

Minutes of the Special meeting held on

Monday 12th April 2010

Bassetlaw Community and Voluntary Service

Present:

David Whitham (DW), Adult Social Care and Health
Mark Sweeney (MS), A1 Housing
Jan Harding (JH), Carers Representative
Cheryl George (CG), NHS Bassetlaw
Jackie Gladden (JG), NHS Bassetlaw
Jane Zdanowska (JZ), Nottinghamshire County Council
Laura Chambers (LC), Nottinghamshire County Council
Geraldine Pearce (GP), Bassetlaw Community and Voluntary Service
Anne Cater (AC), Bassetlaw Community and Voluntary Service
Wendy Pigott (WP), Bassetlaw District Council

DW welcomed everyone to this special meeting, called to discuss the future provision of practical services within Bassetlaw including Preventative Adaptation Scheme (PAS) and Handyperson's Service (HS). A round of introductions was made.

For some years the Care and Repair Scheme delivered by DYNAH has been joint funded by Bassetlaw District Council (BDC) and NHS Bassetlaw with a one-off lump sum paid by Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC).

For discussion at this meeting; the impact on the people supported by the scheme if funding is withdrawn and services delivered via a different model; to ensure that Partnership members are comfortable with the way forward.

LC was invited to talk through the model that is emerging, NCC will become core funders of the scheme in the future.

LC reported that NCC have £20,000 per district per year alongside funding from Central Government of £150,000 this year and £200,000 next year. The DYNAH scheme currently receives £17,000 per year from both BDC and NHS Bassetlaw.

LC has been overseeing a pilot scheme in Mansfield and Ashfield that ended on 31 March 2010. The evaluation report is currently being written and will be circulated by the end of this week. The key elements of the pilot scheme are: within each district of the county there will be five approved traders who will complete the work at an agreed hourly rate. Work will be completed within a fixed time period. The traders will collect the materials from an agreed supplier. The focus of the scheme is around accident prevention and falls prevention.

PAS and HS are a merged service with one telephone number contact and is co-ordinated by the Occupational Therapy Team Service Advisor who already co-ordinates the everyday living scheme.

Minor adaptations are capped at £250 for materials with labour extra and HP jobs capped at 4 hours work with materials supplied by the customer. There is a flat rate charge of £10 per hour for up to 4 hours work.

Prevention Services are not in this budget and even if the customer is eligible for social care, all pay the same rate across the board.

The pilot project has carried out 92 HP jobs and 134 PAS jobs, within Mansfield there has also been 144 telecare jobs carried out.

The average cost of HP jobs is £42.48 and PAS jobs are £134.48.

HP jobs have been turned around in 3.5 days and PAS jobs turned around in 8.5 days.

The average length of a job has been 3.5 hours.

Key parts of the project are that only local traders are used who are accountable and very recognisable with reduced mileage costs and travel time. Each trader is registered as an Approved Trader. Traders will not have to go through a tendering process, nor will the co-ordination of the service.

By using the one telephone contact, the HS and minor adaptation jobs are merged and the full OT assessment can be by-passed. The co-ordinator sits in the OT team and is qualified which minimises the risk of complex cases being missed.

Questions were raised about the impact on the local third sector if the Bassetlaw project is to be delivered in-house by NCC. There are also concerns that the telephone number to contact is not a Bassetlaw number as it is known that this issue can often deter older and vulnerable people.

It was acknowledged that around the county, HP services are typically delivered by the third sector, but NCC is of the opinion that a merged in-house service would be more holistic and able to tap into 'Framework', the IT system used by Adult Social Care.

At present there is only one base for the project; in Sutton in Ashfield, at most there will be two bases for the whole county. It is unlikely that there will be a Bassetlaw telephone number although all the traders will be from Bassetlaw.

Third sector organisations are able to apply to become Approved Traders.

GP said that it is essential that the project that is chosen will work here in Bassetlaw. BDC and NCC have explored lots of different delivery models before launching the pilot scheme. NHS Bassetlaw and BCVS have not been involved in these discussions.

LC said that there is a real risk of focussing too much on the third sector aspect of the delivery and that standardised good quality co-ordination of services will bring in further funding and, in turn, allow the third sector to provide services.

