

Age Friendly coordination - grant award to Leeds Older People's Forum

Date: 29 March 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

- 1 The proposal is for the Adults and Health directorate to fund additional age-friendly coordinator capacity within Leeds Older People's Forum, which will provide community-based support for the local partnership working to deliver the shared Age Friendly ambition to make Leeds the best city to grow old in. This involves directly awarding a 3-year grant agreement to LOPF for £37,000 per annum (in total £111,000) from 1st April 2023.

Recommendations

The Interim Director of Adults and Health is recommended:-

- a) That Leeds City Council make a direct grant award of £37,000 per annum to Leeds Older People's Forum for Age Friendly coordination capacity within the Friendly Communities team. The grant agreement will commence from 1st April 2023 for three years (overall value is £111,000).
- b) Officers from Adults & Health Integrated Commissioning Team will work with colleagues from Procurement & Commercial Services and the Public Health Older People's team to implement the decision.

What is this report about?

- 1 Leeds Older people's Forum (LOPF) plays a vital role in supporting Age Friendly Leeds strategy by providing a community focus and working with wider partners and older people across the city to capture the voices of older people in Leeds and co-produce actions. The Age Friendly co-ordination capacity was previously funded through the Time To Shine (TTS) programme and other health monies, which come to an end in March 2023.
- 2 The purpose of this report is to detail the rationale for Adults and Health directorate to continue to fund age-friendly coordinator capacity within LOPF, which will provide a community-based support the local partnership working to deliver on the shared Age Friendly ambition to make Leeds the best city to grow old in. The proposal is to award a 3-year grant agreement to LOPF for £37,000 per annum (in total £111,000) from 1st April 2023.

What impact will this proposal have?

- 3 LOPF has connected the age- and dementia-friendly agendas into their Friendly Communities Team. This has proved an effective approach to work with different organisations and businesses to make commitments to act on both age and dementia friendly agendas, deliver 'Dementia Friends' and 'Wise Up To Ageism' awareness sessions, and build community capacity to further develop the work of the Age Friendly Leeds Board.
- 4 The LOPF Age Friendly Communities Team's work includes:
 - 'Sign-ups' and local initiatives: over seventy local businesses signed up, with agreed actions, to be 'age and dementia friendly'. 80% of them reach beyond health and care, e.g.: sports, leisure, transport, shops. There are also professional services including Trinity Leeds, several GP surgeries, Opera North, Leeds Rhino's and Active Leeds
 - Age Friendly steering group: this active group meet regularly and consists of approximately 15 older people who are consulted on age friendly matters and who help to shape the services that LOPF deliver. Their voices are fed into all the work that is undertaken by LOPF and their views are shared with partners
 - Age Friendly communities: LOPF work with individual communities focusing on the "Active, Included and Respected" domain within the Age Friendly Strategy where they liaise with the local community and seek to obtain their views about how age friendly their environment really is in practical terms and how it directly affects older people who live there
 - Age Friendly Ambassadors: LOPF have successfully recruited over 200 age friendly ambassadors who take action to raise awareness and to promote Age Friendly Leeds
 - In response to the lifting of lockdown rules, LOPF produced a one-page guide to support retailers to re-open safely and to give older customers confidence to use their services
 - Age Proud Leeds, LOPF, in consultation with our partners with PH Leeds, Leeds hospitals, local third sector partners and others formed the Age Proud Leeds Partnership and designed an anti-ageism campaign which aims to change perceptions of older people and bring about attitudinal change and a more positive view of growing older
 - Wise Up To Ageism workshops: LOPF deliver community wide campaigns to reach a wide range of people including those who work in care, within LCC and LTHT as well as retailers and third sector partners and delivered a large online session for LCC Housing staff
 - Support the delivery and development of the Age Friendly partnership, working with partners across the statutory, voluntary, and academic sectors to address priorities identified by older people in relation to making Leeds an age friendly city
 - Key partners at the Age Friendly Board, supporting Age Friendly Leeds strategy and objectives

- Communications and promotion: LOPF undertake a range of communications and marketing activities including monthly newsletter, Website, social media, blogs and press

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

Health and Wellbeing Inclusive Growth Zero Carbon

- 5 Age Friendly Leeds is one of the eight priorities in the Best Council Plan 2020-25. Our ambition in Leeds is to be the best City to Grow Old in; a place where people age well – where people are valued, feel respected and appreciated, and are seen as the assets they are.
- 6 Leeds Draft Age Friendly Strategy & Action Plan 2022-25 brings together services in the council to make Leeds the best city to grow old in. The strategy has been based on WHO Age Friendly cities programme to create six key domains: Housing, Public and Civic Spaces, Travel & Road Safety, Active Included and Respected, Healthy and Independent Ageing and Employment and learning. Health inequalities, Digital and financial inclusion are cross cutting themes.
- 7 Governance of the Age Friendly Strategy is via the Age Friendly Board, chaired by Cllr Jenkins (Deputy Director Adults & Health, Children’s Social Care & Health Partnerships), with oversight from the Public Health Older People’s team.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected: City wide initiative

Have ward members been consulted? Yes No

- 8 Engagement around this proposal has been undertaken with the Deputy Executive Member for Adults and Health, members of the Age Friendly Steering Group, LOPF and colleagues from Public Health and Adults & Health Resources.
- 9 The Executive Member for Adults and Health, Children’s Social Care & Health Partnerships was briefed on 24th March 2023.

What are the resource implications?

- 10 It is intended that the funding for this proposal (£37,500) will be met from within existing resources within the Adults and Health Directorate, and there is a back-up plan of ring-fencing the 3-year sum from reserves should this not be achievable.

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

- 11 The key risk would be the loss of capacity within LOPF to deliver Age Friendly agenda, which would stall and halt the progress Age Friendly initiatives that have made over the past years within the voluntary and private sector.
- 12 The key risks associated with this proposal to fund age friendly capacity within LOPF’s Friendly Communities team will be managed by the setting up of a grant agreement, which clearly describes the activities and outcomes to be achieved. The agreement will be subject to regular monitoring by the Adults & Health Integrated Commissioning Team.

What are the legal implications?

- 13 This report is a Significant Operational Decision, as it involves expenditure of over £100,000 and is not subject to call-in. There are no grounds for keeping the contents of this report confidential under the Access to Information Rules.
- 14 As the council would be entering into a grant arrangement with LOPF for additional age friendly capacity, the Council will have no contractual control over enforcement of the terms. The only sanction available with grant payments is for the Council to claw-back grant monies unspent.
- 15 There is a risk of challenge that a grant payment is not a grant. Legally there is some confusion about when a grant can and cannot be used as there is a fine line between a grant (which is not caught by the procurement rules) and a contract for services (which is caught by the procurement rules). Although no longer directly applicable to the UK's departure from the European Union the preamble to EU Procurement Directive 2014/24/EU (from which the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 were transposed into English law) is still persuasive and the directive makes it clear at paragraph (4) that "the mere financing, in particular through grants, of an activity, which is frequently linked to the obligation to reimburse the amounts received where they are not used for the purposes intended, does not usually fall within the scope of the public procurement rules".
- 16 As such, unconditional grants are unlikely to meet the definition of a contract set out in the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (PCR 2015). However, where grants are used with strict qualification criteria and an obligation to pay back money if certain targets are not reached, the position is less straightforward and it is possible that an arrangement referred to as a grant could actually meet the definition of a contract set out in the PCR 2015 and, if it does, the PCR 2015 may apply. It is therefore extremely important to ensure that, if providing grants, the process followed does not fall within the definition of a "public contract" as set out in PCR 2015 which states – "contracts for pecuniary interest concluded in writing between one or more economic operators and one or more contracting authorities and having as their object the execution of works, the supply of products or the provision of services".
- 17 It is unlikely that the grant payments proposed will fall foul of the subsidy control rules.
- 18 Funding from which any grant payment is made must be designated as "grant" money. If the Council wish to make a grant, the money must be in the "grant" block. If it is not, it can normally be moved from other blocks in the Council budget into the grant block.
- 19 As this is a grant it is not subject to the council's Contracts Procedure Rules or within the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, but good practice and transparency will be observed throughout.
- 20 If approval is granted to proceed with the request, the Head of Commissioning will work with Procurement and Commercial Services to formulate a grant agreement that will protect all parties involved.

Options, timescales and measuring success

What other options were considered?

- 21 There is the option to not fund the age friendly capacity and resource with the LOPF's Friendly Communities Team, which would mean that there is no community-based resource to support the local partnership and creates a potential risk to the delivery of the shared Age Friendly ambition to make Leeds the best city to grow old in.
- 22 There is the option to competitively procure a contract for service, however the funding is for delivering a shared aim of increasing awareness and social change around the Age Friendly

priority, rather than delivering a service under a contract. LOPF already has a strong track record of leading dementia- and age-friendly work in Leeds.

How will success be measured?

23 The outcomes detailed within the grant agreement will be coproduced with LOPF and the Public Health Older People's team and will be regularly monitored by the Adults & Health Integrated Commissioning team.

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

24 The grant agreement will be put in place for 1st April 2023 by the Adults & Health Integrated Commissioning Team, working closely with colleagues from the Public Health Older People's Team and Procurement and Commercial Services.

Appendices

- Equality Assessment.

Background papers

- None.