

OPTION: REVIEW OF VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH SECTOR GRANTS

**BUDGET SAVING: £500,000 – review of VCF contracts
£320,000 – review of drugs and alcohol rehabilitation**

DESCRIPTION OF OPTION

The Department of Adult Social Services currently commits £2,218,343 per annum to the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sectors to provide a number of services such as luncheon clubs, advocacy support and day care with funding provided by the Council.

The proposal is that the Council reviews these services as part of a wider Council approach to commission more targeted and cost effective services based on delivering prevention and early intervention services.

This proposal will also include a review of drugs and alcohol assessment and rehabilitation services to commission services that will deliver better outcomes for individuals and to promote harm reduction, treatment, rehabilitation and recovery. This will include stopping funding for organisation core costs with the focus shifting to delivering improved outcomes for people.

RATIONALE FOR SAVINGS

A review of Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector Contracts and Grant Funding has highlighted:

- Many contracts are historical and have not been monitored or reviewed for many years. They do not reflect the current agenda for personalisation or demonstrate effective evidence or outcomes for individuals.
- There is a need to secure a sound basis on which prevention and early intervention will be available to members of the public and to demonstrate that resources are deployed in an efficient and effective manner.
- The sector needs to be seen as an integral part of a range of services on offer for the residents, particularly vulnerable people, and fit within the evolving commissioning frameworks that will embrace prevention and early intervention, targeted service provision and dedicated learning disability services.
- There is also a need to recognise the growing purchasing power of individuals and the advent of individual budgets that will enhance choice and control, in contrast to a commissioning and contracting culture based upon contracts that characterise the voluntary. The Council therefore need to afford a community infrastructure that both gives choice and control to individuals and is sustainable within the resources that will be available.

IMPACT

Whilst recognising the integral part played by the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sectors, there is a need to evidence efficient and effective use of current resources. It is proposed that services are reshaped and refocused to address prevention and early intervention. The proposed efficiencies will impact directly in relation to the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sectors with the potential loss of contracts or a rationalisation of current business, with the associated resource implications.

The Council has proactively engaged with Drug and Alcohol Team Commissioners to raise the historic anomaly of grant funding to Arch Initiatives and the need to cease such funding. The removal of the grant will be placed within the overall context of substance misuse funding to mitigate the consequences of reduced funding and the impact upon Arch Initiatives. The primary

risk is the ability of Commissioners to reposition funding to accommodate the loss of grant funding by 31st March 2013 to minimise service disruptions.

MITIGATION

The Council recognises the part to be played by the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sectors in the development of prevention and early intervention but this will require the transformation of how services are currently provided. The reshaping of services will continue to embrace information and advice, advocacy, carers related support services, day opportunities for older people and a range of support services for people with particular needs involving mental health, blind and partially sighted and deaf and hard of hearing.

The grant provided by Adult Social Services for Arch Initiatives has been discussed with representatives from the Drug and Alcohol Action Team to reinforce the need to contain service provision within the National Pooled Treatment Budget Allocation, and reflect service funding trends occurring elsewhere to enable the cessation of the historic grant funding provided by DASS into mainstream substance misuse services. The removal of the grant is considered appropriate given the current level of overall funding received by Wirral services to support substance misuse.