

## Targeted Intervention Project 19 January 2010

### Report of Corporate Director (Regeneration)

PURPOSE OF REPORT			
To inform members about the progress towards securing Supporting People Programme Funding for the Targeted Intervention Project, to seek approval to accept £49,800 external funding for the project and to proceed with project implementation.			
Key Decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Non-Key Decision	Referral from Cabinet Member
Date Included in Forward Plan	7 <sup>th</sup> December 2009		
This report is public			

#### RECOMMENDATIONS OF COUNCILLORS BRYNING AND FLETCHER

- (1) That the offer of £49,800 Supporting People Programme Funding for the Targeted Intervention Project be accepted and that the General Fund Revenue Budget be updated accordingly to reflect the additional expenditure and grant funding.
- (2) That officers be authorised to implement the Project

#### 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 On the 19<sup>th</sup> February 2008 members supported and approved the applications to Lancashire Supporting People Commissioning Body for funding for a Targeted Intervention Project.
- 1.2 In 2006 the Supporting People Commissioning Board (on which the City Council is represented) completed a service review programme. It was then in a position to commission new services in line with its strategic priorities and decide that its first priority was to look at existing services across the County that were eligible for Supporting People funding and that might be at risk of closure or service level reduction without funding from the programme. In January 2008 two separate bids were submitted by the city council, one in respect of the Vulnerable Households Project and one relating to the Targeted Intervention Project (TIP). The Vulnerable Households bid was approved in June 2008 and this project is currently being implemented, alongside the Lancaster & Morecambe Worklessness Pilot project, by

the Integrated Support Projects Team. Although LDLSP funding for the Integrated Support Projects Team has been confirmed to the end of 2010/11, the continuation of Supporting People funds for the Vulnerable Households Project has only been confirmed until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010 and its continuation is still subject to ongoing discussion with County.

- 1.3 The Supporting People commissioning Board met in May 2008 and decided in principle to commission a service in the Lancaster District and other parts of Lancashire to provide proactive targeted support to vulnerable and disengaged people based on the model bid TIP put forward by Lancaster City Council for tenants living in private rented and social housing sector.
- 1.4 Further discussions have taken place in relation to the Targeted Intervention Project bid, and in July 2009 the city council received verbal confirmation that the bid had been successful. There has been a significant delay due to the Head of Supporting People having to submit a report to County Council which would agree to waive standing orders to allow funding for the project to go ahead without the need to go out to tender. Following a recent meeting the County Council gave approval to waive standing orders and gave formal approval to fund the TIP for one year from the date of receipt of funding.

## **2.0 The Integrated Support Team**

- 2.1 The team has an excellent track record in engaging socially excluded people in some of the worst performing neighbourhoods in the district and, as noted above, is currently delivering the Lancaster & Morecambe Worklessness Pilot Project, funded by the Lancaster District Local Strategic Partnership to March 2011 with the Vulnerable Households project, also funded through the Supporting People programme, to March 2010. The team have achieved success in preventing homelessness, reducing incidents of anti-social behaviour, helping people into work and engaging clients with mainstream services. It has also demonstrated a clear need to provide targeted outreach to take the support to those who fall outside mainstream services or who don't traditionally engage with services. The new service to be delivered through the Targeted Intervention Project will complement these existing services and will build on the Team's expertise in engaging hard-to-reach individuals and families.
- 2.2 It is anticipated the additional £49,800 funding will create capacity for two temporary members of staff for a 12 month period from March/April 2010 who will deliver intensive outreach support with a number of the most vulnerable or "high demand" single households across the district. Sanctions and incentives will be used to encourage change, and support provided over a period of months (or for as long as necessary) to enable those involved to sustain this change. The key workers act as a single point of contact and co-ordinate the services which need to engage with the individual. This offers an alternative solution to deal with antisocial behaviour and problematic tenants. By gaining the confidence and trust of the client this intensive support involves working with people to secure their commitment to change, to sustain tenancies and prevent eviction and problems being moved on to another area.
- 2.3 As mentioned previously, the continuation of the Vulnerable Household Project after March 2010 is still subject to further Supporting People funding being confirmed. If

this project could not continue there is potential for the Project Officer to transfer over to the Targeted Intervention Project instead (to be based with the Integrated Support Team), allowing the Council to retain the skills and knowledge of the existing postholder. Alternatively, if the Vulnerable Housing Project is awarded further funding after March 2010, the Integrated Support Project Team Manager proposes to recruit two new members of staff to the project for the 12 month period.

