

KEY DECISION NOTICE

SERVICE AREA:	DIRECTORATE OF PEOPLE
SUBJECT MATTER:	VOLUNTARY SECTOR AGREEMENTS
DECISION:	<p>It is DETERMINED that:</p> <p>(i) Approval is given for the continuation of existing partnership arrangements with Age UK, Tameside Oldham and Glossop Mind and Community and Voluntary Action Tameside for two years from 1 April 2015. The agreements will include a 3 month no fault termination clause.</p> <p>(ii) Approval is given to grant fund the core activity of Homestart and People First Tameside from 1 April 2015 for two years. The grant conditions will include a 3 month no fault termination clause.</p>
DECISION TAKER(S):	<p>Councillor Brenda Warrington Councillor Lynn Travis, Councillor Alison Gwynne Sandra Stewart* Pam Williams*</p>
DESIGNATION OF DECISION TAKER(S):	<p>Executive Member - Adult Social Care and Wellbeing Executive Member - Health & Neighbourhoods Executive Member - Services for Children and Families Executive Director of Governance and Borough Solicitor* Executive Director of Finance*</p>
DATE OF DECISION:	11 February 2014
REASON FOR DECISION:	<p>The Council faces significant challenges in working with the requirements of the Care Bill and the delivery of support services within the available budgets. It therefore needs to continue to work closely with and support key providers within the local voluntary sector who we have existing positive arrangements with that support these requirements moving forward. It is clear that there is a strong and increasing demand for the support offered by all five organisations.</p>
ALTERNATIVE REJECTED (if any):	<p>OPTIONS</p> <p>(i) Cease Arrangements with Identified Providers - whilst a consideration, the cessation of the close working arrangements developed (either formally or informally) over many years and the associated funding is not viewed as being a realistic option. The people offered support by these five providers are among the most vulnerable groups supported in the community by the Council, and the support they offer fits centrally with a number of the responsibilities covered by the Care Bill including promoting personal well-being, prevention (stopping problems before they start or getting worse), and providing information, advice and advocacy.</p> <p>(ii) Tender the Work Out - the undertaking of a tendering exercise in relation to the existing relationships with the five providers would not be considered appropriate given the high investment made by the Council to develop the current levels</p>

	of service provision over many years.		
CONSULTEES:	Internal staff, managers and voluntary organisations identified		
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: (Authorised by Borough Treasurer)	It is proposed that the following contracts be extended for a further two years from 1 April 2015.		
	It is also proposed that new Public Health partnership agreements and be entered into for two years from 1 April 2015		
	Adults & Early Year Intervention contracts	Age UK Mind	£83,160 £89,640
	Community Services contract	CVAT	£110,772
	Public Health partnership agreements	Homestart (Home visiting and befriending) People First	£75,000 £20,000
	<p>Given the future anticipated reductions to the Council's budget, it is proposed that that the new arrangements will have a clear three month no fault termination clause which would allow the Council to withdraw from the proposed arrangements if required.</p> <p>All the above proposals must be met from existing service funding envelopes. Any inflationary uplifts as detailed in section 6.2 of this report will also need to be funded from the existing service funding envelopes.</p>		
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS: (Authorised by Borough Solicitor)	<p>The Care Bill is expected to come into force in April 2015 placing duties on the Council relating to information and advice, prevention and well-being, market shaping, assessments, national minimum threshold for eligibility, personal budgets and care and support plans, safeguarding and universal deferred payment agreements.</p> <p>From April 2016 additional requirements will include extended means test, care accounts and a capped charging system. Partnership arrangements with the Third Sector will be crucial in supporting the Council in meeting its statutory responsibilities.</p> <p>The Council supports the charitable objectives of a number of partner providers and it is in order for continued grant funding to be provided for existing arrangements with Age UK, Tameside and Glossop Mind and Community and Voluntary Action Tameside, as well as grant funding for new arrangements with Homestart and People First Tameside.</p> <p>Any extension of contract not included within a previously negotiated contract requires the agreement of the Borough Solicitor and Director of Finance in accordance with E.6.2 of the Council's Procurement Standing Orders, and they must be satisfied that in granting the extension best value has been achieved for the Council and no legal requirement has been contravened. The same principle applies to the extension of grant</p>		

	funding. From the information detailed in the report there is no reason for them not to be satisfied with the proposals made.
RISK MANAGEMENT:	It is essential that, with the challenges of tighter budgets in the future and the personalisation of adult social care and with it the exercising of increased individual choice and control, a diverse market across the social care sector is stimulated to meet need. Adopting a strategic approach that works closely with existing and future providers of social care support, including encouraging the development of social enterprise, is essential in supporting delivery within tighter budget controls whilst implementing this exciting policy direction.
CONFLICT OF INTEREST:	None
DISPENSATION GRANTED BY STANDARDS COMMITTEE ATTACHED:	Not applicable
REFERENCE DOCUMENTS:	The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report author, Trevor Tench on:  Telephone:0161 366 4321  e-mail: trevor.tench@tameside.gov.uk

Signed.....
Councillor Brenda Warrington - Executive Member - Adult Social Care and Wellbeing

Dated:

Signed.....
Councillor Lynn Travis - Executive Member – Health and Neighbourhoods

Dated:

Signed.....
Councillor Alison Gwynne - Executive Member – Services for Children and Families

Dated:

Signed
Sandra Stewart – Executive Director of Governance and Borough Solicitor*

Dated:

Signed
Pam Williams - Executive Director of Finance*

Dated:

*** With respect to a decision under Procurement Standing Orders E6.2 only**

KEY DECISION REPORT

SERVICE AREA:	DIRECTORATE OF PEOPLE
SUBJECT MATTER:	VOLUNTARY SECTOR AGREEMENTS
DATE OF DECISION:	11 February 2014
DECISION TAKER	Councillor Brenda Warrington Councillor Lynn Travis, Councillor Alison Gwynne Executive Director of Governance and Borough Solicitor* Executive Director of Finance*
DESIGNATION OF DECISION TAKER(S):	Executive Member - Adult Social Care and Wellbeing Executive Member - Health & Neighbourhoods Executive Member - Services for Children and Families Executive Director of Governance and Borough Solicitor* Executive Director of Finance*
REPORTING OFFICER:	Sandra Whitehead – Assistant Executive Director (Adult Services).
REPORT SUMMARY:	The Council faces significant challenges in working with the requirements of the Care Bill and the delivery of support services within the available budgets. It therefore needs to continue to work closely with and support key providers within the local voluntary sector who we have existing positive arrangements with that support these requirements moving forward. It is clear that there is a strong and increasing demand for the support offered by all five organisations.
RECOMMENDATION:	(i) Approval is given for the continuation of existing partnership arrangements with Age UK, Tameside Oldham and Glossop Mind and Community and Voluntary Action Tameside for two years from 1 April 2015. The agreements will include a 3 month no fault termination clause. (ii) Approval is given to grant fund the core activity of Homestart and People First Tameside from 1 April 2015 for two years. The grant conditions will include a 3 month no fault termination clause.
JUSTIFICATION FOR DECISION	The Council faces significant challenges in working with the requirements of the Care Bill and the delivery of support services within the available budgets. It therefore needs to continue to work closely with and support key providers within the local voluntary sector who we have existing positive arrangements with that support these requirements moving forward. It is clear that there is a strong and increasing demand for the support offered by all five organisations.
ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS REJECTED (if any):	(i) Cease Arrangements with Identified Providers - whilst a consideration, the cessation of the close working arrangements developed (either formally or informally) over many years and the associated funding is not viewed as being a realistic option. The people offered support by these five providers are among the most vulnerable groups supported in the community by the Council, and the support

	<p>they offer fits centrally with a number of the responsibilities covered by the Care Bill including promoting personal well-being, prevention (stopping problems before they start or getting worse), and providing information, advice and advocacy.</p> <p>(ii) Tender the Work Out - the undertaking of a tendering exercise in relation to the existing relationships with the five providers would not be considered appropriate given the high investment made by the Council to develop the current levels of service provision over many years.</p>											
CONSULTEES:	Internal staff, managers and voluntary organisations identified.											
<p>FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: (Authorised by Borough Treasurer)</p>	<p>It is proposed that the following contracts be extended for a further two years from 1 April 2015.</p> <p>It is also proposed that new Public Health partnership agreements and be entered into for two years from 1 April 2015</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="608 770 1477 1173"> <tr> <td data-bbox="608 770 995 887">Adults & Early Year Intervention contracts</td> <td data-bbox="995 770 1318 887">Age UK Mind</td> <td data-bbox="1318 770 1477 887">£83,160 £86,640</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="608 887 995 987">Community Services contract</td> <td data-bbox="995 887 1318 987">CVAT</td> <td data-bbox="1318 887 1477 987">£110,770</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="608 987 995 1173" rowspan="2">Public Health partnership agreements</td> <td data-bbox="995 987 1318 1111">Homestart (Home visiting and befriending)</td> <td data-bbox="1318 987 1477 1111">£75,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="995 1111 1318 1173">People First</td> <td data-bbox="1318 1111 1477 1173">£20,000</td> </tr> </table> <p>Given the future anticipated reductions to the Council's budget, it is proposed that that the new arrangements will have a clear three month no fault termination clause which would allow the Council to withdraw from the proposed arrangements if required.</p> <p>All the above proposals must be met from existing service funding envelopes. Any inflationary uplifts as detailed in section 6.2 of this report will also need to be funded from the existing service funding envelopes.</p>	Adults & Early Year Intervention contracts	Age UK Mind	£83,160 £86,640	Community Services contract	CVAT	£110,770	Public Health partnership agreements	Homestart (Home visiting and befriending)	£75,000	People First	£20,000
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	<p>Tameside, as well as grant funding for new arrangements with Homestart and People First Tameside.</p> <p>Any extension of contract not included within a previously negotiated contract requires the agreement of the Borough Solicitor and Director of Finance in accordance with E.6.2 of the Council's Procurement Standing Orders, and they must be satisfied that in granting the extension best value has been achieved for the Council and no legal requirement has been contravened. The same principle applies to the extension of grant funding. From the information detailed in the report there is no reason for them not to be satisfied with the proposals made.</p>
RISK MANAGEMENT:	<p>It is essential that, with the challenges of tighter budgets in the future and the personalisation of adult social care and with it the exercising of increased individual choice and control, a diverse market across the social care sector is stimulated to meet need. Adopting a strategic approach that works closely with existing and future providers of social care support, including encouraging the development of social enterprise, is essential in supporting delivery within tighter budget controls whilst implementing this exciting policy direction.</p>
LINKS TO COMMUNITY PLAN:	<p>Healthy Tameside, Supportive Tameside, Prosperous Tameside.</p>
ACCESS TO INFORMATION:	<p>The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting Trevor Tench Service Unit Manager on:</p> <p> Telephone: 0161 366 4321</p> <p> e-mail: trevor.tench@tameside.gov.uk</p>

* With respect to a decision under Procurement Standing Orders E6.2 only

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 There is a wide range of voluntary organisations operating in Tameside which provide a variety of services and reflect the cultural diversity of the community. The organisations range from small, informal, self-help organisations which operate entirely through voluntary effort and fund raising, to large organisations providing specialist services with funding from the Council and other sources.
- 1.2 The services local voluntary organisations provide cover a variety of individual and group services. Individual services include advice, information, counselling, domiciliary and social care services. Group services include day services, self-help groups, specialist support, recreational and social services which are complementary to the Council's offer.
- 1.3 The voluntary sector also make a considerable contribution to collective services such as advocacy and campaigning work, the development of community awareness, and supporting community initiatives.
- 1.4 The voluntary sector therefore provides a very substantial contribution already to the delivery of community services in the borough. There are also many voluntary organisations providing general advice on a range of welfare issues that do not relate to a specific user group but are often the initial point of contact for people needing help. Many of these organisations meet the needs of particular ethnic groups and therefore fulfil a special role in supporting people's needs for some form of welfare provision.
- 1.5 The key aspects of the voluntary sector's role in providing services in the local community are that they often involve service users in running the services; they are generally informal; they rarely deter members of the public because of any perceived official status; and can be flexible, innovative and respond to needs identified in the community.
- 1.6 The Care Bill is being introduced from April 2015, with requirements related to duties on information and advice (including advice on paying for care), prevention and well-being; market shaping; assessments (including carers' assessments); national minimum threshold for eligibility; personal budgets and care and support plans; safeguarding; universal deferred payment agreements. From April 2016, additional requirements will include; extended means test, care accounts, capped charging system. The Third Sector will be crucial in supporting the Council in meeting its responsibilities, particularly in relation to prevention and well-being, information and advice, market shaping and carers.
- 1.7 The Council faces significant budgetary challenges over the coming years and therefore needs to review its models of service delivery, looking at new and innovative approaches to deliver services whilst reducing the cost of provision significantly. The voluntary sector has been an important element in helping the Council deliver savings and looking at delivering support in different ways.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Statutory and independent agencies have increasingly come to work in an environment where partnership agreements for the delivery of some services have been utilised.
- 2.2 In Tameside, three partnerships have been operating for the past few years with Age UK Tameside (Age UK), Community and Voluntary Action Tameside (CVAT), and Tameside Oldham and Glossop Mind (Mind).
- 2.3 Partnership agreements, from a national perspective, tend to be with larger, national organisations that have well developed infrastructures. This is borne out with the agreements the Council has in place with both Age UK and Mind – both organisations have a

very firm local base but are linked both practically and reputationally with their national bodies and as such can draw on their national resource whilst delivering a grounded local response. The other consideration was that both organisations had clear profiles in relation to specific service user groups i.e. older people and mental health.

- 2.4 In Tameside, however, the principle of entering into a partnership agreement has been extended to a key local organisation in relation to CVAT. The partnership was agreed in recognition of the key function they have delivered over many years as an infrastructure organisation, working closely with the Council to support and develop the local voluntary sector to increasingly provide a variety of supports to local citizens. Whilst not working with a specific user group, CVAT was very much associated with the voluntary sector and was recognised widely as the umbrella organisation for the sector in Tameside.
- 2.5 Notwithstanding the above, in each case the justification for entering the partnership agreement was the close working relationship that had developed with each organisation over many years and the mutual benefits this close working had brought to the citizens of Tameside. The agreements recognised the scope working with key voluntary organisations can have in influencing joint development; policy and practice are worked out in tandem; shared risk where innovative projects are being developed; a sharing of expertise and resources; and an enhancement of the credibility of any project. The agreements and ongoing working relationships ensure there is a clarity of purpose and objectives, a sharing of common values, and a clarity of responsibilities between agencies.
- 2.6 With each of the three partnership agreements, the central theme was the confirmation of the Council providing some core funding, which for many years prior to the partnership agreements had been provided via grant arrangements, which afforded each organisation a level of security in terms of longer term planning as the funding underpins their core infrastructure operating costs. However, in agreeing the funding the three organisations in discussion with the Council agreed the delivery of some core activity – all of which was detailed in the partnership agreement and is set out in section 3 of this report.
- 2.7 The three existing partnership agreements are due to end on 31st March 2015. Given the continued uncertainty around funding for the Council it is proposed that these three agreements be extended for a further two years to continue the excellent work delivered to date whilst supporting the Council in meeting its responsibilities under the Care Act.
- 2.8 The partnership agreements, whilst primarily covering the core activity delivered for the Council, has also been used to cover additional work commissioned from each organisation. Work has been added as schedules to the main partnership agreement covering various arrangements including additional grant aided activity, pilot projects, and work added through quotes or tender. The core terms of the partnership agreements cover the standard requirements of any contractual agreement held with the Council, while the schedules detail the actual specification of the work required by the Council along with any specific monitoring requirements.
- 2.9 In addition, this report proposes the extension of grant funding arrangements for a further two years with People First Tameside who are learning disability specific, and Homestart Oldham, Stockport and Tameside who as part of a national family support charity help parents to build better lives for their children. In both cases the Council has worked to develop service responses in the identified service areas for many years with both organisations. The nature of the work, which would form the basis of the proposed agreements with each, is set out in section 3 of this report. This continued grant funding will primarily support the core activity of each organisation

3. CURRENT SITUATION

Existing Partnership Agreements

Age UK Tameside

- 3.1 The Council has a proud history of working with Age UK Tameside over the past thirty years. Age UK Tameside is committed to serving the needs of older people across the Borough of Tameside and works proactively to review service models and make adaptations to service options in order to meet the changing needs of the growing population locally of older people. The Council has worked closely with Age UK and this was formalised in a partnership agreement to run for a period of three years until 31 March 2015, subject to annual review of the grant value and thereafter to be renewed on a rolling basis, annually via Head of Service report.
- 3.2 Age UK Tameside was established for the following purposes and for the benefit and well-being of the public and/or older people of Tameside:
- Preventing or relieving the poverty of older people
 - Advancing education
 - Preventing or relieving sickness, disease or suffering in older people (whether emotional, mental or physical)
 - Promoting equality and diversity
 - Promoting the human rights of older people in accordance the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
 - Assisting older people in need by reason of ill-health, disability, financial hardship, social exclusion or other disadvantage
- 3.3 Age UK has worked with the Council to redesign its service offer over the years, often responding to the changing profile of needs being presented along with the tightening of financial resources available. Over the last few years Age UK has been providing the following range of services to older people:
- Information and Advice
 - Community Dementia Service
 - Community Support
 - Falls prevention
 - Community mental health
 - Handy person and Minor adaptations
- 3.4 More recently, driven by further changes locally (closure of Gorse Hall and changing profile of need of older people) and the financial climate (reducing income generated by its own fundraising efforts along with reduced financial support available from the Council) Age UK have been working with the Council to redesign its service offer again. This review has focused on how it can achieve its vision of delivering a highly active, lively and effective sub-threshold service that will provide person-centred and responsive services to older people who are the most vulnerable to social isolation, poor well-being and experience barriers to achieving a quality of life in later life.
- 3.5 The ambition is to develop Age UK's base at Katherine Street, Ashton, into a Centre for Independent Living or 'Lifestyle Centre' moving away from the perception of delivering 'services' determined by diagnosis or contractual obligations, and instead offering a range of solutions centred around the needs and circumstances of the individual.
- 3.6 The Centre will incorporate an information and resource point including access to IT and support to build confidence in the use of the internet and social networking. The target market will be those older people who do not meet the threshold of statutory support; however, their health and lifestyle may put them at risk of losing their independence and

ultimately need more costly interventions. Age UK will make full use of their cafe and food provision providing an opportunity for people to meet together, socialise and enjoy a range of options. The kitchen will also be used to provide structured sessions around cooking for one, baking, skills sharing etc. outside cafe opening times.

3.7 The Centre will offer variety, fun and companionship, a place to learn new skills and maintain existing skills. It will be a place where people can make a positive contribution and build a sense of community within the broader community. Age UK will involve a range of community groups, voluntary and health care organisations to support their work thereby providing a choice of activities designed within the “5 Ways to Well-Being”. Examples include:

- Offering a balanced menu of food, prepared to meet people’s needs
- Light exercise e.g. balance and stability, indoor bowling, armchair exercise, music and dance
- Social occasions e.g. tea dances/coffee mornings
- Receive information and advice on matters that affect them including financial resilience
- Facilitate community groups offering social activity or interest e.g. bridge, local history, etc.
- Arrange transport if this will facilitate engagement
- Provide shower facilities for those who may not have access to a bath/ shower at home
- Provide a connection to family if concerns about an individual are identified

3.8 In addition, Age UK will strengthen its focus on generating income to support its ongoing presence locally (and its reliance on funding by statutory agencies locally). This will be done through its offer of a range of financial products offered through Age UK nationally, its local retail shop, and practical low level services currently being delivered (befriending, café, Handy Person service, etc.).

3.9 The existing Community Support Service (which was redesigned with commissioners from a range of different service responses over the last eighteen months), Handy Person Service and Community Mental Health Service will identify and support those people in the community who may lack the confidence or ability to engage with the lifestyle centre and deliver signposting, referral and intervention to relieve/prevent loneliness and isolation within the community where they live.

3.10 Age UK is committed to work with community groups, who, by their own admission would benefit from the support of Age UK Tameside in terms of engaging new members and supporting group leaders. Community groups will be invited to share Age UKs building thereby developing it as a resource to be fully used outside traditional office hours and in the interests of the wider community

3.11 The partnership between TMBC and Age UK has for many years driven change in how services to older people are best delivered – the work towards delivering the “Lifestyle Centre” is just the latest example of this in action.

Community and Voluntary Action Tameside

3.12 The Council has had a longstanding and positive working relationship with Tameside Third Sector Coalition (T3SC) and the Volunteer Centre Tameside (VCT). Discussions, prompted by the Council as part of its ongoing partnership relationship with T3SC, started in 2011 with a view to T3SC joining together with VCT to form a new single organisation bringing together its unique complementary strengths. These discussions concluded successfully with T3SC and VCT agreeing a full merger to operate as a new, single organisation with a new, legal entity from April 2012. The new organisation formed under the new title of Community and Voluntary Action Tameside.

- 3.13 Approval was given for the Council to enter a new partnership agreement with the new single organisation to run for a period of three years until 31st March 2015, subject to annual review of the grant value and thereafter to be renewed on a rolling basis, annually via Head of Service report.
- 3.14 Historically, Tameside MBC has supported both T3SC and VCT with core funding to support the delivery of their roles as a support for the voluntary, community and faith (VCF) sectors. Both T3SC and VCT delivered key services within their separate partnership agreements.
- 3.15 The key elements of service traditionally provided by T3SC which were incorporated into the Partnership Agreement were as follows:

Support for the development of the community and voluntary sector, including:

- To support the sustainable development of voluntary and community sector organisations and initiatives which increase the ability of the sector to contribute to the achievement of the Tameside Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement aims.
- To research and identify existing local voluntary and statutory provision and significant gaps in provision and to be proactive in working with the local voluntary and community sector to build their capacity to develop local provision for unmet need

Support services which will improve the functioning and develop the capacity of local voluntary and community groups, including:

- To provide accessible, accurate, relevant information in various formats and to provide or signpost advice and guidance on a range of relevant topics, including fundraising
- To provide appropriate, accessible training and/or information on local training providers and to promote local voluntary and community sector activity

Liaison services which develop and maintain links across the voluntary and community, statutory and private sectors, including:

- To support effective communication and liaison between the Tameside Strategic Partnership and the voluntary and community sector to improve joint working towards the aims of the Tameside Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement.
- To establish a range of communication channels between the voluntary and community sector and statutory and private sector agencies and to provide opportunities for networking for voluntary and community groups

Representation services which will enable the diverse views of the local voluntary and community sector to be represented, including:

- To review and work with partners to improve the arrangements for the representation of all parts of the Community of Tameside within the Community Empowerment Network, the disabled and black and minority communities being the first priority.
- To work with partners to increase the effectiveness mechanisms for improving consultation with local groups and communities especially those from the priority neighbourhoods in Tameside.
- To ensure local networks and groups share information and create opportunities that contribute to and enable a better shared understanding and knowledge of diversity in Tameside.

Strategic partnership working services, including:

- To encourage and enable effective involvement of the local voluntary and community sector in the Tameside Strategic Partnership and, where applicable, other local and sub-regional strategic partnerships.
- To work with local groups and with statutory agencies to develop, monitor and evaluate the local Compact through the Cross Sector Policy Group
- To ensure the accountability for voluntary sector representatives to the sector on strategic bodies and partnerships

3.16 The four key elements of service traditionally provided by VCT which were incorporated in the Partnership Agreement were as follows

- To provide support to prospective and actual volunteers to maximise the number of active Tameside volunteers.
- To provide support for volunteer co-ordinators to help develop and sustain the volunteering experience for Tameside Volunteers.
- To provide infrastructure support for organisations and projects (from the voluntary, community and statutory sectors) that involves volunteers to maximise the number of opportunities available for Tameside Volunteers.
- To undertake strategic developmental, policy and promotional work and continually develop and review the Tameside Volunteering Strategy to enable a flourishing Volunteers culture across Tameside

3.17 Whilst incorporating these key elements the Council and CVAT agreed that the revised agreement would additionally emphasise some key roles that work of the new organisation would include:

- A pro-active approach to stimulating the market within the voluntary and community and faith sectors to build capacity, with the aim of being more specific about its role within the sector
- Promotion of a leading role in the development of the voluntary, community and faith sector.
- Develop performance monitoring models to provide clear outcome indicators, supporting the influence the merged organisation has on the sector
- Creation of a clear and recognisable identity and brand for the new organisation.

3.18 The Council restated its aim to work in partnership with CVAT to continue to develop the local VCF sector recognising that the local market has a key role to play to support the Council to deliver against the current drivers nationally, the greater emphasis on personalised services in the future and the continuing focus on prevention and early intervention.

3.19 The partnership between TMBC and CVAT (and previously with T3SC and VCT) has for many years driven significant sustainable growth of voluntary organisations operating in the borough, providing essential support to a wide variety of user groups both above and sub-threshold, as well as supporting the growth and support of volunteering opportunities.

Tameside, Oldham and Glossop Mind

3.20 Over the past seventeen years, the Council has commissioned services with Mind working at all times very closely to design and deliver services that would benefit people experiencing mental health difficulties. This work has often been in conjunction with Tameside and Glossop Clinical Commissioning Group (and its predecessor organisations) and Derbyshire County Council – this has at times been a difficult arrangement as the agreements with Mind have had, throughout the period, needed to adjust to pressures felt by one, two or all the

commissioning partners. The working relationship was, as has been described in the relationship with Age UK and CVAT above, was formalised in a partnership agreement to run for a period of three years until 31st March 2015, subject to annual review of the grant value and thereafter to be renewed on a rolling basis, annually via Head of Service report.

