

Third Sector Chief Officers Meeting – 1.2.2011

Proposal	Comment/Impact/Idea
Procurement	Voluntary sector is unclear at this stage about potential implications of larger contracts. Concern that organisations may be faced with a number of tenders being put out to the market at the same time. The sector has limited time and capacity to respond to several at the same time. A request was made for a clear schedule and phased approach if possible.
Employee Pay Freeze	No impact comments
Cycle and Pedestrian Training	Officer explained that statutory duty would be fulfilled and that there would be greater alignment with One Darlington: Perfectly Placed priorities. Also explained that grants were being sought to help with the potential future provision of this training. No specific impacts were identified.
Anti-Social Behaviour	Clarification that the future works would be targeted and that there would be less staff and a move to the family intervention team. Discussion around the table thought that the impact of changes were understood and that there would be a reduction in the ability to be pro-active.
Supported Bus Services	Officer explained that work was ongoing to identify impacts of any changes and that there is a statutory obligation to understand the needs of the population in terms of transport. Traditionally the council had subsidised early morning, late evening and rural services. Work is ongoing to look at the impact of not only the changes made by Darlington Borough Council but also at impact of service changes in Durham and North Yorkshire. Further discussion will take place at the disability equality sub-group following initial discussion in January. The group agreed that when more detail was available the impacts needed further consideration. Representatives from chief officers identified that there were also transport issues in relation to other proposals for adult care and a third sector group was involved in discussion on transport currently.
Car Parking Changes	No impacts identified
Public Toilets	No impacts identified as accessible toilet would be available for toilets within the crematorium. The group also identified that the public would find other toilets if the charge was an issue.

Strategic Review of funding to the Third Sector	Concern that the impact on the larger organisations of these and other proposed changes needs to be picked up.
Cultural Services	Changes in this area were largely about discretionary services and the revised proposals following round one of the consultation will allow time for partnership working to develop an approach to culture in Darlington. An enquiry group approach to future work was supported by chief officers.
Street Scene	First Stop suggested that Nordic and other welfare to work groups could be used to support the Street Scene work. The officer explained that we already work with these groups but there was a need to build on this further in the future.
Adult Social Care – Reducing level of Disregard	It was advised that financial assessments would be required for all of the individuals concerned and this was already underway. The group appreciated that this individual impact work needed to take place not only for this proposal but for all other proposals in the adult social care.
Adult Social Care – Criteria Assessment	Proposals will increase targeting to those people with medium and high need and no funded provision to those with low and moderate need. Some services would cease to be funded in April if the proposed changes are agreed although a number of individuals may choose to self-fund for these services. Representatives highlighted that the sector needed to understand the implications in time to adjust staffing and sometimes transition arrangements may be required to allow for redundancy and other restructures. Concern was expressed by the officer that to go through all of the social care transformation proposals with individuals could raise levels of anxiety needlessly in some cases.
Local Education Authority Functions	Discussion took place in relation to work required to ensure that schools worked effectively together to address the impact of any changes in services. Concern was expressed about the advisory teachers and the way that this will operate this in individual schools and groups of schools, particularly in relation to disabled children.

<p>Children’s Early intervention and Prevention Service</p>	<p>It was discussed that the link here would be to three area teams with health and that there was a reduction in management and back office services. The move was from universal services for all to a targeted service but one that would focus on those most at risk. The group understood this approach and that overall it would be positive but that the changes needed to be monitored closely. Reductions in grants connected with play; Young Carers and Volunteering had already been notified to the groups concerned. Groups present expressed disappointment at the reduction but were working to look at ways to source other funding in some cases or re-focus activity.</p>
<p>Transformation Team Costs</p>	<p>Discussion took place in relation to the costs for the transformation team. It was explained that a saving of £1.5million had been taken from management costs but there were short-term activities that needed to be undertaken. It was agreed that links to the Transformation Team needed to be improved with organisations in the third sector particularly those doing development work. eVOLution representatives were meeting with the team manager to look at ways of working together to meet the challenges we are facing in Darlington.</p>