a mixture of long term interventions using the majority of funds, for up to 120 clients and a shorter-term intervention programme for the remainder. Other challenges included the supply of suitable housing, ensuring the meaningful engagement of clients, transforming existing provision and attitudes and planning for a sustained and meaningful legacy to demonstrate the effectiveness of the initiative.

If successful, the scheme would seek to replicate existing good practice and deliver a multi-agency case conferencing system and single assessment framework for case co-ordination and would seek to include volunteer working. A scheme would provide accommodation in 15, self-contained units with 24 hour staffing and it was recognised that the accommodation needed to be of good quality.

RESOLVED that the presentation be noted and Andrew Redfern and Michael Lene be thanked for their attendance and contributions.

60 KEY DECISION - STREAMLINING INVESTMENT TO THE VCS (VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR) – AREA SPECIFICATION AND PHASE TWO PROGRAMME

Further to minute 41 dated 19 September 2012, consideration was given to a report of the Head of Early Intervention and Market Development, copies of which had been circulated.

RESOLVED

(1) that, with regard to Area Funding:

- (a) progress and feedback on the draft Area specification be noted and the eight Area Specifications for Area funding set out in appendix 1 to the report, be approved;**

- (b) existing contracts for current Area activity detailed in Appendix 2 (exempt) be extended to 30 June 2013 and new arrangements be implemented with effect from 1 July 2013;**
- (2) that proposals to roll forward grants for those City-wide Youth VSIP projects for one quarter (April to June 2013) referred to by the Corporate Director of Children and Families during the meeting, be progressed via Portfolio Holder Decisions as necessary;**
- (3) that the remaining balances of the second round of two small grants schemes for 2012/13, previously agreed on 16 November 2011 (minute 38), should not be allocated, but the Communities of Interest and Identity element of £50,000 be used, instead, to mitigate any adverse effects on relevant VCS organisations of the City Council’s decision to extend the review process, which could reduce an organisation’s access to funding;**
- (4) that the second phase of related work, key strands and proposed timescales as detailed in Appendix 3, be approved;**
- (5) that, in view of the second phase of related work, the funding for Communities of Interest and Identity, detailed in Appendix 4 (exempt), be rolled forward from March 2013 to March 2014;**

Reasons for decision:

These recommendations would align arrangements for investment in the VCS with a single common approach, in order to improve transparency and accessibility to funding, ensure an outcomes-based system that more clearly demonstrates impact, and provide a collated, clearer, picture of how money was spent in local communities.

Feedback from consultation with the VCS highlighted that there were still some organisations that felt they did not fully understand the new proposal. Future communications would take account of this and work was progressing with the sector to address this so that it could participate fully in that process. The sector still wished to see small grants available for local projects which could meet local need.

Area Funding

Financial implication: £255,000 (Appendix 2, exempt). The outline of proposed extensions to contracts excluded most current Positive Activities for Young People (PAYP) contracts because previous contracts had either been let on a one-year basis only and included ‘one-off’ projects or were for activity(ies) in the school summer holidays, not between April and June.

Initial feedback from consultation indicated that the majority of Area Committees (five out of eight) were in favour of top slicing Area Grant Aid funding in 2013/14 to create a small grants fund. However, as it was recognised that this would reduce the level of Area funding further, it was proposed to analyse options for creating a small grants pot in each Area between November and February and to consult with the VCS.

Small Grants Programme 2012/13**Communities**

The fund was established to mitigate the reduction in funding to the VCS in 2012/13. However, funding to the sector was subsequently rolled forward to March 2013 and therefore no existing groups were adversely affected. The original allocation to small grants was £200,000 and £73,000 was spent in the first round.

Equalities - Communities of Interest and Identity

This fund was established to mitigate the reduction in funding to the Communities of Interest and Identity in 2012/13. However, funding to the sector was rolled forward to March 2013 and therefore the mitigations were not required. The funding allocation of £50,000 was not committed.

Streamlining Funding - Proposed Second Phase Activity

A wider range of other funding streams and proposed changes related to this work and a second phase was proposed to enable project teams and full review plans to begin work. The detailed proposals (outlined in Appendix 3 to the report), were:

<u>Work Strand</u>	<u>Estimated Timescale</u>	<u>Estimated Sub-committee Reporting Date</u>
Creating a simple small grants process	Nov 2012 – Feb 2013	March 2013
Creating an 'Investing in the VCS Strategy'	Dec 2012 – June 2013	June 2013
Moving to a fairer Area Funding Formula	Dec 2012 – June 2013	June 2013
Identifying NCC City-wide funding which could be invested through Areas	Sept 2013 – Mar 2014	November 2013
Identifying partner organisation funding that could be invested in the VCS	Sept 2013 – Mar 2014	November 2013
Review funding for Communities of Interest and Identity	January 2013 – Mar 2014	Spring 2013 (To be advised)

Other options considered:

Doing nothing would mean continuing with fragmented arrangements and differing timescales which could lead to unplanned outcomes and added confusion within the VCS.

A proposal by Jo Dean (NCVS) that, whilst accepting that the remaining elements of Small Grants Provision for 2012/13 should not be allocated, rather than rolling forward the Communities of Interest and Identity element of £50,000 to 2013/14, this should be used instead to mitigate any adverse effects on relevant VCS organisations of the City Council's decision to extend the review process and which could reduce an organisations access to funding. The proposal was accepted by the Sub-Committee.

