

Report of	Meeting	Date
Chief Executive (Introduced by the Executive Member for Early Intervention)	Executive Cabinet	30 June 2016

VCFS COMMISSIONING 2014/15 – 2016/17: END OF YEAR TWO

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- This report is provided to update the Executive on the performance of the commissioned VCFS providers during 2015/16 (year two of the three year contracts).

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- That the report be noted.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

- Overall performance of all of the commissioned providers is excellent; all of the organisations have met or exceeded all the aims as set out in their Contract.

Confidential report Please bold as appropriate	Yes	No
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Key Decision? Please bold as appropriate	Yes	No
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REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

(If the recommendations are accepted)

- To ensure effective monitoring of the council's commissioned providers.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- No alternative options considered.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Involving residents in improving their local area and equality of access for all	X	A strong local economy	X
Clean, safe and healthy communities	X	An ambitious council that does more to meet the needs of residents and the local area	X

BACKGROUND

7. Chorley Council is committed to supporting its communities and to ensuring that the voluntary, community and faith sector (VCF) are enabled to play their part in our communities. In December 2013 a review of the Core Funding process was undertaken.
8. Based on the conclusions within the review, it was recommended and approved that we move towards a commissioning model. The commissioning model enabled Members to decide which are the areas of greatest need within Chorley, and prepare invites to tender for organisations to deliver services to meet these needs. This was supplemented by support for small organisations through a small community funding process. The benefit of this approach was to direct funding towards services that meet the needs of the community, whilst continuing to support the whole of the VCF sector.
9. An Executive Member Decision undertaken in January 2014 approved the procurement process for the commissioning model. This included an open advertisement through The Chest (the Council's e-procurement portal), asking for tenders from providers who can deliver the services as set out in the specifications. Also agreed was the evaluation criteria of 80% quality and 20% cost. The quality criteria were to be assessed using the information that tenderers provided in their method statements.
10. In March 2014 Executive Cabinet approved the providers for the contracts procured through the VCFS commissioning process. It was agreed that all contracts would be 1 +1 +1; this would mean that the contract would be for 1 year with the option to extend on an annual basis for up to a further two years subject to contract review, with a maximum contract length of 3 years.

Name of tender	Approved provider	Cost per annum
Delivery of Advice Services	Lancashire West CAB	£74,995.00
Delivery of a family support service	Home-Start Central Lancashire	£22,000.00
Delivery of a service to support vulnerable adults (women)	Chorley Women's Centre	£14,995.50
Delivery of volunteering provision to support older people	Age UK Lancashire	£9,996.48
Delivery of a community safety support service	Chorley Street Pastors	£7,998.92
Delivery of an arts and employability programme for young people	The Arts Partnership	£10,000.00

END OF YEAR TWO PERFORMANCE

11. Contract reviews have been undertaken with each of the providers to consider overall performance and give an opportunity to highlight any issues in delivery. An update on each of the contracts is provided within this report at Appendix A.
12. This report recognises the valuable work being undertaken within our communities by voluntary, community and faith groups. The following five organisations commissioned have met all the aims as set out in their Core Funding Contract, and have expressed that they can see no risks to the future delivery of their service, and that their service is on track to achieve year three targets.

13. Lancashire West Citizens Advice Bureau - Delivery of Advice Services.
The total number of clients accessing the service in 2015/16 was 5,736 against a target of 5,300. This is a slight increase of 1.6% compared to 2014/15 when the total number of clients was 5,647.
14. Home-Start Central Lancashire - Delivery of a Family Support Service
Over the last 12 months 147 families have been supported in the Chorley area, this includes 315 children, against a target of 110 families per annum. Again this is a slight increase on 2014/15 when 140 families and 291 children were supported, this is an increase of families by 5%, and children by 8%.
15. Chorley Women's Centre - Delivery of a service to support vulnerable adults (women)
Over the last twelve months a total of 896 women (and men) have received support through the Women's Centre, against a target of 769 per annum. Last year a total of 750 women (and men) received support, this is an increase of 19% year on year.
16. Age UK Lancashire - Delivery of volunteering provision to support older people
The number of people who either attend external engagement groups or visit the Lifestyle Centre for meals or groups is approximately 560 per quarter, with a number of older people attending more than one activity session or lunch per week. The target for the contract is 702 individuals supported through the service per annum, and this year has seen an approximate increase of 16% year on year. There are currently 80 volunteers supporting the Age UK Lancashire service.
17. Chorley Street Pastors - Delivery of a community safety support service
Over the last twelve months the Street Pastors have engaged with more than 2800 individuals, and more than 1,400 operational hours have been provided by the service. In 2014/15 the Street Pastors engaged with 2959 individuals; this is a slight decrease of 3.8% year on year which can easily be attributed to seasonal and/or economic changes.
18. As this performance shows, the majority of providers have seen an increase in demand over the last twelve months which would suggest that the large contracts continue to reflect the areas of greatest need within Chorley.
19. Following the successful contract reviews and strong performance against the stated contract objectives, it was agreed that in line with the contract, the Agreement would be extended for a further term of one year (1 April 2016 – 31 March 2017).
20. The Arts Partnership – Delivery of an arts and employability programme for young people

The Arts Partnership has now closed as a charity. By agreement with The Charity Commission, the remaining assets of the Arts Partnership as well as the effective maintenance of key aspects of its mission have transferred to a new registered charity, Chorley Youth Zone.
21. From 1 June 2016 the Project Manager is now employed by Chorley Youth Zone, and this new role will incorporate the delivery of the large contract to provide an arts and employability programme for young people.
22. A change to the arrangements will be agreed with the Executive Member (Early Intervention) to transfer the funding for 2016/17 to OnSide Youth Zones. Subject to the transfer of funding the service is on track to achieve year three targets.

23. Delivery of the final contract year has now commenced and monitoring will continue to take place on a quarterly basis, with final year monitoring and evaluation at the end of March 2017.

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

24. This report has implications in the following areas and the relevant Directors' comments are included:

Finance	x	Customer Services	
Human Resources		Equality and Diversity	
Legal	x	Integrated Impact Assessment required?	
No significant implications in this area		Policy and Communications	x

COMMENTS OF THE STATUTORY FINANCE OFFICER

25. The commissioned services, as outlined in this report, will be contained within the approved budget

COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

26. The Executive Decision to award the contracts allowed for a maximum contract term of 3 years. On the basis that performance is satisfactory there is no requirement for an Executive Decision to continue the contracts although it is correct to report for noting that the contracts are to continue.

GARY HALL
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

There are no background papers to this report.

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Louise Wingfield	5061	9 June 2016	Chorley Commissioning end of year 2015/16