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|----------------|---------------------|
| Financial Year | 2017/18             |
| Proposal no.   | CS-2017-309         |
| Directorate    | Children's Services |

### Savings Programme Pre-consultation Report

|                 |                                   |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Subject:</b> | Review of Funding of Play Schemes |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|

#### 1 Recommendations

Members are asked to consider the following proposal:

- 1.1 That the grant for funding for holiday play scheme provision ceases, producing a net budget reduction of £40k.

#### Reason for recommendation

- 1.2 This is not a statutory service that the local authority must provide.

#### 2 Background

- 2.1 This proposal is the whole of the local authority's commitment to childrens' play provision provided by the voluntary sector in the borough. The current grant recipient as an independent organisation does have the ability to apply for other sources of funding.

- 2.2. There is a voluntary organisation that uses the grant funding from the Council to support, develop and fund voluntary run holiday play schemes across the borough. The 2015 Annual report (the most current at the time of writing, 2016 summer schemes have not begun) showed that there were 17 holiday play schemes and one Play Day Scheme provided through this grant at various times and durations throughout the borough. These schemes had a total of 1,268 individual children registered with them attending a total of 497 sessions delivered. The play schemes are delivered by a combined total of 188 volunteer play workers.

### 3 Financial Implications

The saving proposal is 100% of the budget for the area of service affected

- 3.1 Table 1 provides details of the RADPAC saving proposal.

|  | Savings 2017/18 |         | Savings 2018/19 |         | Total savings |         |
|--|-----------------|---------|-----------------|---------|---------------|---------|
|  | £k              |         | £k              |         | £k            |         |
|  | On-going        | One off | On-going        | One off | On-going      | One off |
| Employees                                      |                 |         |                 |         |               |         |
| Other Costs                                    | 24              |         | 16              |         | 40            |         |
| Income lost                                    |                 |         |                 |         |               |         |
| <b>Net savings</b>                             | <b>24</b>       |         | <b>16</b>       |         | <b>40</b>     |         |
| Additional income generated                    |                 |         |                 |         |               |         |
| <b>Total savings</b>                           | <b>24</b>       |         | <b>16</b>       |         | <b>40</b>     |         |
| Implementation costs                           |                 |         |                 |         |               |         |
| <b>Total savings less implementation costs</b> | <b>24</b>       |         | <b>16</b>       |         | <b>40</b>     |         |

### **4 Asset implications**

4.1 There are no asset implications arising from this proposal.

### **5 Voluntary Sector impact**

5.1 The deletion of the grant to RADPAC represents a significant element of the organisation's income and may result in the organisation being unable to continue its services and ceasing to operate. However, RADPAC as an independent organisation does have the ability to apply for other sources funding.

5.2 The Council's external fund manager has been in contact with RADPAC to explore any potential external funding opportunities and will continue to explore this further.

### **6 Consultation**

6.1 The key stakeholders for this proposal have been identified as:

- Rochdale and District Play Action Council
- Voluntary Groups
- General public

6.2. The Council must ensure that it remains open-minded throughout the consultation period to all alternative proposals and expressions of interest.

### **7 Alternatives considered**

7.1 Members could decide not to take the proposal forward and identify alternative savings proposals

7.2 Should members decide to continue grant funding, this would be subject to competitive tendering from 2017/18, for which RADPAC could submit an application/tender.

### **8 Risk Assessment Implications**

8.1. There may be an increase in perceived anti-social behaviour by children during the school holidays should there be no play provision available to them. However there are other providers of play schemes.

### **9 Legal Implications**

9.1 There are no legal implications as a result of this proposal.

### **10 Personnel Implications**

10.1 There are no personnel implications as a result of this proposal.

### **11 Equalities Impacts**

#### **Workforce Equality Impacts Assessment**

11.1 There are no workforce equality issues arising from this report.

#### **Equality/Community Impact Assessments**

11.2 Children represent a large proportion of the borough's population and this proposal would directly affect current non-statutory services provided to them during the school holidays.

### EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR SAVINGS PROPOSALS

|   |
|---|
| 1. Please state the name of the officers leading the EIA  |
| XXX XXXXX/XXXX XXXXX  |
| 2. Who has been involved in undertaking this assessment?  |
| Officers within Early help and Schools  |
| 3. What is the scope of this assessment?  |
| The proposal is to cease grant funding to support voluntary play scheme provision in the borough.   |
| 4 a). What does the function currently do?<br>b). Describe the needs which this service meets?  |
| The proposal is to cease grant funding for holiday play scheme provision in the borough. This grant is currently given to Rochdale and District Play Action Council (RADPAC) via a service level agreement, and is used by them support, develop and fund voluntary run holiday play schemes across the borough. The 2015 RADPAC Annual report (the most current as at time of writing 2016 summer schemes have not begun) showed that there were 17 holiday play schemes and one Play Day provided through this grant of various times and durations throughout the borough. These schemes had a total of 1268 individual children registered with them attending a total of 497 sessions delivered. The play schemes are delivered by a combined total of 188 volunteer play workers. |
| 5. What proposed changes do you wish to make?   |
| The proposal is to cease the grant funding entirely.  |
| 6. Who are the key stakeholders who may be affected by the proposed changes?  |
| Children and Young people<br>Community members<br>Parents   |

|  |
|--|
| 7. What impact will this proposal have on all the protected groups?  |
| <b>Race Equality</b>   |
| The proposal will affect all children equally irrespective of ethnicity. RADPAC does fund play schemes in more disadvantaged areas of the borough which may include areas with high percentages of children from differing ethnic communities. |
| <b>Disabled People</b>   |
| Children with additional needs can and do attend play sessions offered by RADPAC .   |
| <b>Carers</b>  |
| The proposals do not impact negatively on this group.  |
| <b>Gender</b>  |
| The proposals do not impact negatively on this group.  |
| <b>Age</b>   |
| The service affected is specifically aimed at children aged 5 to 14 years. Children are an under represented group.  |
| <b>Armed Forces and Ex-Armed Forces Personnel</b>  |
| The proposals do not impact negatively on this group.  |
| <b>Religion or Belief</b>  |
| The proposals do not impact negatively on this group.  |
| <b>Sexual Orientation</b>  |
| The proposals do not impact negatively on this group.  |
| <b>Gender Reassignment</b>   |
| The proposals do not impact negatively on this group.  |
| <b>Pregnant Women or Those on Maternity Leave or Those who have given Birth in the Previous 26 weeks</b>   |
| The proposals do not impact negatively on this group.  |
| <b>Marriage or Civil Partnership</b>   |
| The proposals do not impact negatively on this group.  |

### 8. Conclusions and Recommendations

**What are the main conclusions and recommendations from this analysis?**

Play provision remains classified by government as a non-statutory service. Should members agree to this proposal there are no alternatives that can be considered that would protect or continue staffed open access play provision in the borough.

**9. In the box below please provide details of who you will consult with on the proposals, when you consult, and the methods which you will use to consult. In the box below**

***The Consultation and Inclusion Methodology Used***

- Rochdale and District Play Action Council (RADPAC)
- General Public

Consultation letters will be prepared and sent to all affected individuals, these will include;

- RADPAC Management Committee and Trustees

The letter will outline the proposal and arrange dates, times and venues for face to face consultation meetings. The letter will ask that groups direct/signpost their service users and other interested parties to the location of information (e.g. council web pages) relating to the proposal so that they may comment also.

**10. Produce an action plan detailing the mitigation measures that you propose to put in place to address any adverse impacts.**

| Mitigation Measure   | Action   | Responsible Officer                                  | Implementation Date  | Review Date | Evaluation Measure |
|--|--|--|----------------------|-------------|--------------------|
| Ensure children are able to understand and comment on the proposal                       | Ensure information provided to children is age appropriate or explained to them in means they can understand | Childcare Development Manager/Play Development Staff | September to October | October     | Responses made     |
| Ensure parents are made aware of the proposal and know where and how they might comment. | Ensure posters are displayed detailing where information can be accessed                                     | Childcare Development Manager/Play Development Staff | September to October | October     | Responses made     |