- 3.21 Mind had for many years delivered various service responses to the people of Tameside – these responses had become rather traditional in their nature. During the summer of 2006, national mental health charity Rethink was commissioned to undertake a comprehensive and fully independent review of the Mental Health Service. When Rethink delivered their final report in December 2006, it became clear to Commissioners that a Wellbeing Centre should be one of the cornerstones of a modern mental health service with a focus on wellbeing and prevention across all citizens. Given the profile and expertise of Mind, along with premises close to the centre of Ashton, a decision was made to work in partnership with the organisation, already one of the key stakeholders in the review process, to provide the necessary resources and guidance to shift the provision to that of a Wellbeing Centre.
- 3.22 Since then, the focus of Mind's services has become increasingly preventative with a focus on wellbeing, co-production, social inclusion and recovery. The current partnership agreement has been in place since 1 April 2008.
- 3.23 Furthermore, Mind has become increasingly proactive in seeking out alternative funding streams and partnership working with a range of third sector and other mainstream providers. On the back of funding received from National Mind some two years ago to employ an allotment worker, Mind has expanded its Kitchen Garden project and has since successfully delivered a two year pilot to widen this provision out to people with learning disabilities and other marginalised groups across a number of sites. This project is now listed on the approved list of day services in is operating on the basis of funding from personal budgets and direct payments.
- 3.24 Similarly, Mind's success in providing an award-winning vegetarian café at their Katherine St site has provided the platform to go on to take on a similar project at Beatrix House (in conjunction with New Charter). The two sites provide opportunities for pre-employment training for people looking to access voluntary and paid employment. In turn, this diversification feeds in to a financially more sustainable model going forward.
- 3.25 The Topaz Wellbeing Centre, which forms the core basis of the Partnership Agreement in place with Mind, is a place where people can go to access recreational and social opportunities in order to improve their mental and physical health, and to foster the skills and confidence necessary to re-engage with other community resources. The Wellbeing Centre is open access, based on the principles of wellness, self-directed care and prevention In addition to the café Mind provides:
- An initial contact, advice and information service (one to one for people with mental health related needs, their family, friends and carers. This includes signposting people on to services that could assist, either within the Wellbeing Centre or elsewhere.
 - A counselling service which aims to:
 - Provide and maintain free, accessible, and confidential counselling to support personal wellbeing and promote good mental health for people aged 16 and over.
 - Develop strategies for good mental health by working in partnership with other organisations to offer people focussed and innovative approaches on their mental health
 - Provide flexible practice based counselling
 - Provide clinically effective, evidence based care, outcome focussed talking-therapy, in line with current guidance.
 - Utilise and make available, as an adjunct or alternative to counselling, any IT/web-based self-help tools

- Opportunities for volunteering along with user-led initiatives.

3.26 The partnership with Mind, as with both Age UK and CVAT, has been successful over many years. The work the Council has done with Mind to deliver in partnership their current range of services has been recognised by National Mind as really good practice and is held up for development across local Mind organisations nationally. However, the priority in the work has always been that delivered locally and the citizens of Tameside have been the real beneficiary of the partnership work the Council has been engaged in with Mind over many years.

Extension of Grant Funding Arrangements

Homestart Oldham, Stockport & Tameside

3.27 Homestart has been operating in Tameside since 1998, and the Council was instrumental in supporting the local organisation to set up at that time. The Council has had a financial relationship with Homestart since around 2008 delivering a home visiting and befriending service. Homestart was established for the benefit and well-being of vulnerable families in Tameside, and its uniqueness is defined in their service model of using trained and supervised volunteers to deliver agreed support interventions to families.

The service has always worked closely with the Council to proactively review its service model and make adaptations to service options in order to meet the changing needs of families locally, and the challenges faced by the Council.

3.28 Parents, carers and the wider family accessing the service offered by Homestart are typically vulnerable because they may:

- have poor physical or emotional health, or feel isolated or depressed
- have problems with substance misuse
- have learning difficulties
- have disengaged from statutory services
- be living in poor environments with very limited financial resources, poor housing or temporary accommodation and limited means of transport
- be bringing up children on their own
- be teenage parents
- be experiencing domestic abuse
- feel discriminated against because they are from black and minority ethnic communities, or because they are refugees or asylum seekers
- have been poorly parented themselves and so have few models of good parenting
- be experiencing particular difficulties with a child with behavioural problems
- be caring for a disabled child.
- be a parent of twins or multiples
- be looking after a child who is looked after

3.29 Homestart has worked with the Council to redesign its service offer over the years, often responding to the changing profile of family's needs being presented along with the tightening of financial resources available.

3.30 Nationally there continues to be strong government emphasis on early intervention. The MP Graham Allen's reports in January & July 2011 set out the all-party agreement towards investment in early intervention as having the best outcomes for families but also the economy.

3.31 Locally, the Early Help Strategy provides the strategic framework for the delivery of services across the borough. It highlights the overriding commitment to reduce inequalities and to

narrow the gap, particularly for those children and young people at risk of poor outcomes, and recognises the key role that parents play in their children's development and understanding of the world around them.

- 3.32 The Home Visiting and Befriending Service delivered by Homestart over the last six years will be a key strand in the borough's parenting provision and is the first step along a road which will eventually lead to an excluded parent accessing services within the Youth and Family Teams. These parents will become less isolated, more confident and able to cope better as parents. The fundamental purpose of the service is to improve child outcomes through effective prevention, early intervention and quality family support.
- 3.33 The existing service has successfully used volunteers and members of the local community in establishing contact with those families where there is often a mistrust of professionals and a reluctance to use statutory services. Working in partnership with health visitors and early years services has enabled early intervention with vulnerable families. Trained and supported volunteers, who themselves are parents, have offered support in the families' own homes and in children's centres. The volunteers have offered practical help, support and friendship in order to help prevent family breakdown and crisis. Families have received specific and targeted support and have been signposted to other services to support them making healthy life choices.

