

Title: Bristol Community Links	
Author: Sonia Moore	Job title: Early Intervention & Targeted Services (Adults) Manager
Cabinet lead: Cllr Helen Holland	Director lead: Terry Dafter

Idea origin: <i>Other</i> Date idea generated: 13/10/2016
Decision maker: Mayor Decision forum: <i>Cabinet</i>
Timescales: Cabinet Decision scheduled for 4 th December 2017.
Purpose of Report: To request approval from Cabinet in respect of the recommendations listed below, to enable the Bristol Community Links service to operate within its revised budget from April 2020.
Cabinet Member / Officer Recommendations: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cabinet as asked to Transfer the provision of transport to and from the Links Centres to BCC Passenger Services from 1st April 2018. 2. Remove automatic entitlement to transport provision, on a case by case basis. Undertake the relevant Management of Change processes to achieve efficiencies from the staffing budget, while maintaining service delivery for vulnerable adults. 3. Delegate Authority to Service Director - Transport, to implement the transfer in consultation with the Cabinet Portfolio holder
Evidence Base: Changes to transport provision means that the service will be able to deliver required savings with very little impact on actual service provision. Changes to staffing and removal of direct transport provision from within the service will enable the required cultural changes to the service to embed the three tier model that is being consolidated throughout the care sector in Bristol. Evidence from public consultation is that people are willing to accept changes to transport over changes to the service itself. This cultural shift will enable the service to offer more and more of a focus on independence while still supporting vulnerable people and their family members / carers.

Revenue Cost: £ up to £300,000	Source of Revenue Funding: Corporate resource to cover potential redundancy costs
Capital Cost: £0	Source of Capital Funding: N/A
One off cost <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ongoing cost <input type="checkbox"/>	Saving Proposal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Income generation proposal <input type="checkbox"/>
Finance narrative: Implementation of the new service delivery model over the next two years will ensure that future service expenditure is contained within a revised budget by April 2020. The plans that support the implementation of the new service model will be managed within the Better Lives Programme along with the other improvement plans being delivered by Adult Social Care. The Better Lives programme will deliver a range of enabling activity across 4 priority areas, aiming to maximise independence for adults in Bristol.	
Finance Officer: Neil Sinclair, Finance Business Partner - People	

Risks: Many of the service users that access the Bristol Community Links service are vulnerable adults who may experience difficulty in adapting to any changes within the service. Similarly, a small change to routine could adversely impact on carers or family members. Whilst the proposals included in this report protect the core day service provision, some people may struggle, at least in the short term, with the changes to transport. This risk will be mitigated by ensuring that there is a continuing dialogue with service users and their families and they fully understand any changes that may be implemented and how they will be affected. The service will also maximise any opportunities to help individuals become more independent in how they access the service, which should create a positive impact for some people. There are some financial risks to note. There will be some redundancy costs that are attached to the proposed staffing changes which cannot be met from the core service budget, so corporate funding will need to be secured to fund this (agreement in principle is in place). Additionally, whilst confidence in delivering these proposals is high, there will need to be ongoing monitoring to check that the service will be able to operate within its reduced budget by 2020.

Legal consideration: The Care Act 2014 provides that the local authority has a duty to meet the assessed eligible needs of service users that are not met by carers or other statutory bodies. If however, an alternative means of meeting the needs is in place and the authority is satisfied that this alternative means can, in fact, meet the person's eligible needs, then the authority may not have to arrange or provide any services to comply with that duty. Revisions to care and support plans should only take place after a review of the plan, and, if necessary, a re-assessment.

Consultation - the consultation responses must be taken into account in finalising the decision. The process has complied with the established consultation principles:

- Consultation should occur when proposals are at a formative stage;
- Consultations should give sufficient reasons for any proposal to permit intelligent consideration;
- Consultations should allow adequate time for consideration and response;

Cabinet must demonstrate that it has considered the consultation responses, or a summary of them, before taking its decision.

Equality Act - the decision maker must also comply with the Public Sector Equality duty to consider the need to promote equality for persons with "protected characteristics": age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation and have due regard to:

- i) eliminate discrimination, harassment, and victimisation
- ii) advance equality of opportunity
- iii) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it.

In order to do this Cabinet will need to have sufficient information about the effects of the proposed changes on the aims of the Equality Duty. The Equalities impact assessment is designed to assist with compliance with this duty and so the decision maker must take into consideration the assessment and the public sector equality duty before taking the decision.

Sarah Sharland, Team Leader Legal Services

Benefits: The recommendations in this report allow the core service provision for vulnerable adults to continue, while allowing the service to operating within its revised budget from April 2020, based on feedback from consultation. The Health Impact Assessment highlights the positive impact that empowering people to access independent transport may have on people who use the service. The EQIA highlights that these proposals mitigate against impact on specific groups by working with people on an individual basis where any changes are appropriate.

Consultation Details: This proposal was part of the overall 'Your Neighbourhoods' consultation, which closed on 5th September. This followed a 2 month co-design period where informal discussions were held with service users, carers, partners, members, staff and trade unions. The full report which details the consultation can be found [here](#).

DLT sign-off	SLT sign-off	Cabinet Member sign-off
---------------------	---------------------	--------------------------------

John Readman (18/10/17)	24/10/17	Helen Holland (30/10/17)
-------------------------	----------	--------------------------

Appendix A – Further essential background / detail on the proposal	YES
Appendix B – Details of consultation carried out - internal and external	NO *
Appendix C – Summary of any engagement with scrutiny	NO **
Appendix D – Risk assessment	YES
Appendix E – Equalities screening / impact assessment of proposal	YES
Appendix F – Eco screening / impact assessment of proposal	YES
Appendix G – Exempt Information	NO
Appendix H – Health screening / impact assessment	YES

* This is included as part of the Your Neighbourhoods consultation document so is not attached separately here.

** Engagement with Members is included as part of the Consultation report