



ROCHDALE
METROPOLITAN BOROUGH
COUNCIL

EQUALITY/COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

1. What is the name of the savings proposal and its current status?

CC107 - Review support for the Community and Voluntary Sector Service

2. Which Service is responsible for this proposal?

Customers and Communities

3. Does this proposal impact on other services or other service savings proposals and if so, have you discussed this proposal with the Service Directors from those other services?

There may be some indirect impact upon other services that are seeking to develop the voluntary and community sector in order to provide services on their behalf in the future e.g. Adult Care. The proposal has been discussed with the Executive Director for Adult Care.

4. Please state the name of the officer leading the EIA

5. Who has been involved in undertaking this assessment e.g. list the stakeholder groups which have been involved?

At this stage no consultation has taken place regarding the proposal although the current provider has been notified of the likely approach (Rochdale Council for Voluntary Services). Rochdale CVS has agreed to work with the Council during the public consultation period to convene consultation sessions with the sector in order to discuss the proposal and their future needs.

6. What is the scope of this assessment?

- -what is included in this assessment
- -does this proposal link to any other proposals (i.e. previous or current). If so, please state

The scope of this assessment is the proposal CC107 which is reduce by 50% the budget available for commissioning infrastructure support for the community and voluntary sector. This budget has previously been reduced as part of previous savings rounds.

**7 a). What does the function currently do?
b). Describe the needs which this service meets?**

The Council currently commissions RCVS to provide support to the community and voluntary sector. This three-year contract was due to end in March 2012 but is being extended for a further year (to March 2013) given the changes that the Council is currently going through. The contract specification currently includes a number of areas:

- Support with organisational/business development for third sector organisations, including training
- Support for volunteering (volunteers and volunteer management)
- Support with sourcing grant funding and financial planning
- Support for social enterprise development

- Supporting the development of the community and voluntary network and participation in the Local Strategic Partnership

The purpose of the contract was to help ensure that the sector had the necessary support to develop and improve and actively participate in the influence and delivery of public services. With the reduction in funding in previous rounds CVS now primarily focuses on the first three service areas in the list above. Although the development of the sector reflects the Council's vision and aspirations that are set out in the Blueprints the current contract is no longer fit-for-purpose and a new service/services now needs to be commissioned to reflect changing requirements and the specific needs of the sector. The consultation period will help to inform the specification for any new services.

8. What changes do you propose to make?

The proposal is to reduce the commissioning budget by 50% (£135k) and consult on the sectors needs with a view to commissioning new services from April 2013 once CVS' contract has come to an end.

9. Who are the key stakeholders who may be affected by the changes proposed?

- Rochdale Council for Voluntary Services (including the volunteer bureau)
- Community Centres
- Voluntary Sector Partnership
- Individual community and voluntary sector organisations
- Volunteers that are supported by RCVS

10. What impact will this proposal have on all the protected groups

Race Equality

It is not anticipated that this proposal will result in unequal outcomes or disadvantage for ethnic minority groups

Disabled People

It is not anticipated that this proposal will result in unequal outcomes or disadvantage for disabled people

Carers

It is not anticipated that this proposal will result in unequal outcomes or disadvantage for carers

Gender

It is not anticipated that this proposal will result in unequal outcomes or disadvantage for any gender

Older and Younger People

It is not anticipated that this proposal will result in unequal outcomes or disadvantage for different age groups

People who are Socio-Economically Disadvantaged

This proposal may affect the ability to provide support for volunteers, some of whom will be socio-disadvantaged, particularly as Job Centre Plus is actively encouraging people to volunteer linked to their benefits. This could mean that unemployed people will find it harder to access volunteering opportunities and/or training to support them and their personal development whilst volunteering.

Religion or Belief

It is not anticipated that this proposal will result in unequal outcomes or disadvantage for people of any particular faith group

Sexual Orientation
It is not anticipated that this proposal will result in unequal outcomes or disadvantage for people with any particular sexual orientation

Gender Reassignment
It is not anticipated that this proposal will result in unequal outcomes or disadvantage for people who have had gender reassignment

Pregnant Women or Those on Maternity Leave or Those who have given Birth in the Previous 26 weeks
It is not anticipated that this proposal will result in unequal outcomes or disadvantage for this group of people

Marriage or Civil Partnership
It is not anticipated that this proposal will result in unequal outcomes or disadvantage for this group of people

11. What are the main conclusions arising from this analysis?
As CVS primarily supports community and voluntary sector organisations it is not anticipated that this proposal will have a disproportionate or discriminatory impact on any particular group of individuals. However, it may be that unemployed/socio-disadvantaged volunteers could be affected if the proposal has an adverse impact on the continuation of the volunteer bureau. This will only be determined through the consultation period once it is possible to discuss the ongoing needs of the sector in more detail and for the council to decide what support services it wishes to commission for the future.

12. What measures do you propose to put in place to mitigate any adverse impacts?

Possible Adverse Impact	Mitigation Measure
Closure of community/voluntary organisations if they can't access appropriate support (e.g. financial planning)	The Council will consult with the sector on any support needs for the future with a view to commissioning these from April 2013. In addition we will work with CVS to direct current/potential service users to alternative support services/activities.
Lack of support for volunteers from socio-disadvantaged groups	Work with CVS, the sector, the Council's Economic Affairs team and volunteers during the consultation period to review the needs of volunteers, particularly those from socially disadvantaged groups with a view to commissioning volunteer support activity from April 2013.

What evidence do you have which demonstrates that these measures will be effective?
None

13. Please attach a copy of your consultation action plan.

Please briefly outline below who has been consulted and which consultation methods were used.
Consultation will be undertaken during the 90-day consultation period with the following:
CVS – face-to-face meetings to discuss the proposal, their future and the needs of the sector

Voluntary Sector Partnership – attendance at meeting to discuss the proposal
 Workshop/drop-in sessions with community and voluntary sector organisations to discuss the proposal and their future support needs
 Workshop/focus group sessions with volunteers to identify their support needs and discuss the proposal

14. Please complete the mitigation action plan below.

Mitigation Action Plan

Mitigation Measure	Action	Responsible Officer	End Date	Status
Commission new/revised support services for the sector	Consult with CVS and the sector to identify future needs with a view to developing new contract specifications and commissioning support services/activities		March 2013	
Assist in finding alternative funding	Provide access to any specialist services within the council Support through information sharing and providing references		March 2013	
Identify alternative services in voluntary sector	Work with CVS and sub-regional groups to identify other support provision for the sector		March 2013	
Improve access and opportunity to vocational and non-vocational training for volunteers	Work with CVS and the Council's Economic Affairs and Skills Team to identify other opportunities for volunteers.		March 2103	

15. Equality impact analysis sign off by the Director of Service, and an Executive Leadership Team (ELT) Representative

Name	Position	Date