

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – 25TH JUNE 2014

REPORT OF DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE (COMMUNITY DIRECTION)



Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council

A Borough to be proud of

RE: HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH VCS ARRANGEMENTS – OUTCOMES ARISING FROM VCS COMMISSIONING 2013/14

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL WARDS

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To inform members of the outcomes arising from the newly established VCS commissioning arrangements in 2013/14
- To inform members of the proposed opportunities and focus for VCS commissioning for 2014/15

2. RECOMMENDATION

- To note the outcomes delivered during 2013/14
- To endorse the proposals for VCS commissioning for 2014/15

3. BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT

3.1. Following the establishment of new VCS arrangements for Hinckley and Bosworth from April 2013, Executive Committee received a report on 22nd January 2014, outlining achievements during this first year.

3.2. During 2013/14 achievements/outcomes included:

- Establishment of an **overarching VCS Development Forum**, comprising 30 VCS organisations, which helped to inform the new arrangements, and supported its development through 2013/14.
- A comprehensive mapping exercise resulting in the identification of, to date, **1,197 active VCS organisations within the Borough**, and the establishment of a **VCS database and Directory** detailing the type of provision and geographical location
- Establishment of a **VCS Commissioning Board**, comprising ten VCS representatives and two HBBC Executive Councillors (Cllrs Bron Witherford and Keith Lynch). The aim of this Board is to provide a fair and accessible way of commissioning services to the VCS.
- Promotion and management of arrangements inviting all VCS organisations to put forward bids for a share of **£20,000 for projects** seeking to support and sustain good mental health and wellbeing within the community. Including the successful establishment of VCS collaboration in submitting joint bids
- Meeting of the **Commissioning Board** to review successful bids and decision to **allocate £20,000** to support the delivery of **10 projects**

3.3. The Executive report also outlined proposals for 2014/15, to support the ongoing development of VCS arrangements, as follows:

- Develop the VCS Development Forum, securing more VCS organisations, and specifically smaller VCS organisations
- Ongoing maintenance and expansion of the VCS database, and geographical mapping of provision to understand reach and gaps
- Enable effective VCS representation at HBBC/locality key delivery partnerships/forums
- Enable the VCS to position itself effectively for emerging commissioning opportunities, not just via HBBC, but other statutory sectors such as the Clinical Commissioning Groups.
- Continued development of the NGCC building in establishing a VCS Hub for the locality, offering a town centre venue for a range of VCS provision, e.g. recruitment of volunteers, outreach provision/venue, etc.
- VCS Forum to seek appropriate grant funding as part of the funding package to support ongoing development

3.4. Subsequently Executive members agreed to support the VCS arrangements going forward for 2014/15, (based on the funding arrangements as for 2013/14, plus a small supplementary budget to ensure sustainability of the lead VCS infrastructure organisation).

3.5. **VCS Commissioning 2013/14 – Commissioned Projects and Outcomes**

3.6. During 2013/14 under the new VCS arrangements, the VCS Commissioning Board allocated £20,000 funds to support the delivery of 10 projects. **Appendix 1 – details the brief** inviting bids for projects that seek to ‘support and sustain good mental health and wellbeing within the community’

Based on the criteria for assessment and allocation of funds, the VCS Forum developed and agreed the scope of the evaluation form for completion by each VCS organisation awarded funds, a copy is attached for information at Appendix 2.

Overall the £20,000 funds enabled:

- the delivery of 10 very diverse projects and range of provision for the community, targeting a **wide range of age groups**, and geographical reach including the **rural northern parishes**.
- delivered **508 hours of direct interactive support and provision to 618 beneficiaries**
- the funds enabled **22 paid staff** to contribute their skills, knowledge and experience to support the development and delivery of the work
- the delivery of this provision was supported by **45 volunteers** who gave their time to benefit the community

Appendix 3 provides a summary of the **projects commissioned and outcomes delivered**. A copy of the detailed evaluation reports for each project can be made available on request.

