



Consortium Proposal to Transform Birkdale Library

Supporting Information Document

Name of Lead Organisation: Sefton CVS, registered charity number 1024546 and company limited by guarantee number 2832920.

Consortium Partners: Sefton Pensioners Advocacy Centre (SPAC) registered charity number 1055951 & Brighter Living Partnership registered charity and company limited by guarantee No 03973156

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The information provided within this document is to support the Consortium Proposal to transform Birkdale Library submitted to Sefton MBC on the 29th April 2013.

Funding & Sustainability

The consortium partners have a large matrix of funding grants, commissioned services and income sources which dissipates the risk if one area of income is closed. The consortium have an excellent track record of successfully securing funding and will be utilising their skills to develop opportunities to secure additional funding for project development in Birkdale if the proposal is successful.

Below is an outline of current funding and income for each Consortium partner:

Sefton CVS

Sefton CVs had an annual income of £3.2m in the last financial year. This is expected to be about the same in this year. Sefton MBC remain the organisations largest funder, however we have significant funding from the NHS, Big Lottery, Skills Funding Agency, Police and Crime Commissioners and Prisons. The organisation also generates income through traded services such as community accountancy and payroll as well as managing initiatives and projects outside Sefton. We have reserves some of which are being deployed on this proposal and we expect that in the longer term the proposed relocation would both attract external investment and realise a reduction in revenue costs for the organisation.

Sefton Pensioners Advocacy Centre (SPAC)

Current income in this financial year is £310k. Primary funding comes from the CCG's and this is supplemented by the Big Lottery and Sefton MBC. The organisation has a successful track record of securing external funding from Charitable Trusts and funders such as Comic Relief. The organisation will deploy some of its reserves into the initiative but as with the other partners believe that the move will be both attractive to external funders and reduce running costs in the long-term.

Brighter Living Partnership

Brighter Living Partnership has an annual income of approximately £150k. Public Health is the primary funder. The Fruit and Vegetable Co-ops generate an income of in excess of £40k per annum. The organisation has previously accessed funding through the Big Lottery and has currently funding through the CCG. The organisation is looking to develop a range of services based on social enterprise principles and through expanding their use of charitable trust and lottery funding to support the new initiative.

Please note that as registered charities, the accounts of all the organisations are available to view online through the Charity Commission Website - www.charitycommission.gov.uk

Business Rates

Business rate for the Shakespeare Centre currently stand at £8242.50 with a charity rating to Sefton CVS of 80% reducing to £1648.50

Relocation of Services

The Consortium are currently based in a converted factory office block on the 6th floor. The office is difficult to locate with limited parking and on the outskirts of the local town centre. This has severely limited the in-house opportunities of direct services delivery. The majority of services provided by the Consortium are now provided out in the community to address the needs of clients. The only service identified within the Consortium which cannot be provided at an outreach venue is Volunteer Centre Sefton. One of the services provided by Volunteer Centre Sefton is one to one support sessions and due to the nature of the support and the access required to the in-house database of information the sessions are provided onsite. However Volunteer Centre Sefton has reported that the profile of volunteers requiring this specific support, are generally people who have health issues or who have been isolated due to long term unemployment or personal circumstances. The location of the current venue therefore can be intimidating and reduce the important first initial engagement with these clients. A review of the last six months interviews held by Volunteer Centre Sefton has evidenced that only 20% of the people interviewed are from the immediate vicinity of the current building.

In conclusion, to move to the venue in Birkdale would not impact on local residence near to the Shakespeare Centre. There are 2 local bus routes from the area of Shakespeare Street to Birkdale Library on Liverpool Road which takes approximately 5 mins. The Birkdale venue would provide a very accessible venue, increase service delivery from venue which in turn reduces staff time and travel, support new initiatives and maintain valuable community engagement and services. Where appropriate the organisations will continue to offer services on outreach through partners , including within the current neighbourhood