People First Tameside

- 3.34 People First Tameside (PFT), a user-led organisation, has a lengthy history of promoting self-advocacy, peer support, campaigning, awareness raising and improved social inclusion for people with a learning disability in Tameside. PFT has a high profile in the Borough and is seen as a trusted provider of services, well placed to co-produce personalised, flexible and responsive services and support in partnership with learning disabled people, their carers and families, the Council and other stakeholders.
- 3.35 The Council has for a number of years provided core-funding (on a decreasing basis) aimed at supporting PFT as they continue to seek new and additional funding options and whilst they make best use of the range of funding they have at their disposal - funding that may well fluctuate over time - to deliver across a range of outcomes.
- 3.36 The Council is committed to working with PFT to ensure that they remain a financially sustainable user-led organisation well-placed to raise the profile of learning disabled people across the borough, to increase choice and control and social inclusion for this group of people and to develop more personalised, flexible and responsive services tailored to help meet a range of needs.
- 3.37 Self-advocacy and peer support can play a key part in PFT being able to develop more customer focused services where service design and delivery changes from a one size fits most approach to a less centralised, more flexible provision shaped by a person centred approach. Clearly, this will not be a single event, but a collection of individual engagements and issues that can help set our population of vulnerable people free to engage as citizens. The transformation of services is not complete without the full participation of people with a learning disability and PFT will continue to play a central role in this process. The core business of PFT is facilitated via a user-led committee along with some paid staff who together take a lead developing future plans, consulting with members, researching current governmental initiatives and legislation, developing and managing a quality assurance system, establishing networks and raising the profile of PFT, networking with other People First and Advocacy groups and identifying future funding opportunities.
- 3.38 The core funding being provided by the Council is to assist PFT to:
- Raise the profile of adults with learning disabilities across the borough and their needs

- Work with TMBC to increase choice and control and social inclusion for adults with learning disabilities
- Develop more personalised, flexible and responsive services tailored to meet a range of needs.

3.39 The funding will continue to be used to ensure key staff and resources continue to facilitate and develop a user-led committee, consult with members and recruit and support adults with learning disabilities to take on leadership roles within People First Tameside (e.g. becoming a trustee of a local charity). PFT will also support (where possible and appropriate), adults with learning disabilities to engage in local consultations and partnerships such as the Information Ambassador Network, Healthwatch, and the Shadow Partnership Board.

3.40 PFT will work to reduce social isolation and enable better social inclusion of learning disabled people via the provision of support and increased opportunities for people to contribute to and become involved in their communities, to establish and develop relationships and to engage with a range of meaningful and stimulating activities including mainstream service provision. By proactively encouraging the involvement of learning disabled people in decision-making and how this happens, PFT will engender improved health and wellbeing, healthier lifestyles and real choice and control for people, including those who do not meet criteria for services, over how to best utilise their unique capabilities and to connect with the wider community. This can include amongst other things:

- Social Club
- Relationship groups and work
- Friends Group
- Volunteering opportunities
- Work experience

3.41 PFT will ensure they deliver services that are consistent with the following key principles:

- Services that are flexible and creative and that meet the needs of learning disability people.
- The development and utilisation of volunteer and peer resources.
- Services that are proactive, thus ensuring the needs of less articulate people with a learning disability are equally supported.
- Person-centred services which enable people to have more independence, choice and control through high-quality and personalised services.
- The best interests, rights and entitlements of learning disability people are fully accessed and upheld.
- Learning disability people are supported to challenge decisions and situations that affect their lives or are discriminatory.
- Learning disability people are treated with dignity and respect by organisations and individuals who provide services to them.
- The views of learning disability people are listened to.

4. OPTION APPRAISAL

Cease Arrangements with the Identified Voluntary Sector Providers

4.1 Whilst a consideration, the cessation of the close working arrangements developed (either formally or informally) over many years and the associated funding is not viewed as being a realistic option. The people offered support by these five providers are among the most vulnerable groups supported in the community by the Council, and the support they offer fit centrally with a number of the responsibilities covered by the Care Bill including promoting personal well-being, prevention (stopping problems before they start or get worse), and providing information, advice and advocacy.

- 4.2 The Council has invested a great deal of effort and financial support to these key voluntary organisations over many years to ensure their continued presence and delivery of support to the people of Tameside which is viewed as being essential. The return on this investment continues to be high (regularly delivering over and above mutually agreed service delivery levels) and provides the Council with good value for money. On this basis the ceasing of funding and the close partnership working would indicate ceasing these arrangements would have a very negative impact on the people of Tameside.

Tender the Work Out

- 4.3 The undertaking of a tendering exercise in relation to the existing relationships with the five providers would not be considered appropriate given the high investment made by the Council to develop the current levels of service provision.
- 4.4 The organisations are in four cases recognised nationally and by the local community as key organisations providing support to vulnerable people – in their specific user area no other organisations operating locally have such a profile, or anywhere near the same level of recognition, in Tameside. In relation to the fifth organisation, CVAT who are very much a locally based organisation, no other organisation locally is in a position to provide the network support to the voluntary sector that it currently does.
- 4.5 All five organisations provide services that surpass the agreement requirements and are considered by the service user group to be of a high quality.
- 4.6 All five organisations contribute essential elements of the preventative agenda. Service User feedback indicates that people who use the services report consistently high levels of satisfaction with the service and support offered by this project.

Continue Existing Arrangements

- 4.7 This would be the recommended option moving forward. The three existing partnership arrangements have proved very successful for both the Council and the three organisations in terms of both best value outcomes for people in the borough and supporting the financial viability of high profile local voluntary organisations.
- 4.8 The grant funding arrangements with both Homestart and People First Tameside have promoted similar positive benefits for people with a learning disability, and children and families. The grant funding of the core activity has provided some stability over the years for both organisations and helped support their continued presence in the borough.

5. PROPOSAL

- 5.1 That existing partnership agreements with Age UK (Tameside), Tameside, Oldham and Glossop Mind and CVAT are extended for a further two years.
- 5.2 That existing grant funding arrangements are entered into with Homestart (Oldham, Stockport & Tameside) and People First Tameside again on the basis of a further two years.
- 5.3 Given the continued reductions of funding available to the Council over the last few years, and the ongoing uncertainty of funding in the future, any new arrangements will have a clear three month “no fault” termination clause that will allow either party to withdraw from the agreements. This would allow the Council to withdraw from the proposed arrangements if required at any point in the future.

- 5.4 The partnership arrangements will be based on the current contractual terms and conditions used within the Directorate of People, with slight modifications to reflect the partnership arrangements. It will include the majority of the standard clauses, safeguarding, data protection, freedom of information, equality & non-discrimination, and termination clauses (fault and a three month no-fault termination clause), etc.
- 5.5 The partnership agreement will be drafted to allow the Council to modify the services required based on the needs of the population of Tameside, i.e. the inclusion of additional schedules for specific pieces of work which will be delivered under the overarching terms and conditions. It is intended that the structure of the partnership agreements will be based on the following format:
- The Agreement including contract particulars
 - The terms and conditions
 - Schedule 1 – The organisations charitable objectives
 - Schedule 2 – Core services required
 - Schedule x – additional specific piece of work (as appropriate)
 - Schedule y – additional specific piece of work (as appropriate)
- 5.6 Each specific piece of work will have its own value and clearly defined outcomes to allow the Council to check the performance of the organisation.
- 5.7 The grant funding agreements will include the standard grant conditions for the Council but will in addition have a clear three month “no fault” termination clause that will allow either party to withdraw from the agreement.
- 5.8 Initially performance management meetings will be quarterly but may be amended based on a risk assessment of the organisation and the value of work/partnership agreement.

6. FINANCIAL SUMMARY

- 6.1 The proposal is to progress agreements on the basis of existing annual levels of Council funding being maintained:
- Age UK - £ 83,160
 - Mind - £ 176,670**
 - CVAT - £ 110,772
 - Homestart - £ 75,000
 - People First - £ 20,000

**Whilst the partnership agreement value with Mind is a joint arrangement with the Tameside and Glossop CCG and Derbyshire CC with value of £176,670, the Council contribute £89,644 per annum (CCG contribute £78,336 and Derbyshire CC contribute £8,690).

- 6.2 In relation to inflationary uplifts, the agreements will state clearly that the Council will review the funding with effect from 1 April in each year, but that there will be no guaranteed increase to the funding as any review will need to take account of the budget available.

7. EXTENSION OF EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS

- 7.1 Performance monitoring over the last few years confirm that all five providers have delivered good quality, personalised services to a variety of vulnerable service users. Each organisation has impressed in the way they have delivered increasingly progressive and flexible services. Such has been the quality of the performance monitored that approval has

been given to extend the existing agreements over many years, with discussion agreeing ongoing service development and improvement, working very much in partnership to highlight the best ways to deliver against changing need, changing expectations, and reductions in funding.

- 7.2 The proposal in this report will require an extension of existing funding arrangements with all five voluntary organisations. Authorisation would therefore be required under Procurement Standing Order E6.2 to extend existing agreements where there is no option to do so in the contract. This extension would allow for the continuity of provision by five key voluntary organisations who have worked closely with the Council to develop high quality responsive service responses for vulnerable people in Tameside.
- 7.3 The extensions would be in line with the existing agreement values.

8. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 8.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed on this proposal which looks at the impact on service users and the general population. This Equality Assessment is shown in **Appendix 1**.
- 8.2 The conclusion is that given that the proposed changes are largely contractual in nature and designed to facilitate the improved functioning of key organisations locally there is not expected to be anything other than a positive impact upon people who fall within the protected characteristics of gender, pregnancy and maternity, age, sexual orientation, disability, gender reassignment, ethnicity, religion or belief and civil partnership and marriage.

9. SUMMARY

- 9.1 This report sets out a case for extending existing partnership arrangements with Age UK, Mind and Community and Voluntary Action Tameside, along with the extension of grant funding arrangements with Homestart and People First Tameside.
- 9.2 The justification for continuing the agreements reflect the close working relationship that has developed with each organisation over many years and the mutual benefits this close working has brought to the citizens of Tameside.
- 9.3 With each of the five proposed agreements, the central theme is the confirmation of the Council providing some core funding which will afford each organisation a level of security in terms of longer term planning as the funding underpins their core infrastructure operating costs. The funding will be provided on the basis of delivery of the core activity set out in section 3 of this report.
- 9.4 These five key organisations as key representatives of the local voluntary sector will be key organisations in the supporting the Council in delivering its responsibilities in relation to the Care Act and in particular the changes being introduced from April 2015, specifically their significant contribution to:
- New duty of prevention and wellbeing to prevent or delay the need for care
 - New duty to provide information and advice, including about paying for care
 - Extension of eligibility criteria to include carers
 - New duty to shape the local care & support market

10. RECOMMENDATION

10.1 As detailed in the front sheets of this report.

APPENDIX 1

Equality Impact Assessment

Subject	Voluntary Sector Partnership Agreements	
Service / Business Unit	Service Area	Directorate
Joint Commissioning and Performance Management Team	Adults/Public Health	People
EIA Start Date (Actual)	EIA Completion Date (Expected)	Completion Date (Actual)
24 November 2014		<i>To be completed by Corporate Performance</i>

Lead Contact / Officer Responsible	Dave Wilson
Service Unit Manager Responsible	Trevor Tench

EIA Group (lead contact first)	Job title	Service
Trevor Tench	SUM	JCPMT
Dave Wilson	Team Manager	JCPMT
Emma Varnum	Head of Culture	
Julie Moore	SUM	Adults Assessment and Care Management

NB – EIAs should always be carried out by at least 2 people, and as part of the overall approach to a service review or service delivery change. Guidance from court cases indicates that judgements arrived at in isolation are not consistent with showing ‘due regard’ to the necessary equality duties

SUMMARY BOX

This EIA proposes a change to the way the Council undertakes partnership arrangements with local 3rd sector organisations in such a way as to allow them greater autonomy and flexibility in their business planning. The five organisations are:

1. Age UK Tameside
2. CVAT
3. Homestart Oldham Stockport and Tameside
4. People First Tameside
5. Tameside Oldham and Glossop Mind

Between them, these organisations provide a range of services ranging from the provision of information and advice, peer and infrastructure support and counselling through to daytime activities for individuals and groups. Given that the proposed changes are largely contractual in nature and designed to facilitate the improved functioning of key organisations locally there is not expected to be anything other than positive impact upon people who fall within the protected characteristics of gender, pregnancy and maternity, age, sexual orientation, disability, gender reassignment, ethnicity, religion or belief and civil partnership and marriage.

Section 1 – Background

BACKGROUND

Tameside's voluntary sector provides a substantial contribution to the delivery of community services in the borough. Voluntary organisations often involve service users in running the services they provide; they are generally informal; they rarely deter members of the public because of any perceived official status; and they tend to be flexible, innovative and respond to needs identified in the community. Many voluntary organisations provide general advice on a range of welfare issues, sometimes for a specific user group, but often as an initial point of contact for local citizens generally looking for information, advice and help. Many of these organisations meet the needs of particular ethnic groups and therefore fulfil a special role in supporting people's needs for some form of welfare provision.

In Tameside, the principle of entering into a partnership agreement has historically been used to formalise the relationship between the Council and a small number of key, local 3rd Sector organisations, namely: Age UK Tameside, Tameside Oldham and Glossop Mind, CVAT and, until earlier this year when it expired, People First Tameside; a learning disability peer support and advocacy organisation linked to a national network. Partnership agreements have been used by way of recognising the key function these strategically significant infrastructure organisations have delivered over many years, working closely with the Council to reach a range of wide range of citizens including many in the protected characteristic groups.