MS presented the A1 Housing 'Branching Out' model, which is a different delivery model but will still deliver services to those who need them and allow vulnerable people to stay in their own homes.

A1 currently have 670 properties and carry out services free of charge to residents at a cost of £35,000 to A1 Housing.

A1 want to deliver these services more effectively whilst building up their income stream. Services will be delivered across Bassetlaw at a reduced cost and subsidised by grant funding and training. Young people aged 16 - 18 who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) and are some of the most vulnerable will work on the project and carry out the jobs for tenants.

Whilst delivering the services, the young people will undertake a training programme that is OCN accredited with ENABLE thus equipping them with skills and qualifications to take them into full time paid employment.

A1 already have at least 10 Future Jobs Fund trainees who are fully financially supported who will deliver the service whilst being trained and educated.

Branching Out will be a social enterprise – making profits that will be re-invested into A1 and the local community.

Questions were raised around the relevance of this project to PAS and HS schemes and the turnaround time for jobs.

'Branching Out' can deliver all of the services within PAS and HS and will have a very competitive delivery service.

DW stated that potentially there will be two similar schemes running in parallel ;

- a) Branching Out – funded by A1 and delivered by volunteers
- b) NCC Scheme – funded by NCC, attracting Local Authority and PCT funding

There are questions around which scheme BCD are supporting as A1 are contracted to BDC.

JZ stated that the Partnership need to ensure that the final project is the best for Bassetlaw and the end user. There seems no point in NCC setting up their scheme if A1 are going to set up in competition. There are issues around sustainability.

MS confirmed that the A1 project does not want to rely on grant funding in the future and wants to gain contracts. The project has a sponsorship agreement with Price Waterhouse Cooper and are in talks with companies including B&Q and Wilkinsons to bring in income.

LC confirmed that NCC have already spoken with A1 around working in partnership, looking at what is being proposed. Her thoughts are that the NCC model is better and cheaper for the user and that the A1 scheme is a 'for profit' scheme and is means-tested, so not free for all service users.

DW summarised:

- a) the pilot scheme in Mansfield and Ashfield seems to have been reasonably successful, although the full report is not yet available.
The scheme proposed by NCC via LC would be:
 - funded jointly by LCC, BDC and NHS Bassetlaw and brings together PAS and HS (Care and Repair, currently provided by DYNAH)
 - rolled out within Bassetlaw
 - recruit local traders, either private or from the third sector
 - central co-ordination point

Scheme a) would initially push the third sector out of the service provision. DYNAH would have to be given notice but would be encouraged to apply to become an Approved Trader.

b) Branching Out – scheme proposed by A1 Housing would be:

- a social enterprise, led by a third sector organisation with profits being re-invested into the organisation
- offer training places to local NEET young people
- Co-ordinated within Bassetlaw

It was agreed that the Partnership are keen to keep the third sector involved in the project. Could Bassetlaw benefit from two schemes? It seems sensible to provide PAS and HS services and to be linked to OT teams.

It would be useful to look at other models of Home Improvement Agency delivery.

JG commented that from a commissioning point of view the Partnership should have stated what is needed from the schemes prior to the proposals being made.

DW wants the Partnership to be in a position to make a decision at the next meeting on 17th May.

In order to be able to make the decision it was agreed that:

- a) Laura Chambers to provide the Evaluation Report from the Pilot Scheme.
- b) Laura Chambers to provide the detailed Home Improvement Agency report.
- c) Mark Sweeney to provide the report on the Branching Out scheme.
- d) Anne Cater to provide a monitoring report for DYNAH including performance data for the last 12 months.
- e) Jackie Gladden, Cheryl George, Geraldine Pearce and Anne Cater to draw up a performance specification document.
- f) Mark Sweeney, Laura Chambers and Wendy Pigot to meet to discuss how the two schemes cross-over and work together.

These reports to be forwarded to Lesley Thorlby, Partnership Admin by 10th May at the latest for circulation to Partnership members before the next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 17th May at 10am, BCVS office, Worksop. ***Please allow 3 hours for this meeting.***