

From: Caroline Siarkiewicz <Caroline.Siarkiewicz@maps.org.uk>
Sent: 14 February 2022 16:12
To: Little, Geoff <G.Little@bury.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Bury Council Motion

Dear Geoff,

Thank you for your letter of 27 January. I very much appreciate you raising these matters with me and please be assured that MaPS has considered them carefully.

Supporting people in problem debt is a priority for MaPS and we are about to put in place a settlement where funding going into frontline services is significantly higher than the last pre-pandemic year of 2019/20. This is to ensure we respond to the increasing need for debt advice, which you rightly highlight. MaPS has a statutory duty to have close regard for vulnerable people and so ensuring we can serve vulnerable people is at the heart of our commissioning approach.

In December, we announced changes in the timeline for awarding the contracts for the National Services, Business Debt and DRO Hub Lots, and that we would be implementing short-term grants to protect the ongoing delivery of advice whilst we worked with debt advice clients, advice organisations and other stakeholders to identify the best ways to deliver locally based services. I can now confirm that we will offer our current debt advice delivery providers grants for a period of ten months starting from 1 April 2022 at the same levels to the current year. Following the interim grants of ten months, we will put in place a longer-term grant for our current regional providers for a minimum of 12 months whilst we work with them and other stakeholders to shape our longer-term plans.

Over that time period, MaPS intend to work closely with debt advice clients, advice organisations and other stakeholders to inform the best ways to deliver locally based services. This will include looking at how best to serve vulnerable clients, including through face-to-face services and casework. We will share more information about how interested advisers and organisations can work with us as we take this forward.

MaPS has today issued an update on this matter and this can be found here
<https://maps.org.uk/2022/02/14/update-on-debt-advice-commissioning-14-february/>.

Yours sincerely,
Caroline

From: Little, Geoff <G.Little@bury.gov.uk>
Sent: 31 January 2022 09:30
To: Caroline Siarkiewicz <Caroline.Siarkiewicz@maps.org.uk>
Subject: Bury Council Motion

Good morning,

Please find attached a letter from Geoff Little, Chief Executive, Bury Council.

Kind Regards
Heather

(sent on behalf of Geoff Little, Chief Executive, Bury Council)

Heather Moore
Executive Officer
Department of Corporate Core Services



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