Further, the agreements recognise the benefits to be gained when working with key voluntary organisations in influencing joint development; policy and practice are worked out in tandem; risk, as well as expertise and resources, is shared where innovative projects are being developed; and hence the credibility of any project is enhanced. The agreements and ongoing working relationships ensure there is a clarity of purpose and objectives, a sharing of common values, and a clarity of responsibilities between agencies. With each of the partnership agreements, the central theme was the confirmation of the Council providing some core funding which afforded each organisation a level of security in terms of longer term planning as the funding underpins their core infrastructure operating costs.

The three existing partnerships are due to end 31st March 2015. The agreements were set up as 'rolling' arrangements renewable annually subject to satisfactory performance and agreement. Whilst the intention was to provide the organisations with some stability over time, the reality is that the annual renewal basis of the agreements means the organisations can only plan in the short term. The intention therefore, via Key Decision, is to extend arrangements via an initial three year agreement followed by review and renewal at less frequent two year intervals. In addition, the Key Decision proposes reinstating the partnership agreement with People First Tameside as well as adding an additional agreement with Homestart Oldham Stockport and Tameside who, as part of a national family support charity helps parents build better lives for their children.

Section 2 – Issues to consider & evidence base

ISSUES TO CONSIDER

It is essential that, with the challenges of tighter budgets now and in the future, along with the personalisation of social care and the exercising of greater choice and control, a diverse market across the sector is stimulated to meet need. Adopting a strategic approach that works closely with the existing and future providers of support – including encouraging the development of social enterprise – is essential in supporting delivery. The proposal under consideration will, in part,

support this by allowing the organisations in question to continue productive collaborative work with the Council and with individuals from across the protected characteristics. Furthermore, whilst budgets for these particular services are not, for 2015/16 at least, set to fall, neither are they due to rise; reconfigured partnership arrangements should allow partner organisations to take a more flexible approach to managing their funding and hence deliver improved value for money.

All five organisations (three existing and two under consideration), work with individuals across a range of protected characteristic groups:

Age UK Tameside

Established for the following purposes and for the benefit and well-being of the public and/or older people of Tameside:

- Preventing or relieving the poverty of older people
- Advancing education
- Preventing or relieving sickness, disease or suffering in older people (whether emotional, mental or physical)
- Promoting equality and diversity
- Promoting the human rights of older people in accordance the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- Assisting older people in need by reason of ill-health, disability, financial hardship, social exclusion or other disadvantage

CVAT

Has the following core aims:

- To support the sustainable development of voluntary and community sector organisations and initiatives which increase the ability of the sector to contribute to the achievement of the Tameside Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement aims.
- To research and identify existing local voluntary and statutory provision and significant gaps in provision and to be proactive in working with the local voluntary and community sector to build their capacity to develop local provision for unmet need

Tameside Oldham and Glossop Mind

Has the following core aims:

- An initial contact, advice and information service for people with mental health related needs, their family, friends and carers. This includes signposting people on to services that could assist, either within the Wellbeing Centre or elsewhere.
- A counselling service which aims to:
 - Provide and maintain free, accessible, and confidential counselling to support personal wellbeing and promote good mental health for people aged 16 and over.
 - Develop strategies for good mental health by working in partnership with other organisations to offer people focussed and innovative approaches on their mental health
 - Provide flexible practice based counselling
 - Provide clinically effective, evidence based care, outcome focussed talking-therapy, in line with current guidance.
 - Utilise and make available, as an adjunct or alternative to counselling, any IT/web-based self-help tools

- Opportunities for volunteering along with user-led initiatives.

Homestart

Parents, carers and the wider family accessing the service offered by Homestart are typically vulnerable because they may:

- Have poor physical or emotional health, or feel isolated or depressed
- Have problems with substance misuse
- Have learning difficulties
- Have disengaged from statutory services
- Be living in poor environments with very limited financial resources, poor housing or temporary accommodation and limited means of transport
- Be bringing up children on their own
- Be teenage parents
- Be experiencing domestic abuse
- Feel discriminated against because they are from black and minority ethnic communities, or because they are refugees or asylum seekers
- Have been poorly parented themselves and so have few models of good parenting
- Be experiencing particular difficulties with a child with behavioural problems
- Be caring for a disabled child.
- Be a parent of twins or multiples
- Be looking after a child who is looked after

People First Tameside

Work to:

- Reduce social isolation and enable better social inclusion of learning disabled people via the provision of support and increased opportunities for people to contribute to and become involved in their communities
- Establish and develop relationships and to engage with a range of meaningful and stimulating activities including mainstream service provision.
- Encourage the involvement of learning disabled people in decision-making
- Engender improved health and wellbeing, healthier lifestyles and real choice and control for people over how to best utilise their unique capabilities and to connect with the wider community.
- Ensure the best interests, rights and entitlements of learning disability people are fully accessed and upheld and that learning disability people are supported to challenge decisions and situations that affect their lives or are discriminatory.

The Council will be engaging in discussions with each organisation regarding developing re-negotiated partnership agreements by way of ensuring a 'best fit' tailored to each service.

LIST OF EVIDENCE SOURCES

- In terms of learning disability:



LD Joint
Commissioning Strate



Accessible Joint
Commissioning Strate

- In terms of mental health:

<http://www.nepho.org.uk/cmhp/index.php?view=E08000008>

<https://indicators.ic.nhs.uk/webview/>

Section 3 – Impact

IMPACT

Given the commitment of the Council and the five organisations in question to further empower people from the protected characteristic groups via the services, forums and initiatives delivered and the flexibility to further develop these under the proposed partnership agreements, the group responsible for this EIA are of the view that not only is there unlikely to be a negative impact, the likelihood is, that resource pressures aside, there will be a positive impact across a number of equality groups. In particular, information and advice and support and resources relating to falls, community mental health, adaptations, social isolation and practical life skills will benefit older people and people with disabilities. All the services under consideration bring additional value as they target and support sub-threshold service users. The success/impact of the partnership agreements in achieving their high-level aims over their life-time and beyond will be monitored through the normal performance management processes.

Section 4 – Proposals & Mitigation

PROPOSALS & MITIGATION

Based on all the above, the proposal is to seek authorisation to enter into new partnership agreements with five key local 3rd sector organisations based on three years followed by a rolling two year extension following review and mutual agreement. Should this be authorised the group responsible for this EIA are of the view that there will be no impact on protected group(s), either now or in the future.

Section 5 – Monitoring

MONITORING PROGRESS

Trevor Tench, SUM JCPMT
Dave Wilson, Team Manager, JCPMT