

**OFFICER DELEGATION SCHEME
RECORD OF DECISION**

TO BE UPLOADED TO THE INTERNET BY DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

Date: 13 June 2024	Ref No: 2233
Responsible Officer: Stephanie Boyd and Nikki Ledger (Commissioning Managers for Older People, Ageing Well, and Dementia)	
Type of Decision (please refer to MO Guidance):	
Key	<input type="checkbox"/>
Non-Key	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Freedom of Information Status: <i>(can the report go in the public domain)</i> Yes	
Title/Subject matter: Bury Older People's Network Contract	
Budget/Strategy/Policy/Compliance:	
(i) Is the decision within an Approved Budget?	Yes
(ii) Is the decision in conflict with the council's policies, strategies or relevant service plans?	No
(iii) Does the decision amend existing or raise new policy issues?	No
(iv) Is the decision significant and/or does it meet the £100,000 threshold for recording?	No

<p>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]</p>	<p>No</p>
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Background:

Bury Council currently commissions the Bury VCFA to facilitate the Bury Older People's Network (BOPN). The three-year contract ends on 31 August 2024. The contract value is £20k in total for the three years and is currently paid for out of the Grace Rigby Fund.

The Grace Rigby Fund is a legacy fund from a Bury resident and must be used "*for the benefit of the greatest number of elderly people in Bury*". There is currently £115,695 left in the Grace Rigby pot, £80,000 of which is not yet committed to other work.

The Network:

The Bury Older People's Network is an engagement mechanism for older people to have their voices heard on things that matter to them and to influence the way that services are designed, commissioned, and delivered. The ultimate aim is to create better outcomes for the ageing population.

A quote from the group:

"The Bury Older People's Network provides a voice for older people within the local community, empowering them to share what matters and enabling them to enjoy life".

Whilst also enabling future co-production and co-design on projects, working with Bury Council.

The Network currently has a volunteer chair and a group of core members. The group meets 10 times per year, including workshop sessions and events. Themed meetings take place throughout the year with the expectation that actions will be generated from the discussions and tie into an action plan that is currently being developed.

Bury VCFA (as the facilitator), members of the group, and commissioners have been working in partnership for the past three years to develop the Network and are keen for it to grow into a diverse group of people from different communities across the borough. Key partners have acknowledged that the Network is still in its infancy stage, and it will take time to become a fully established, well-known, inclusive, and respected group within the borough. This is a journey that is likely to take many years and it is crucial to continue with the development of existing and new relationships and partnerships within the group.

Dementia Co-production Network:

Dementia is a growing challenge. As the population ages and people live for longer, it has become one of the most important health and care issues facing the world. By 2040, it is predicted that 8% of Bury's population will have Dementia, with significant increases in the severity of Dementia, such as moderate to complex needs, and the need to ensure we have the right type of care and support available within Bury becomes more focussed.

Closely linked to the Bury Older People's Network is the need for a Bury Dementia Co-production Network, this has been identified as a commissioning intention within the draft Bury Dementia Strategy.

Again, the purpose of the Dementia Co-production Network is to establish strong links to reach out to people who are living with Dementia, their families, and carers, and to invite them to work in partnership with us to tackle a range of different issues, risks, and to co-design future pieces of work.

Items for Decision:

A proposal from the Bury VCFA would see £27,000 to fund a fourth year, utilised for the recruitment of a part-time Older People and Ageing Well Development Worker and a delivery budget. This would include ongoing growth and progress for the Bury Older People's Network along with the development of a new Dementia Co-production Network. This would provide the much-needed capacity, and also would provide consistency for the members by maintaining the same provider for another 12 months.

The extra capacity would allow time for strong relationships to be built with members who will be encouraged to take ownership of the Networks via confidence building and personalised training, this would enable Bury Council to test the market and complete a re-tender exercise during the 12-month extension period.

Over the next 12-months, there are a significant number of key actions across the Older People, Ageing Well, and Dementia agenda, with the new Dementia Strategy, Ageing Well Strategy, and Extra Care Housing Strategy leading the objectives over the next 5 years.

The support of the 2 networks is imperative to enable strategic objectives, and commissioning intentions to be addressed by working in co-production, as required by The Care Act.

The need for a formal governance process has been initiated via the newly formed Ageing Well Partnership Board, which will hold actions and individuals to account, and enable escalation of projects, risks, challenges, and successes to the Integrated Collaborative Board and the Bury Locality Board.

