

OFFICER DELEGATION SCHEME RECORD OF DECISION

TO BE UPLOADED TO THE INTERNET BY DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

Date: 21 January 2025		Ref No: 2272	
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 Bury Dementia Co-Production Network			
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	
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	

Background:

Bury Council commissioned the Bury VCFA to develop and facilitate the Bury Older People's Network (BOPN) for three years from 01 September 2021 to 31 August 2024 at a contract value of £20k in total using the Grace Rigby Trust Fund (GRTF).

A fourth-year contract extension is currently in place to continue with the development of the BOPN, but also to create a Bury Dementia Co-Production Network at a total cost of £27k from the GRTF.

The GRTF 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 £84,723.91 left in the Grace Rigby pot which is committed to these Networks only.

The Networks are engagement mechanisms 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.

In 2024, the VCFA recruited a part-time Older People and Ageing Well Development Worker dedicated to the development, growth, and progress of the two groups, but there were unforeseen staffing issues, and it is now necessary to recruit a new member of staff.

Recommendation:

For the contract with the VCFA to come to a natural end on 31 August 2025, and for a new 1-year grant agreement to commence with the same provider on 01 September 2025 until 31 August 2026 at a cost of £27k.

Financial Implications:

There is currently £84,723.91 left in the Grace Rigby pot which is committed to these Networks only.

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

Next Steps:



- Allow the current contract with Bury VCFA to come to a natural end on 31 August 2025.
- Develop a new 1-year grant agreement with Bury VCFA from 01 September 2025 until 31 August 2026.

Reason for Recommendation:

The additional 12-months will allow the VCFA to advertise the vacancy for an 18-month period which is likely to appeal to a larger number of applicants and enable them to attract the right prospective candidates. This will allow extra 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. It will also allow Commissioners time to organise a competitive tender exercise in 2026.

This approach has been agreed by the Head of Corporate Procurement.

Wards affected: N/A**Consultations:** N/A**Scrutiny & Review Committee Interest:****Options considered:****Decision** *[with reasons]*

Decision made by:	Signature:	Date:
Director of Adult Social Services and Community Commissioning		21 April 2025
Section 151 Officer	NA	
Director of People and Inclusion	NA	
Members Consulted <i>[see note 1 below]</i>		
Cabinet Member		1 May 2025
Lead Member - HR	NA	

Opposition Spokesperson	NA	
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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.