### **3.0 Details of Consultation**

- 3.1 The development and operation of the project have been subject to detailed consultation with partners and stakeholders. The Integrated Support Team is actively supported by various statutory and voluntary partners working within the district to address social issues. The details of this report have not however been specifically subject to consultation.

### **4.0 Options and Options Analysis**

- 4.1 **Option 1 – Accept the external funding offer of £49,800 from the Supporting People Programme and seek to implement the project, from within existing staff resources, where possible.**

Accepting the funding will create new employment opportunities and could enable the transfer of an existing project officer over to one of the new posts, if funding is not secured into 2010/11 for the Vulnerable Households Project. It will also add value to the Worklessness Project working along side to support the offer made to target the adult working population claiming out of work benefits in our most deprived wards within the district.

- 4.2 **Option 2 – Reject The Funding Offer**

This would result in a lost opportunity to deliver the project and the associated benefits as identified within the report.

### **5.0 Officer Preferred Option (and comments)**

- 5.1 **Option 1 – Accept the external funding offer of £49,800 from the Supporting People Programme and seek to implement the project, from within existing staff resources, where possible.**

This will allow the recruitment of 2 temporary, full time posts creating new employment opportunities to deliver support to 30 households with a view to engaging households with the Worklessness Project if appropriate over the 12 month funding period.

### **6.0 Conclusion**

- 6.1 There is a real opportunity to extend the support services offered by the Integrated Support Team, and build on previous successful engagement within the community.

## **RELATIONSHIP TO POLICY FRAMEWORK**

The project is aimed at the Council's statutory obligations towards homeless people and ensuring homelessness prevention. It supports the delivery and implementation of the Council's Housing Strategy and Homelessness Strategy as well as achieving Local Area Agreement Cross Cutting Priority Outcomes. The projects also links into the Sustainable Community Strategy.

## **CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

The project will bring a substantial contribution towards community safety as well as ensuring the rights of the individual's home. The project is targeted at those who are both vulnerable and socially excluded. The project also contributes to social cohesion and sustainable communities.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

### **Option 1 – Accept the external funding offer of £48,900**

The Integrated Supports team is currently made up of 3 posts, one of which is a permanent full time post and two which are full time but temporary until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011. The Vulnerable Households Project employs one officer who is in a full time permanent post. All of the posts rely on external funding.

Accepting this offer would create two additional full time, temporary posts in the Integrated Support Team for a 12 month period, which have been assessed at Grade 3 in the new pay structure.

If the Vulnerable Households Project was unable to continue into 2010/11 due to lack of external funding, the project officer could be transferred over to this new project on their existing SCP 25 which is at the top of Grade 3, at a total cost of £27,200 for the 12 month period, subject to being agreed with HR. The second post could then be recruited to at SCP 18 with a proposed cost of £21,600, giving a total of £48,800 which can be fully covered by the funding offered. This would not cover any associated running costs, however, which would need to be met from within existing Council resources or an alternative staffing structure be implemented to ensure that there is no additional impact on the Council's net resources.

Alternatively, if the Vulnerable Housing Project were to continue then both posts would be recruited to at SCP 18, giving total staffing costs of £43,200. In addition, if the postholders were to opt out of the Council Pension Scheme, these costs would be reduced and any remaining grant used to pay for Mileage, Mobile Phones, work related call charges, Lone Worker Monitoring and CRB Checks.

### **Option 2 – Refuse the funding offer**

The decision to decline this funding offer could have implications for future bids for supporting people grant and other external funding sources, in particular for the ongoing support required to keep the existing Vulnerable Households post in situ. Also there would be a lost opportunity to add value to the Worklessness Project undertaken by the Integrated Support Team through integrated work between the two projects.

There is also an increased risk of redundancy if the Vulnerable Households Project funding did not continue after 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010 and the project officer could not be relocated to the Integrated Support Team. In this situation the Council would face potential redundancy costs

of £8.6k by the end of the 2009/10 financial year if not successfully redeployed elsewhere within the Council's other Services.

**SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS**

The section 151 officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

**LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

Legal Services have been consulted and have no further comments.

**MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS**

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

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