
Report to:	Cabinet	Date of Meeting:	Friday 3rd July 2015
Subject:	Voluntary, Community & Faith Sector (VCF) Review	Wards Affected:	(All Wards);
Report of:	Director of Corporate Services		
Is this a Key Decision? Exempt/Confidential	Yes No	Is it included in the Forward Plan?	Yes

Purpose/Summary

For Members to receive the outcomes of discussions within the Council relating to future support to VCF organisations in Sefton and to consider the proposals set out below.

The funding for VCF organisations is complex and contains elements of both infrastructure support and funding for specific commissioned activity. This report covers both these aspects.

Recommendation(s)

That

- (1) a new Integrated Youth Service be commissioned with an indicative budget of £270,000 and the specification for that commissioned service be agreed by the Cabinet Member for Children, Schools and Safeguarding;
- (2) a new Integrated Wellness Service be commissioned and the specification for that commissioned service be agreed by the Cabinet (see item later on this agenda);
- (3) specific elements of Substance Misuse Services be commissioned in accordance with required budget reductions and the specification for those commissioned services be agreed by the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing;
- (4) the Head of Communities be requested to undertake detailed discussions with Sefton Citizen's Advice Bureau and Sefton CVS with a view to undertaking a new commissioning process within the context set out in paragraph 5.2 below;
- (5) the Director of Social Care & Health be requested to undertake detailed discussions with Sefton Carer's Centre with a view to undertaking a new commissioning process within the context set out in paragraph 5.2 below;
- (6) the Head of Communities, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Communities and Housing implement budget reductions of £27,000 from the budget for voluntary sector infrastructure; and

(7) the Head of Adult Social Care in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care implement budget reductions of £152,769 from the overall budget of £394,880 relating to small grants in that sector.

How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Objectives?

<u>Corporate Objective</u>		<u>Positive Impact</u>	<u>Neutral Impact</u>	<u>Negative Impact</u>
1	Creating a Learning Community		√	
2	Jobs and Prosperity		√	
3	Environmental Sustainability		√	
4	Health and Well-Being		√	
5	Children and Young People		√	
6	Creating Safe Communities		√	
7	Creating Inclusive Communities		√	
8	Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening Local Democracy		√	

Reasons for the Recommendation:

To implement the budget savings required and to work towards a more co-ordinated commissioning process for the VCF sector.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

None

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

A co-ordinated commissioning approach is being promoted in order to achieve required budget savings. Specific details will be subject to decisions that have yet to be taken.

(B) Capital Costs

N/A

Implications:

The following implications of this proposal have been considered and where there are specific implications, these are set out below:

Financial

Legal	
Human Resources	
Equality	
1. No Equality Implication	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Equality Implications identified and mitigated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. Equality Implication identified and risk remains	<input type="checkbox"/>

Impact of the Proposals on Service Delivery:

The proposals aim to achieve a more co-ordinated commissioning approach for the VCF Sector and the Council.

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

The Head of Corporate Finance and ICT (FD3624/15) notes that the report brings together details of a number of individual payments that are currently made to the VCF sector which will provide a basis for consulting on specific future savings options.

The Head of Corporate Legal Services (LD.2916/15.) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

Implementation Date for the Decision

Following the expiry of the “call-in” period for the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting

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Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection

1. Introduction/Background

1.1 Sefton has a rich and diverse VCF sector comprising over 1200 organisations serving the communities of the Borough. It is estimated that these organisations offer 6000 local services, as many provide multi-faceted support and services. In broad terms they can be categorised by the following themes:-

- Adult Health and Wellbeing
- Children, Young People and Families

- Information, Advice and Advocacy
- Education, Training and Employability
- Faith and Worship

1.2 VCF organisations draw their funding from many sources including donations, subscriptions, bequests, trusts and funding bodies e.g. Lottery Grants. In addition some of them receive funding from public bodies to provide services. This report is focused on those VCF organisations who receive direct funding support from Sefton Council

1.3 The Cabinet was informed in January 2015 that a review of the services commissioned from the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector was being undertaken and it will identify the risk and impact of reductions in this area. It was informed that budget planning assumption will be made until specific proposals have been identified.

1.4 The Cabinet was also informed that as these reviews are complex and the aggregate impact on communities and partners will not be known until the summer, but it was anticipated that these reviews will identify significant savings. It was noted that at this stage the Council has not identified a specific budget saving for inclusion in the two year plan as it is considered important not to prejudge the outcomes of these reviews.

1.5 Discussions will be held with the VCF organisations, and in the context of the proposals set out in this report, those discussions will explore the dependencies and interdependencies of proposals in terms of individual organisational impact, including the sustainability of the organisation, other sources and funding, as well as the use of Council funding to match for these funding sources. They will also include the following considerations:-

1.5.1 The services offered by the organisations in terms of key themes of support e.g. domestic violence, mental health, children's services, social isolation and advocacy.

1.5.2 The locality presence of the organisations in terms of providing community access to service provision within locality area either by direct provision or by hosting provision.

1.5.3 Organisational leadership in terms of facilitated development of community capacity and capability and the promotion of community resilience. The discussions will also include funding provided to the VCF sector from the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) of Southport and Formby and South Sefton, and officers from the CCGs will be part of that discussion as appropriate.

