

Adult Social Care Scrutiny Commission Report

VCS Review Phase 1: Carers' Support, Lunch Clubs and Visual & Dual Sensory Support

Lead Director: Steven Forbes
Date: 25th September 2018

Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: All
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- Report version number: 1

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1. At the Scrutiny Commission of 28th August 2018, the Lead member updated the commission on the outcome of phase 1 of the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Review.
- 1.2. As agreed at the meeting, the purpose of this report is to present the update already provided, and provide the Equality Impact Assessments of those services under review.

2. Summary

- 2.1. Adult Social Care (ASC) is carrying out a review of a range of services commissioned from the VCS. The review covers 7 services. In addition, a new service; Service User Participation, is currently being developed.
- 2.2. This report outlines the proposals for Phase 1 – Carers’ support; lunch club funding; and visual and dual sensory support services.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1. The ASC Scrutiny Commission is recommended to note the report and provide comments.

4. Report

- 4.1. Adult Social Care (ASC) is required to make savings of £790k against its Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) spend of £1.9m.

Carers’ Support

- 4.2. There are currently 5 contracts with 3 organisations (Carers Centre, Age UK, Ansaar). The total contract value is £252,562 and it is proposed to reduce it to £154,063

- 4.3. The rationale for the proposal is that the current model of 5 services for different groups is not appropriate for the city's increasingly diverse city and carer base. One service would be simpler for carers and others to have one place to go to, and would be a more efficient use of the reducing funding available.
- 4.4. Current contracts are due to end on 31.3.2019. It is proposed to reduce from 5 contracts to one Carers Hub services from 1.4.2019
- 4.5. This is a non-statutory service, aimed at carers who may not have eligible needs. Carers are assessed as having eligible needs receive support such as respite or more help with the person they care for. This support is not the focus of the review.
- 4.6. Three months consultation has taken place from 9th April to 29th June 2018. Only 43 people responded to the consultation, although there were several responses from The Carers Centre and feedback from meetings.
- 4.7. Of the responses 24 people (56%) did not agree with the proposal, whilst 19 people (44%) either agreed, weren't sure or did not answer.
- 4.8. The main concern raised through consultation was about the level of demand on the services provided by the existing carers organisations and not be able to cope with a reduced contract value. However, this is contradictory to the monitoring information received from the existing organisations which shows some of the services are underutilised.
- 4.9. The new model is considered the most cost-effective way of providing support with the funding that is available.

Lunch Club funding

- 4.10. The Council pays a subsidy of £139,719 a year to 13 organisations to run lunch clubs for people age over 55.
- 4.11. Most are in the inner city and are BME / faith based organisations
- 4.12. There is no rationale to the funding based on need or preventative value for the list of the clubs that receive the funding, nor the level of funding provided to each club. It is possible to run lunch clubs or other activities to support older people to socialise without needing council funding, and there are examples of this in the city.
- 4.13. This is a non- statutory service, and whilst many people enjoy and value the clubs, there is no evidence of preventative value to adult social care.

- 4.14. The proposal is to cease funding on a tapering basis over 3 years - year 1 25% reduction, year 2 50% reduction, year 3 75% reduction, year 4 end of funding. The purposes of the tapering approach is to enable lunch clubs to find alternative funding and /or find lower cost alternative to lunches.
- 4.15. Three months formal consultation has taken place from 9th April to 29th June 2018. This has included 1:1 meetings with several of the providers and meetings with service users. There were 172 responses to the survey.
- 4.16. Concerns raised through the consultation were mainly focussed around the likelihood of social isolation, rather than the issue of older people not receiving a meal.
- 4.17. A review of local groups for older people operating out of the council's libraries and community rooms show there are alternative activities. There are also likely to be many more facilities provided by community groups and religious organisations not funded by the council
- 4.18. Support will be given by ASC officers and VAL to develop sustainability plans with the clubs.

Visual and dual sensory impairment support

- 4.19. There is currently one organisation (Vista) providing this service. The current contract is due to end on 31.3.2019. This is a statutory service.
- 4.20. The total contract value is £296,525 and it is proposed to reduce it to £188,129. It should be noted that for 2017/18 the contract value was reduced from £296,525 to £279,000 by agreement with the provider as they could not achieve the required contractual outputs due to low demand.
- 4.21. Three months formal consultation has taken place from 9th April to 29th June 2018. 244 people responded to the survey - 107 people (44%) disagreed with the proposal. 63 people (26%) agreed with the proposal and 58 people (24%) of people said, 'don't know / not sure' and 16 people (6%) did not answer this question
- 4.22. The consultation proposal was to reduce the contract value and to fund only the statutory elements of the service. The consultation proposed funding of £148,129. However, because of feedback through the consultation it is proposed to increase this to £188,129 (an increase of £40k).
- 4.23. This additional £40k will cover £35k for a specialist worker for deafblind reablement and £5k for specialist equipment. The additional monies are

built into our budget as we anticipated they would require more for the specialist deafblind reablement worker.

4.24. Equality Impact Assessments have been carried out for each of the services and these are at Appendices A to C.

5. Financial, legal and other implications

5.1 Financial implications

5.1.1 From the overall savings target of £790k, this report (Phase 1) will save: £26.2k in 2018/19; £250.6k in 2019/20; £285.5k in 2020/21 and £346.6k in 2021/22 (these are cumulative figures).

5.1.2 For completeness, another report (Phase 2) done separately identifies further savings.

Rohit Rughani, Principal Accountant, Ext 37 4003

5.2 Legal implications

5.2 The Council has followed the Best Value Consultation Guidance and undertaken an appropriate consultation with the responses being conscientiously considered before a final decision is made. Any genuine alternative proposals have been taken into account in the appropriate cases such as in the case of the visual and dual sensory impairment support service's increased budget.

Jenis Taylor, Principal Solicitor (Commercial), Ext 37 1405

5.3 Climate Change and Carbon Reduction implications

5.3

5.4 Equalities Implications

5.4

6. Background information and other papers:

7. Summary of appendices:

Appendix A: Carers Support – Equality Impact Assessment

Appendix B: Lunch Clubs – Equality Impact Assessment

Appendix C: Visual and Dual Sensory Impairment – Equality Impact Assessment

8. Is this a private report (If so, please indicated the reasons and state why it is not in the public interest to be dealt with publicly)?

No

9. Is this a “key decision”?