

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham
City Council

Reference Number:	2211
Author:	Steve Harrison
Department:	Communities
Contact:	Steve Harrison (Job Title: Special Projects Manager - Cohesion, Email: steve.harrison@nottinghamcity.gov.uk, Phone: 65512)
Subject:	Safe Places Funding - to agree continuation of funding to MENCAP
Total Value:	40,000 (Type: Revenue)
Decision Being Taken:	Approval to dispense with Contract Procedure Rule 5.1.1 in accordance with Financial Regulation (3.29) (Operational Issues) to allow for the direct payment of £40,000 to Nottingham Mencap (£20,000 in 2015/2016 and £20,000 in 2016/17) to continue the development and delivery of the Safe Places scheme for people with learning disabilities and other vulnerable people within their Smile Stop Hate campaign. This is Health funding ring-fenced for support for work with this community.
Reasons for the Decision(s)	This funding stream was previously part of commissioned adult social care but provision but was transferred to Communities for the remaining two years of funding (2015/6 - 2016/7). Mencap has been developing provision in consultation with colleagues in the Council's Cohesion Service and with the support of the joint City/County Hate Crime Steering Group. Progress to date has been good with evidence of milestones being met, good service user involvement and punctual submission of performance reports. The goodwill generated by the project for service users and fact that this raises the profile of hate crime more generally also contributes to a project that offers good value for money. given successful progress in developiong this provision it would not have represented good value for money to recommission the provision for the remaining two years for which money is available and it is therefore recommended that approval is given to continue to fund Mencap subject to satisfactory performance being maintained.

Other Options Considered:

The Safe Places service is a network of public locations such as libraries and shops where people with learning difficulties can seek safety if they encounter any hostility. Mencap's role has been to manage this project by identifying appropriate locations, persuading them to join the scheme and providing them with training and support. They are assisted in this by their relationship with service users and understanding their needs and their involvement in partnership working, particularly with regard to hate crime, and their awareness of the priorities of the Hate Crime Steering Group. Consideration was given to recommissioning the service but this would have meant any new provider, assuming alternative providers could have been found, having to duplicate previous activity as well as risking the loss of goodwill from the many organisations that had been persuaded by Mencap to become involved. Both of these factors presented too large a risk to the delivery of the project and recommissioning was ruled out.

Background Papers:

Published Works:

Affected Wards:

Citywide

Colleague / Councillor Interests:

None

Dispensation from Financial Regulations:

Yes

Consultations:

Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.

Crime and Disorder Implications:

These proposal supports victims of hate crime offering individuals support if they experience hostility and providing refuge if they feel they are at risk.

Equality:

EIA not required. Reasons: Funding is for existing third party provision

Social Value Considerations:

n/a

Decision Type:

Portfolio Holder

Subject to Call In: Yes

Call In Expiry date: 26/10/2015

Advice Sought: Legal, Finance, Procurement

Legal Advice: The proposals set out in the report raise no significant legal issues and are supported. Advice provided by Malcolm Townroe (Legal Services Manager) on 08/10/2015.

Finance Advice: I can confirm that funding of £20k for 2015/16 has been made available and that a further £20k will be transferred to Community Cohesion for 2016/17

The funding is ring fenced and comes from the Learning Disability Partnership Board (LDPB) which has been received in advance through Public Health. This is already included in the MTFP and carries no financial risks to the authority. Advice provided by Michelle Pullen (Senior Accounts Assistant) on 10/09/2015.

Procurement Advice: There are no significant procurement concerns with this decision.

Dispensation from carrying out a competitive process is supported on this occasion. Given the short-term nature of the remaining funding and the set-up time anticipated for any new provider, it is unlikely that we would attract market interest or improve value for money by following a procurement process at this point.

If any future requirement for this service is identified beyond 2016/17, this should be subject to a competitive process in compliance with Contract Procedure Rules. This will ensure that the Council is able to demonstrate fairness, transparency and value for money going forwards.

Advice provided by Dawn Cafferty (Procurement Category Manager) on 22/09/2015.

Signatures

Nicola Heaton (Portfolio Holder for Community Services)
SIGNED and Dated: 19/10/2015
Andrew Vaughan (Corporate Director Commercial and Operations)
SIGNED and Dated: 19/10/2015
Theresa Channell (Head of Corporate and Strategic Finance) - Dispensation from Financial Regulations
SIGNED and Dated: 16/10/2015
Chief Financial Officer's Comments: