

SUBJECT:	<i>Service Level Agreements</i>
REPORT OF:	<i>Healthy Communities Portfolio Holder – Councillor Paul Kelly</i>
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	<i>Martin Holt – Head of Healthy Communities</i>
REPORT AUTHOR	<i>Martin Holt – 01895 837354 – Martin.Holt@SouthBucks.gov.uk</i>
WARD/S AFFECTED	<i>All</i>

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To award three year service level agreements with organisations that assist the Council in delivering its services.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1.2. To award the following annual funding to;

- Citizen Advice Bureau £42,000,
- Community Impact Bucks £8,708
- Wycombe Women's Aid £7,000

following an agreed 3 year service level agreement being signed (to include a 12 month break clause).

And:

To delegate to the portfolio holder the award of funding to Padstones in return for an agreed 3 year service level agreement being signed (to include a 12 month break clause)

2. Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 The voluntary sector is often best placed to deliver services to vulnerable persons through the work of volunteers and peers from the community. In a period of austerity with reduced financial resources and increasing demands on the Council the voluntary sector can provide best value by bringing additional resources to deliver services. Targeting funding to those key organisations that assist the council in delivering support enables vulnerable persons to access assistance. Providing funding certainty to organisations over a three year period enables access to other funding streams.

3. Content of Report

- 1.3. The grants review has identified that there are a limited number of key organisations that the Council works in partnership with to deliver services that directly impact on the Council's key objectives as detailed in Appendix 1.
- 1.4. It is recommended to focus the Council's funding to service delivery in support of the Council's objectives through a service level agreement. Organisations receiving funding would be subject to outcome performance monitoring and awarded a three year service level agreement, reviewable annually, should the organisation no longer deliver in accordance with Council priorities.
- 1.5. It is suggested that the Council award funding to the following organisations, subject to a SLA being agreed.

Table 2 – Proposed SLA Grant Awards 2017/18 to 2021

Organisation	£
County Infrastructure Contract funding (currently Community Impact Bucks (CIB))	8,708
Padstones Housing*	6,972*
Wycombe Women's Aid	7,000
Three Rivers Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB)	42,000
Total	63,708

*subject to additional funding through the Prevention fund

Padstones

- 1.6. Padstones provides supported accommodation for homeless young people, aged 16-20, from across the Thames Valley, at risk of being vulnerable who otherwise may be homeless. Padstones also reports that it supports an average of 525 young people each year with advice and assistance. The accommodation provided is located in Burnham (13 bed spaces) and High Wycombe (12 bed spaces) with over 42 young people being accommodated in 2015/16. Information as to the numbers of young people accommodated from SBDC is not currently available from Padstones. The Council has historically supported Padstones through a Subs and Donations grant which in 20116/17 was £6,972.
- 1.7. The supported care funding for the organisation is at risk as a result of the reductions in Supporting People budget by Buckinghamshire County Council and no allocation of funding from Slough and Windsor and Maidenhead, from where a significant number of young people are referred. Wycombe District Council has also withdrawn funding for the organisation. The organisation does however receive rental payments for its tenants at the full Housing Benefit level and is not currently capped by the under-35 shared room rate, enabling some of its management overheads to be covered if operating at full or close to full occupancy.
- 1.8. Young people from SBDC, if accommodated through the Young Persons Homeless Protocol operated by BCC and the District Council are most likely to be accommodated in B+B or the Old Tea Warehouse in High Wycombe, due to the Padstones properties being fully occupied.
- 1.9. A proposal, detailed in Appendix 2, has been provided to Padstones to consider how it could better assist the Council in deliver its homeless advice and support services for young people. Should this scope of work be agreed, it would allow funding to be allocated through the Housing Prevention fund as well as through the Subs and Donations grant fund. Both funding mechanisms would be delivered in return for an agreed three year service level agreement with a break clause following annual review.

Wycombe Women's Aid

- 1.10. Wycombe Women's Aid provides support to women and children experiencing domestic violence, many of whom would seek accommodation from the Council. In 2015/16 WWA supported 104 individual women from SBDC plus their children (this does not include South Bucks residents who are supported in our IDVA service or our Youth Service as this funding comes from elsewhere). Over the last 4 years they have supported over 300 women and their children.
- 1.11. The £7,000 subs and donations grant funding provides a small contribution to the overall project costs of £568,324.00 per annum to provide support to women and children experiencing the effects of domestic violence by offering safe, temporary and emergency accommodation as well as practical and emotional support within the refuge and through

outreach in the local community. Should funding be withdrawn WWA would no longer be in a position to provide support services to women and their children living in South Bucks.

- 1.12. The work of the organisation directly links to the community safety and housing responsibilities of the Council. It is recommended to maintain the Councils' contribution of £7,000 through a grant linked to a three year service level agreement. This would allow certainty of funding to the organisation whilst enabling the Council to enter in to a partnership funding agreement with the county council or Office of the Police Crime Commissioner should Domestic Violence services be centrally commissioned by the PCC/BCC.

Three Rivers Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB)

- 1.13. Three Rivers Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) operates out of the Council offices and is currently funded through a current Service Level Agreement (SLA) to deliver services in return for a grant of £42,000/annum. The CAB provides specialist debt advice and general employment, housing and benefit advice to South Bucks residents enabling debt write off and benefit claims. The support it provides assists the most vulnerable residents of the district. The CAB for example handled 2,822 enquiries in South Bucks in 2015/16. Of these 397 related to debt and 327 involved housing advice, the types of services delivered by the CAB are detailed in Appendix 3. It is proposed to extend the SLA for a further three year period and maintain a contribution of £42,000 for the service delivered.

Community Impact Bucks

- 1.14. Community Impact Bucks was awarded the joint contract with the Districts and County Council to deliver voluntary sector infrastructure services. That contract is subject to renewal during 2017/18 and a further report will be brought to Members at that time. To ensure service delivery SBDC has agreed to continue to fund via Bucks County Council is £8,708 per year currently funded from the Subscriptions & Donations budget.

4. Consultation

Not Applicable

5. Options

- *To award funding to key organisations in return for an agreed service level agreement*
- *To not provide funding linked to an service level agreement to organisations*

7. Corporate Implications

Reports must include specific comments addressing the following implications;

3.1 Financial – funding for these organisations is within current budget estimates. If three year SLA's are agreed with an annual review the Council would retain the option to reduce funding if financial circumstances or poor performance necessitated a change.

3.2 Legal – whilst an SLA is not considered a contract it is an agreement that links funding to an annual review of performance and allows the Council to set its priorities for funding.

3.3 Funding to these organisations supports those at direct risk of homelessness, debt, housing standards and community safety to access support and assistance. Alternatively Community Impact Bucks (via the BCC contract) enables indirect

support through its volunteering assistance, governance or funding advice programmes.

8. Links to Council Policy Objectives

- Sustain and Grow a Thriving Voluntary and Community Sector
- Help All Communities Get On Well Together

9. Next Step

Explain what will happen next as a result of the proposed decision

Background Papers:	It is a legal requirement that we make available any background papers relied on to prepare the report and should be listed at the end of the report (copies of Part 1 background papers for executive decisions must be provided to Democratic Services)
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