61 SOCIAL EXCLUSION STRATEGIC COMMISSIONING REVIEW

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Quality and Commissioning, copies of which had been circulated.

RESOLVED

- (1) that progress of the Social Exclusion Strategic Commissioning Review (SESCR) and the intention to remodel supported accommodation as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, be noted;**
- (2) that the direct procurement of education sessions regarding the realities of homelessness and how to avoid it from Broxtowe Youth Homelessness, on behalf of Nottingham City schools in 2013/14 and 2014/15, at an estimated value of £9,000 pa, to be piloted and evaluated for successful preventions, be approved;**
- (3) that a two year pilot Community Capacity Pump Priming fund of £80,000 pa be established from October 2013 and its outcomes be evaluated for success;**
- (4) that a dispensation from contract procedure rules in accordance with Financial Regulations be approved and the Corporate Director of Children and Families be authorised to extend the services listed in Appendix 2 to the report for a limited period prior to the contracts being re-tendered.**

Reasons for decision:

To move the review forward, with individual elements being taken forward as necessary. This approach would allow for staggering of each option to ensure that sufficient resources were available to take each option forward in an appropriate manner. Appendix 4 provides Committee with an overview of how the 'non-commissioning' elements of the review would be progressed

Social exclusion supported accommodation required remodelling following a significant reduction of capacity in 2011/12 (approximately 50%) without any significant revisions to pathways or models of accommodation.

Evidence from the review indicated that young peoples supported accommodation and provision for those who were statutorily homeless was achieving positive outcomes in the large majority of cases. The provision would be re-commissioned in accordance with the existing model by means of a compliant procurement process.

Indications that, whilst the remainder of the social exclusion supported accommodation was meeting emergency accommodation needs, residents often picked up additional support needs whilst there and frequently were unable to sustain independent living

when moving on. In addition to this, the accommodating of large groups of people with complex needs in one place resulted in concerns about the impact on the locality. It was therefore felt that this form of accommodation required complete remodelling and this conclusion was supported by further evidence contained in Appendix 1 to the report and a further report submitted in February 2013 detailing the precise model of forward provision and procurement processes/recommendations relating to it.

The review set out to further a shift in investment towards early intervention and prevention initiatives. The direct procurement of education sessions regarding the realities of homelessness and how to avoid it contributed to this aim. The review also found that homelessness was rising both locally and nationally and this trend was expected to continue. Analysis of new and emerging legislative changes showed that independent living options for young people on low incomes or welfare benefits was becoming increasingly restricted, meaning that preventative and early intervention measures for young people were more important than ever. Justification for the delivery of training sessions was provided in Appendix 1 to the report.

Research indicated that a wide range of initiatives, not funded by the City Council already existed to make a significant contribution to supporting socially excluded people in Nottingham. These are highly valued by citizens and stakeholders alike.

To reflect this and enable VCS organisations to access “pump priming” funding that would enable them to expand and increase the support services they provided for the socially excluded in Nottingham, a Community Capacity Pump Priming fund totalling £80,000 p.a. was proposed for two years from October 2013. The funding represented approximately 1% of the total social exclusion spend and supported the delivery of the vulnerable adults plan. Further detail of the proposal and the evidence that underpins it was provided in Appendix 1 to the report.

For reasons of financial probity, valued services that are performing well and offering good value for money needed to be re-tendered. An exemption from the City Council's Financial Regulations was therefore being sought in respect of extensions to contracts detailed in Appendix 2 to the report to allow for alignment with other initiatives and/or to facilitate a compliant procurement process. Where a contract extension could not be secured, alternative options would be considered.

Other options considered

The following alternative options were considered and rejected:

Option	Reason for rejection
Re-commission existing supported accommodation along similar lines as at present for a further 3 years, tendering where this is practicable and possible	The recommendation contained within the main report on supported accommodation was preferred over this
Young persons, statutory and existing complex needs supported accommodation provision is maintained, direct access is reshaped	The recommendation contained within the main report on supported accommodation was preferred over this
Commission Services for Engagement and Advocacy (SEA) to work with temporary accommodation providers to reduce evictions from supported accommodation	<p>This was proposed as it was claimed within options generation that SEA had effected a dramatic reduction in evictions from Framework supported accommodation.</p> <p>However, analysis of evictions from Framework provision over this time in comparison to other provision did not back up the assertion made. Given that much progress has been made in reducing evictions through alternative measures in recent years it was agreed to reject this option.</p>
Use work already done by SEA/Framework and share this with other supported accommodation providers	<p>This was proposed as it was claimed within options generation that SEA had effected a dramatic reduction in evictions from Framework supported accommodation. However, analysis of evictions from Framework provision over this time in comparison to other provision did not back up the assertion made. Given that much progress has been made in reducing evictions through alternative measures in recent years it was agreed to reject this option.</p>

62 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

RESOLVED that the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the remaining items in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the basis that, having regard to all the circumstances, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

63 SOCIAL EXCLUSION STRATEGIC COMMISSIONING REVIEW

RESOLVED that the exempt appendix be noted.

Reasons for decision:

As per Minute 61.

Other options considered:

As per Minute 61.

64 KEY DECISION - STREAMLINING INVESTMENT TO THE VCS (VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR) – AREA SPECIFICATION AND PHASE TWO PROGRAMME

RESOLVED that the exempt appendices be noted.

Reasons for decision:

As per Minute 60.

Other options considered:

As per Minute 60.