4.0. **Next Steps – Opportunities and Focus for VCS Commissioning 2014/15**

4.1. During 2014/15 the proposed focus will be to commission service provision that seeks to reduce the impact of social isolation and loneliness, within our communities.

There are a range of groups vulnerable to social isolation and loneliness i.e. young care leavers, carers, those with mental health issues, and older people who are particularly vulnerable owing to loss of friends, family, mobility and income.

- 4.2. There is growing evidence showing the profound impact loneliness can have on health, and its association with poor health choices, with lonely people more likely to smoke, drink to excess, have a poor diet, and less likely to exercise enough.
- 4.3. In addition, and linked to this theme we have secured commitment from West Leicestershire Clinical Commissioning Group (WLCCG), to commission a befriending/sitting scheme to support their proactive care programme, via the VCS Commissioning arrangements.
- 4.4. The proactive care programme aims to support patients and carers to live independently in their usual place of residence, to reduce unscheduled hospital admissions and reduce length of stay. A robust assessment process identifies individuals most at risk, and are usually age 70 to mid 80s, and diagnosed with long term conditions such as diabetes, blood pressure or lung condition.
- 4.5. Integrated locality care teams including social care, community services, allied health professionals and general practice will work across health & social care in a specific geographical area and provide patients with a key worker, a clinical coordinator, to help join up and co-ordinate their care.
- 4.6. Since the introduction of the pro care care programme in 2012/13, it has become evident that one of the key gaps in provision, is the availability of locally based sustainable befriending provision, to complement clinical support.
- 4.7. Securing CCG commitment is an important development in broadening public sector commitment to VCS commissioning through our locality arrangements. Building on outcomes arising from 2013/14 commissioning, it provides an opportunity to further demonstrate the place of the VCS in supporting the reduction of high level costs, as a result of cost effective early intervention and prevention provision.

5.0. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (KB)**

- 5.1. As outlined above, the VCS Hub has been allocated £20,000 in 2013/2014, for commissioning. The outputs for funding are detailed in the body of the report.

6.0. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS (MR)**

- 6.1. None

8.0. **CORPORATE PLAN IMPLICATIONS**

The contents of the report relate to and support the following strategic aims:

- Cleaner and Greener Neighbourhoods
- Thriving Economy
- Safer and Healthier Borough
- Strong and distinctive communities

7.0. **CONSULTATION**

This report has taken account of the ongoing consultation undertaken by NGCC our lead VCS infrastructure organisation, utilising the comprehensive VCS database and Directory, to inform the development of the VCS Forum, Commissioning Board, and commissioning proposals for 2014/15.

10. **RISK IMPLICATIONS**

It is the Council's policy to proactively identify and manage significant risks which may prevent delivery of business objectives.

It is not possible to eliminate or manage all risks all of the time and risks will remain which have not been identified. However, it is the officer's opinion based on the information available, that the significant risks associated with this decision / project have been identified, assessed and that controls are in place to manage them effectively.

The following significant risks associated with this report / decisions were identified from this assessment:

Management of significant (Net Red) Risks		
Risk Description	Mitigating actions	Owner
Lack of sustainability of key VCS organisations within Hinckley and Bosworth. Lack of opportunity for smaller VCS organisations to bid for contracts resulting in demise of VCS within the locality	Ongoing development of the VCS locality arrangements, and establishment of effective VCS commissioning arrangements for Hinckley & Bosworth	Edwina Grant

11. **KNOWING YOUR COMMUNITY – EQUALITY AND RURAL IMPLICATIONS**

The utilisation of up to date evidence sources and data, informed via the key VCS organisations within the locality, has helped to inform the need to consider alternative approaches to the sustainability of the VCS within Hinckley and Bosworth, to focus resources on priority needs across all areas of the Borough, including rural Hinckley and Bosworth; and to introduce effective VCS commissioning arrangements.

12. **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

- Community Safety implications
- Environmental implications
- ICT implications
- Asset Management implications
- Human Resources implications
- Planning Implications
- Voluntary Sector

Background papers: None

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