

Decision maker: Resources portfolio Decision Making Meeting

Subject: Voluntary and Community sector report

Report by: Mandy Lindley Third Sector Partnerships and Commissioning Manager

Wards affected: All

Key decision (over £250k): NO

1. Purpose of report

The purpose of the report is to present the findings of the counselling review, to confirm the arrangements for PCC's grant programme for 2012/13 and to receive an update regarding voluntary and community sector issues, (including a verbal update regarding Community First).

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Note the counselling review and next steps.
- 2.2 Agree the timescale for the corporate grants programme for 2012/13 and consider proposal to look at options for the future of the corporate grants programme.
- 2.3 Note the progress made with accommodation charges from last meeting

3. Background

3.1 Counselling Review

A review of counselling services funded by the council and delivered by the voluntary and community sector in Portsmouth was requested during the budget setting exercise for 2011/12. The aim of the review is to ascertain the level of counselling provision in the city.

The services identified by this review were made aware of the aim of this piece of work and have worked closely with the voluntary sector team on its production. The full surveys completed are available from the voluntary sector team but most of the detail can be found in appendix 2 (Counselling Review Survey Results), and the report at appendix 1.

The review has identified that the four organisations named within this report:-

- Portsmouth Area Rape Crisis Service (PARCS)
- Portsmouth Counselling Service
- Portsmouth and District Relate
- Off the Record

All receive funding from more than one source of funding from PCC and from across more than one service. This highlights the opportunities for streamlining the managing of these funding agreements and provides improved assurance that value for money is being achieved through reduced contract management, reduced handling of invoices and reduced administrative burden on the providers.

This review does not consider NHS counselling provision. The Integrated Commissioning Unit (ICU) is currently carrying out work on improving the primary care psychological interventions pathway. It is important to note the interdependent nature of these services in promoting the mental health of the local population.

Next steps

Bearing in mind the work aforementioned and the Shaping our Future Commissioning and procurement work stream this review will now fall into the remit of the category management programme (people). Early dialogue with the ICU has acknowledged the value of this piece of work and we will work together to streamline arrangements. It is possible that this will negate the need for a procurement exercise as contracts maybe brought together. The project leads for the work stream will advise of this in due course.

3.2 Grants Programme 2012/13

Since the last resources meeting we have started discussions with Hants and Isle of Wight Community Foundation to investigate the possible transfer of the corporate grants programme into a community fund for Portsmouth which could, and does attract other investment. More work is needed on this proposal which we would plan to present to resources portfolio in due course, however in order to provide the funding mechanism for many of our smaller voluntary and community organisations we are recommending that the corporate grants programme for 2012/13 commences as outlined in appendix 3.

In line with last year we recommend inviting only those organisations that we currently fund to apply but with no guarantee of funding at this stage. We would aim to develop up the business case for the future of corporate grants and potential transitional arrangements early in 2012 for further consideration.

3.3 Accommodation charges update

In the report presented to Resources portfolio in July it was agreed to introduce rent charges for organisations receiving a subsidy from the Resources Portfolio. Following that meeting arrangements have been put in place to commence the accommodation charges for CAB with effect from 1st April 2012. However it has come to light in discussions with asset management that lease agreements are in place as follows:-

- Off the Record £5,000 with a lease till 2016
- Scout hut £5,000 who signed a lease in 1994 for a period of 20 years with 5 year reviews, next review being due 12/12/14 however it would

seem we have been charging £5,000 for a £1,500 lease so we will seek to rectify this discrepancy.

As a result of these agreements we will not be able to commence charging these two organisations as planned in April 2012. However, we will be writing to them once we have clarification from asset management to inform them that once these terms conclude it will be our intention to start charging. We are also investigating commissioning opportunities which may present a chance to factor the accommodation costs in for Off the Record and thus reduce the burden on this portfolio.

5. Equality impact assessment (EIA)

A preliminary EIA has been completed for the counselling review (3.1)

No EIA is required for item 3.2

A preliminary EIA has been completed in respect of the Accommodation Changes (3.3)

6. Head of legal services' comments

There are no legal implications arising from the recommendations set out in this report. The ongoing review of the corporate grants funding, which will be brought to Members at a later date, is being discussed with Legal Services to ensure that there is compliance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules where relevant.

7. Head of finance's comments

There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations set out in this report.

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Signed by:

Appendices:

Appendix 1 counselling review summary report

Appendix 2 counselling review survey results

Appendix 3 grants timetable 2012/13

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by on

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Signed by: