

**OFFICER DELEGATION SCHEME
RECORD OF OPERATIONAL DECISION**



TO BE UPLOADED TO THE INTERNET BY DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

Date: 14/04/23	Ref No: 2156
Type of Operational Decision:	
Executive Decision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Council Decision <input type="checkbox"/>
Status: URGENT	
<p>Title/Subject matter: Jigsaw Bury</p> <p>Permission is requested to award a grant covering the period 01/04/23 to 31/03/24 to Jigsaw Bury (charity organisation) for continuation of the delivery of services to i) young people with disabilities and ii) older people identified as being socially isolated.</p> <p>The value of the grant requested for FY2023/34 is £32,500, which includes an uplift to support financial pressures.</p> <p>There are a total of 222 vulnerable people in Bury currently accessing services and support from Jigsaw at least weekly. FY2022/23 estimates show 6,591 instances of support or contact with young people with disabilities alone. Cost per head in FY2022/23 is estimated to be £2.68 per week which is exceptional compared to the cost of formal support such as day care services at £45 per session.</p> <p>Funds are already identified in the Care in the Community budget.</p>	
Budget/Strategy/Policy/Compliance – Is the decision:	
(i) within an Approved Budget	x
(ii) in accordance with Council Policy	
Equality Impact Assessment [Does this decision change policy, procedure or working practice or negatively impact on a group of people? If yes – complete EIA and summarise issues identified and recommendations – forward EIA to Corporate HR]	No, the effects will impact on all individuals within those service equally.

Details of Operational Decision Taken *[with reasons]:*

Jigsaw are a charitable organisation who provide peer support, volunteer opportunities and social activities for young disabled people; as well as a project called Jigsaw Link which connects people over 55 years to prevent isolation.

Based on the FY2022/23 monitoring of the Council's investment in this service, the cost to the Council in FY2022/23 was £2.68 per member per week.

There are no other voluntary sector organisations delivering this type of customer-led service which reaches disabled young people. The current Jigsaw Bury service is delivered by 4 paid office staff, 11 sessional workers and a total of 47 active volunteers, with further volunteers being actively recruited by Jigsaw Bury.

The Charity engages with other community groups and carries out fund-raising activities to deliver the service in addition to the Council's funding contribution. Value for money monitoring is carried out quarterly and annually to determine whether the services delivered represent value for money, how many people are using them and identify the innovative ways in which the funding is being used.

In FY2022/23 the funding awarded to Jigsaw Bury represented value for money to Bury Council as it carried out 1,319 separate activities throughout the year which accounted for a total of approximately 6,951 instances of support or contact with young people with disabilities.

Jigsaw Bury saw new members join the group every quarter during FY2022/23, ending the year with a total of 161 active members. Jigsaw Link will end the year with 61 active members aged over 50 who are at risk of social isolation. Therefore, in total there are 222 vulnerable people in Bury accessing services and support from Jigsaw at least weekly.

The organisation is looking at ways to further connect with young disabled people and raise awareness of the member led organisation within schools, colleges and leisure centres and places where carers might also access information, care and support.

Jigsaw Bury is a unique organisation within Bury. There is no other Provider of services within Bury that could deliver a similar offering at the same cost to Bury Council.

If Bury Council were to withdraw the funding currently made available to Jigsaw Bury to partially fund the delivery of services, it is highly unlikely that the organisation would be able to provide the level of and range of support that it does currently. It is highly likely that the organisation would cease to operate.

The potential impact for the Council of this occurring is that all 222 active members could require assessments under The Care Act 2014 to determine whether they have eligible needs to be met by alternative means to allow them to engage in their communities and prevent social isolation. For example, a day support service costs an average of £45 per day.

Recommendation

Taking into account the value for money of this grant funding and risks of the service being unable to operate without Bury Council's investment, approval is sought to continue funding Jigsaw Bury 2023/34 at a cost of £32,500.

The procurement route has been clarified and the funds are available to issue this grant funding for a period of 1 year from 01/04/23 to 31/03/24.

Decision taken by:	Signature:	Date:
Executive Director or Chief/Senior Officer		25 May 2023
S151 Officer		24/5/23
Members Consulted [see note 1 below]		
Cabinet Member/Chair		25 May 2023
Lead Member	NA	
Opposition Spokesperson	NA	

Notes

1. It is not generally a requirement to consult with any Members on Operational Decisions but where a Chief Officer considers it necessary to consult with the appropriate Cabinet Member and/or Lead Member, they must sign the form so as to confirm that they have been consulted and that they agree with the proposed action. The signature of the Opposition Spokesperson should be obtained to confirm that he/she has been consulted.
2. **This form must not be used for urgent decisions.**