

BUDGET AND PERFORMANCE PANEL

Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector Commissioning (VCFS) – Review of Activity

24 February 2015

Report of Chief Officer (Governance)

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide the panel with feedback on the current commissioned contracts within the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector (VCFS) outlining performance towards the delivery of outcomes and the analysis and evaluation of trends and matters of concern arising from the regular monitoring of the commissioning arrangements.

This report is public

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That the Panel note and comment on the work undertaken by partners on the council's behalf as part of the commissioning arrangements, and the outcomes achieved so far for the district**
- (2) That the Panel note for comment the changes in the sector in light of any future commissioning arrangements that the Council may wish to undertake**

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The council has a number of contracts with VCFS partners, as part of commissioning arrangements for the delivery of advice and information services, infrastructure support and volunteering.
- 1.2 These contracts were the result of a procurement exercise undertaken in 2012 for the provision of services outlined in the Delivery and Commissioning Plan approved by Cabinet in December 2012.
- 1.3 Successful partners formally entered into a contract with the council for the financial year 2013 with the option of adding 2014/15 and 2015/16 subject to the budgetary process.
- 1.4 At its meeting in March 2013, Cabinet approved the distribution of funds totalling £245,000 for the delivery of these services.

2 Details

- 2.1 Appendix A provides a review of activity for the delivery of advice and information services, infrastructure support and volunteering. The report sets out the achievements, concerns and progress made for the period April 2013 to December 2014 by each commissioned partner, and identifies how they contribute towards the delivery of priorities in the 2014 – 16 Corporate Plan.

3 Conclusion

- 3.1 The commissioning approach undertaken by the Council has been well received and generally viewed as a significant improvement in the allocation of

funding to successful partners for the delivery of advice and information services, infrastructure support and volunteering.

- 3.2 Overall the report shows that partners have performed reasonably well, with some notable achievements in very challenging circumstances and at a time of changing individual needs and dynamics within the VCFS sector.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(including Health & Safety, Equality & Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)

Equality and diversity was carefully considered as part of the framework for the commissioning of partners to ensure that appropriate policies were in place. No other impact arising directly from this report, but will need further consideration subject to commissioning continuing beyond 2015 - 16.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None arising from this report

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This report is with regards to the progress to date of commissioned contracts, which are due to run April 2013 until March 2016, subject to future annual budget processes. As such, the report does not have any further financial implications. Any costs incurred have been met from existing budgets.

OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Human Resources / : Information Services / Property / Open Spaces: None directly arising from this report but will need to be taken into consideration subject to the commissioning of services from 2016 - 17 onwards.

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The s151 Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

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

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Delivering and Commissioning Plan 2013-16

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