The trajectory for the needs of older people, and people living with Dementia in Bury, shows a significant increase in the complexity and level of need. To ensure that future planning and development opportunities are robust, there is a need to adopt an informed, co-produced, and co-designed approach, which will be held and driven by the networks.

Due to more comprehensive workstreams and deadlines required to achieve key pieces of work, the networks approach will be scaled up considerably, and will take additional resource and funding to develop to the standard required to uptake the work.

Financial Implications:

The cost of extending the Bury Older People's Network contract into a fourth year is £27,000. The costs are analysed as follows:

- **Staffing Costs** - £25,000
- **Administration Costs** (e.g. Room Hire, Training, Marketing) - £2,000

The Current 3-year contract is funded from the Grace Rigby Trust Fund (GRTF).

There is currently £80,000 remaining (and unallocated) in the GRTF and therefore the additional 1-year extension (01/09/24 – 31/08/25) will be funded from the GRTF.

All costs related to the contract extension with Bury VCFA will be charged directly to the Trust Fund budget code (WTF4534) and not the HAC revenue budget.

Furthermore, following any re-tender exercise of the Bury Older People's Network contract the cost will continue to be funded from the GRTF until exhausted at which point the contract will be funded from core council resource.

The table below highlights that the £80,000 currently unallocated in the GRTF will be fully spent some time during July 2029. However, once annual inflationary uplifts are factored in it is likely that core funding provision will be required much earlier in financial year 2028/29. Core funding will be built into the HAC budget as part of the 2028/29 budget setting cycle.

Contract	Year	Value
1Yr Contract Extension	2024/25 (Sep-March)	15,750.00
	2025/26 (Apr-Aug)	11,250.00
Sub Total		27,000.00
Yr 1 Retendered Contract	2025/26 (Sep - March)	15,750.00
	2026/27 (Apr-Aug)	11,250.00
Sub Total		27,000.00
Yr 2 Retendered Contract	2027/28 (Sep - March)	15,750.00
	2028/29 (Apr - Aug)	11,250.00
Sub Total		27,000.00
Grand Total		81,000.00

As part of the monthly budget monitoring cycle, Finance and Budget holders will track the expenditure linked to the Bury Older People's Network contract ensuring that all expenditure aligns to the funding provided. Any financial risks/pressures identified will be highlighted to the Director of Adult Social Services as part of the monthly budget monitoring conversation whereby an action plan will be deployed to mitigate any financial risks/ pressures.

Our Recommendations are:

- To extend the Bury Older People’s Network contract with Bury VCFA for a fourth year.
- And to vary the current contract to include the development of a Dementia Co-production Network.
- To approve the fourth year from 01 September 2024 to 31 August 2025 at a cost of £27,000
- Continue to fund future contract expenditure from the GRTF until exhausted.
- We also seek approval to test the market and complete a re-tender exercise during the 12-month extension period for both the Bury Older People’s Network and the Dementia Co-production Network.

Procurement:

Following discussions with both Star and Corporate Procurement, agreement has been provided with the rationale for this approach as the current provider is able to provide the much-needed capacity and experience in delivering the work required, this will also provide consistency for the members for another 12 months. The current provider and commissioners will work with members over the next 12 months to prepare them for a potential new provider, and to involve them in the re-tender process.

Next Steps:

- Vary the current Bury Older People’s Network contract with Bury VCFA to include the development of a Dementia Co-production Network and extend for a fourth year.
- Commence planning to test the market and re-tender.

Wards affected: N/A

Consultations: N/A

Scrutiny & Review Committee Interest:




Options considered:

Decision *[with reasons]*

Decision made by:

Signature:

Date:

Executive Director – Health and Adult Care		10 July 2024
Section 151 Officer		11 July 2024
Members Consulted [see note 1 below]		
Cabinet Member		15 August 2024
Opposition Spokesperson	NA	

Notes

1. Where, in accordance with the requirements of the Officer Delegation Scheme, a Chief Officer consults with the appropriate Cabinet 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 if required, to confirm that he/she has been consulted. Please refer to the MO Guidance.
2. **This form must not be used for urgent decisions.**
3. Where there is any doubt, Corporate Directors should err on the side of caution and seek advice from the Council's Monitoring Officer.