1.5.4 Subject to the outcome of the discussions referred to above, the funding reductions referred to in this report will be with effect from April 2016. Where there is any reduction or cessation of funding to an organisation the Council will give at least 3 months' notice to that organisation. Funding from 2016/17 will be on the basis of clearly

agreed outcome based commissioned agreements.

2.0 Integrated Youth Services

2.1 The budget for the Integrated Youth Service is currently £539,000 spread across the following organisations:

Awards Solutions	£10,000
Brunswick YCC	£50,000
Christchurch YCC	£50,000
East Parishes Consortium	£40,000
Litherland Youth Club	£50,000
Netherton Park Neighbourhood Centre	£50,000
Parenting 2000	£100,000
Sefton CVS – Youth Cabinet	£9,000
SING	£10,000
SPACE	£50,000
St. Leonards YCC	£10,000
Woodvale & Ainsdale YCC	£30,000
Ykids	£50,000
Youth & Community Partnership	£30,000
TOTAL	£539,000

2.2 It is recommended that a new Integrated Youth Service be commissioned with an indicative budget of £270,000 and the specification for that commissioned service be agreed by the Cabinet Member for Children, Schools and Safeguarding.

3.0 Integrated Wellness Service (IWS)

3.1 The VCF organisations that are currently delivering services that will fall within the IWS are as follows:

Organisation	2015/16
Sefton Citizens Advice Bureau	£303,700
May Logan Centre	£215,610
Netherton Feelgood Factory	£402,250
Brighter Living Partnership	£73,850
Sefton CVS	£114,200
Sefton Partnership for Older Citizens	£29,000
Total	£1,138,610

3.2 It is recommended that a new Integrated Wellness Service be commissioned and the specification for that commissioned service be agreed by the Cabinet.

4.0 Substance Misuse

4.1 The VCF organisations that are currently delivering substance misuse services are:

Provider	Service type	Budget
Sefton Carers	Support families of substance users	£71,430
Independence Initiative	Structured day care	£104,422
Salvation Army	Service user forum	£28,500
Littledale	Residential rehabilitation	£35,000
Phoenix	Residential rehabilitation	£104,422
The Thomas Organisation	Residential rehabilitation	Spot purchase agreement
Arch Initiatives	Residential detoxification	£54,000
TOTAL		£397,774

4.1 It is recommended that specific elements of Substance Misuse Services be commissioned in accordance with required budget reductions and the specification for those commissioned services be agreed by the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing.

5.0 Key Partners

5.1 In terms of existing grant aid and commissioned services, 3 organisations in the Borough between them receive substantial proportions of the Borough's funding. The organisations are Sefton Council for Voluntary Service, Sefton Carers Centre and Sefton Citizens Advice Bureau, and their aggregate funding for 15/16 amounts to £1,713,650 of the £4,264,772 of funding to the sector from the Council through grants or commissioned activity. Clearly the current funding to these 3 Sefton wide organisations is provided for a wide range of services as reflected in the complexity of their funding package. Some levels of funding relates to specific commissioned projects whereas others relate to infrastructure support, for example, Sefton CVS and Sefton Carer's Centre receive funding under integrated wellness services (see paragraph 3.1) and substance misuse service (see paragraph 4.1) respectively.

5.2 It is proposed to undertake detailed discussions with each organisation with a view to undertake a new commissioning process to secure services and support in accordance with the Council's priorities and in the context of a reduced level of available resources.

Organisation	2015/16
Sefton Carer's Centre	£382,050
Sefton Citizens Advice Bureau	£557,854
Sefton CVS	£773,746
TOTAL	£1,713,650

6.0 Voluntary Sector Infrastructure

6.1 A number of smaller amounts are currently given to Voluntary Sector organisations mainly to assist with running costs, these are detailed below and it is recommended that the Head of Communities, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Communities and Housing implement budget reductions of £27,000 from the range of smaller grants listed below totaling £111,920.

Organisation	Amount
Woodvale Community Centre, Meadow Lane	£6,500
Waterloo Community Centre, Gt. George's Road	£4,500
Christchurch Youth & Community Centre, Oxford Road	£40,000
Litherland Youth & Community Centre, Sefton Road	£37,920
St. Leonard's Youth & Community Centre, Peel Road	£5,000
Salvation Army Bootle, Stanley Road	£3,000
Netherton Park Neighbourhood Centre, Chester Avenue	£5,000
Sefton Stars Basketball Club & Community Centre, Fernhill Road	£3,000
L30 Centre, Stonyfield	£7,000
Anthony Walker Foundation	£6,358
Light for Life	£37,000
Pride of Sefton	£5,000
River Mersey Inshore Rescue	£10,000
Sefton Womens & Children's Aid	£37,002
	£111,920

7.0 Adult Social Care

7.1 Similarly, Adult Social Care fund a number of organisations and it is recommended that the Head of Adult Social Care in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing implement budget reductions of £152,769 from the overall budget of £394,880.

Organisation	2015/16
Ainsdale Community Care Project	10,650
Alzheimers Society	2,450
Bradbury Fields	15,900
Crosby Older Peoples Luncheon Club	7,750
Formby CVS	8,850
Galloways	1,700
Imagine	132,700
Merseyside Society for Deaf People	9,600
People First	22,500
Sefton Advocacy	44,850

Sefton Helping Hand	50,655
Sefton Opera	23,300
South Sefton Visually Impaired Group	1,175
SPOC	500
SWAN	62,300
TOTAL	394,880