

Extension of the Neighbourhood Networks Grant Arrangements.

Date: 29/03/2023

Report of: Chief Officer Resources

Report to: Interim Director of Adults & Health

Will the decision be open for call in? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Brief summary

Neighbourhood Networks operate across the city providing community based activities and services for older people generally aged 60 and over.

This report seeks approval to extend the current grant arrangements for the Neighbourhood Networks for 2 years in accordance with provisions made at Executive Board on the 20th September 2017. The initial 5 year term ends on 30th September 2023 and has an option to extend for a period of up to 5 years.

Throughout the extension period, the Older People's Commissioning Team will continue to work in partnership with the Networks to monitor service provision and deliver service equity and ensure Best Value is maintained.

Recommendations

- a) The Interim Director of Adults & Health is requested to note the contents of this report and approve the extension of the current Grant Arrangements, (approved on the 16/8/2018 under Decision Number D47879), with the Neighbourhood Networks for a further 2 years from 1st October 2023. This decision is a direct consequence of the approval made by Executive Board at their meeting on 20th September 2017. Details of the individual grant arrangements are included in appendix 1. The total value of the extension is £6,003,406.
- b) The Interim Director of Adults & Health is requested to note that the Older People's Commissioning Team will work with Procurement and Commercial Services to implement the 2 year extension to the current grant agreements.

What is this report about?

- 1 In September 2017, the Executive Board approved the model for the continued investment in the 37 Neighbourhood Networks (NNS) who support older people across the city. This resulted in the award of grant agreements for the 37 areas, which was worth £15 million pounds over 5 years, and the grant arrangements have an extension provision of up to 5 years. The Integrated Care Board contributes £300,000 per annum to support the delivery of the NNS.
- 2 The purpose of this report is to seek approval to extend the existing grant agreements with NNS for a period of 2 years from 1st October 2023. The value of this two year extension is £3,001,703 per year which equates to £6,003,406 over the 2 year period.

What impact will this proposal have?

- 3 The primary goal of the NNS is to support and empower local older people under four main outcomes that underpin their services:
 - Reduction of isolation
 - Increased participation and involvement for older people in the Neighbourhood Network Scheme and community in which they live
 - Choice and control over their own lives
 - Enhanced wellbeing and healthier life choices.
- 4 The NNS contribute to the delivery of a number of priorities including the Health & Wellbeing Strategy and Best Council Priority. The NNS have been successfully operating in communities across Leeds since 1985 when the first scheme was established. In terms of what they do, they:
 - Help provide greater choice and control in relation to day opportunities across the city, predominantly for older people aged 60 and over.
 - Within a community setting, utilising local resources, delivering services that help tackle social isolation and contribute towards improving health and wellbeing.
 - This is provided alongside additional support such as advice, guidance and signposting.
 - The range and scope of activities offered by each organisation varies from area to area depending on, local demand, access to resources, staffing and volunteer capacity and skills.
- 5 As of September 2022 (last full year of data) the NNS were supporting 21% of the over 60's population in Leeds. In the 4 years since the grant agreement commenced, the total number of members had increased by 13% to 28,701 in 2022. The range of activities the NNS offer to achieve these outcome includes: befriending, welfare calls, luncheon clubs, chair based exercises, Zumba, gardening clubs, day excursions, men's clubs, shopping deliveries, walking groups and line dancing. These activities have clear primary health benefits as well as social aspects to support overall mental and emotional wellbeing. Activities vary from scheme to scheme and can be a reflection of the interests of the communities the schemes serve.
- 6 Across the NNS there are 94 services and activities with a focus towards people living with Dementia and their carer's with 584 accessing these services. Activities are supported by staff and volunteers of which 143 are trained as Dementia Champions and 57 as Mental Health First Aiders. NNS have also supported with hospital discharge (255 cases) and have prevented an estimated 1,359 in the quarter up until September last year.
- 7 Moving forward the Commissioning Team and Leeds Older People's Forum are planning a series of meetings with the NNS in order to develop a work programme with the following aims :
 - Identify good practice and disseminate this wider across the NNS

- Ensure equity of access – including removing any perceived barriers arising over the different geographic areas of the NNS
- Ensuring equity in offer – including developing a recognised NNS core offer
- Increasing further participation and involvement of older people in the NNS across the city

How does this proposal impact the three pillars of the Best City Ambition?

☒ Health and Wellbeing ☐ Inclusive Growth ☐ Zero Carbon

- 8 The award of these grant extensions is in line with current commissioning priorities and contributes to the outcomes detailed in the Leeds Health and Wellbeing Revised Strategy. It also contributes to the Best Council Plan Priorities, specifically Health & Wellbeing and Age-Friendly Leeds.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected: All Wards

Have ward members been consulted? ☐ Yes ☒ No

- 9 The Executive Member for Adults and Health was briefed on the proposal on 9th March 2023.
- 10 Over the past three years there has been an active research project under the Centre for Ageing Better and led on by researchers at Sheffield Hallam University. This included engagement around the future direction of the Neighbourhood Networks.
- 11 Leeds City Council has active ongoing engagement with the NNS, both through commissioning officers in the Older People's Commissioning Team as well as via the joint funded Third Sector Development Manager role based at Leeds Older People's Forum. The NNs are aware a decision on their future funding is imminent. Once the proposal of a two year extension is agreed, the Older People's Commissioning Team will notify the NNS in line with our commitments under the Compact for Leeds.

What are the resource implications?

- 12 The cost of funding the NNS for a further 2 years is £6,003,406, and is identified within the Adults & Health directorate budget. The Integrated Care Board have agreed to continue their current contribution at a cost of £600,000 over two years. Consideration of the council's budget position has been taken into account when making this decision and it has been decided that these arrangements should continue due to the benefits that the services deliver, such as the reduction in social isolation and the potential impact on the wider health and social care system.

What are the key risks and how are they being managed?

- 13 The grant provides core funding towards the NNS and in many instances is a substantial element of overall income. If the grant extension was not to go ahead this could potentially lead to services closing and ceasing to operate.
- 14 There would be a risk of added pressure on the broader social care system if the grant extensions did not go ahead. The NNS are an integral part of the City's preventative, age

friendly ethos and without them many of the activities undertaken would either cease or need to be picked up by Social Care elsewhere.

- 15 The grant extension for the two years proposed provides an opportunity for commissioning officers and the NNS to work together with the view to building on their individual strengths and sharing of best practice.

What are the legal implications?

- 16 This report is a Significant Operational Decision as it is a direct consequence of the original Key Decision made by Executive Board at their meeting on 20th September 2017 and therefore is not subject to call-in. The grant extension for the two years proposed provides an opportunity for commissioning officers and the NNS to work together with the view to building on their individual strengths and sharing of best practice.
- 17 Should the decision be taken to utilise any of the remaining 3 year extension period with effect from 1st October 2025, this will also be a Significant Operational Decision as it will be taken as a direct consequence of the original Executive Board decision taken on 20th September 2017.

Options, timescales and measuring success

What other options were considered?

- 18 Other options considered were:
- The approval granted by Executive Board at their meeting on 20th September 2017 stated that there was a proviso to review the service prior to the expiry of the agreement and to seek approval for the continuation of the grant agreement for a further 5 years on a rolling programme. It has been decided that a further review of the service is required in light of the recently concluded research undertaken through the Centre for Ageing Better and in light of the Census 2021. The two years provides the opportunity for commissioning officers, NNS and wider stakeholders to reflect on the research findings and any changes within communities highlighted by the Census 2021 with a view to further refining the NNS offer going forward. It is anticipated that this review will require the utilisation of two years of the available extension period., Should the review indicate that additional time is required, or the conclusions of the review demonstrate that the grant agreement should continue, then a further decision will be taken at the appropriate juncture to further extend the grant agreement as necessary up to the maximum period of five years. It was therefore decided not to take up the full five year extension period at this time.
 - Review and re-tender – this was felt inappropriate at this time. Essential intersectional data from the 2021 Census is still to be published by the Office of National Statistics. Alongside this the Centre for Ageing Better research had not been concluded, with the findings from Phase 3 of the research due to be published by April 2023. In addition to this the NNS are one of the engaged stakeholders as part of the Community Health & Wellbeing Programme . Finally, the COVID pandemic disrupted services with the NNS still a component of the ensuing recovery work.
 - Terminate the agreement. – it is recognised that this is not an option considering the risks already identified in this report.
- 19 Extending the grant arrangements for 2 years will allow the good work that NNs do to continue whilst Commissioning Team and LOPF work with them to review the research undertaken by The Centre for Ageing Better and Sheffield Hallam and facilitate partnership

work to identify best practice and disseminate across the Networks and achieve an equity in offer and accessibility across the city moving forward.

How will success be measured?

- 20 The Older People Commissioning Team monitor the activities of the NNS quarterly and will continue to do this during the extension period. As part of the partnership work, there may be additional activity and outcomes required, and these will be included with the agreement with the NNs. This includes further workshops and service shaping sessions with a view to enhancing the NNS offer across the whole city.

What is the timetable and who will be responsible for implementation?

- 21 The Older People's Commissioning Team will work with colleagues in Procurement and Commercial Services to implement the 2 year extension to the grant agreements. The NNs will be notified of our intention to extend in line with our commitments under the Compact for Leeds best practice.

Appendices

- 22 Appendix 1 – List of NNs and their annual grant funding.

Organisation	LCC Grant Funding
Action Gipton Elderly	£140,620.64
Action Gipton Elderly (Harehills)	£39,415.44
Aireborough Vol Service to Elderly with Disabilities	£85,963.54
Armley Helping Hands	£115,962.24
Belle Isle Senior Action	£117,272.04
Bramley Elderly Action	£137,388.54
Bramley Elderly Action (Stanningley & Swinnow)	£67,985.94
Burmantofts Senior Action	£60,405.74
Caring Together in Woodhouse & Little London	£49,706.64
Crossgates & District Good Neighbours	£96,064.34
MHA Communities Farsley	£60,322.94
Neighbourhood Elders Team	£95,313.04
Hamara Healthy Living Centre	£68,368.64
Hawthornthwaite Older People's Support	£68,158.64
Halton Moor & Osmondthorpe Project (HOPE)	£53,116.64
Holbeck Together	£56,839.64
MHA Communities Horsforth	£87,722.74
Leeds Black Elders Association	£79,045.64
Middleton Elderly Aid	£88,104.14
Moor Allerton Elderly Care	£77,909.24
Morley Elderly Action	£110,749.84
Neighbourhood Action in Farnley, New Farnley and Moor Top	£57,229.44
Older People Action in The Locality	£80,646.04
Otley Action for Older People	£69,537.64
OWLS at Heart	£80,512.84
MHA Communities Pudsey	£77,993.04
Richmond Hill Elderly Action	£106,000.54
MHA Communities Rothwell & District	£74,000.04
Seacroft Good Neighbours (North)	£63,972.14
Seacroft Friends & Neighbours (South)	£60,248.54
MHA Communities South Leeds	£92,269.44

STEP (Supporting the Eldely People)	£107,260.54
Swarcliffe Good Neighbours Scheme	£58,292.64
Wetherby in Support of the Elderly (WiSE)	£132,395.84
Chapel Allerton Good Neighbours (RVS)	£56,638.24
Community Action for Roundhay Elderly (RVS)	£66,708.94
Meanwood Elders Neighbourhood Action (RVS)	£61,560.44

24 Background papers

None