

**Decision Session - Cabinet Member for
Leisure, Culture and Social Inclusion**

July 2012

Report of the Director (Communities, Culture & Public Realm)

Accessible Arts & Media Service Level Funding Agreement

Summary

1. This report is brought to the Cabinet Member to seek approval for a three year funding agreement to 31st March 2015 with the Accessible Arts & Media to develop and provide a programme of arts activities, including creating music, media and the arts for disabled people and young people in York and the surrounding area.

Background

2. In accordance with best practice recommended by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) we have previously negotiated a three year partnership funding agreements with our significant cultural organisations in York. Accessible Arts and Media have been recipients of a previous agreement which finished in March 2012. This report brings forward the proposal for funding support for 2012 – 2015.

Funding offer

3. At Budget Council in February 2012 a general requirement of a saving of minimum 8% was to be negotiated with our voluntary organisations. In compliance with the York Compact best practice, notice of this change to budget was given to Accessible Arts and Media. It is proposed that we set the funding level for Accessible Arts and Media at a standstill level for the first nine months of this year followed by the implementation of the reduction in budget by 8%. It is proposed that we continue this through to 2015 subject to satisfactory annual monitoring. This will then give the organisation:
 - a three year agreement covering the period from 1.4.2012 to 31.3.2015

- a payment of £10,456 this year (representing 9 months of standstill funding plus 3 months with and 8% reduction in funding)
 - From April 2013 an annual payment of £9,816 for the agreed service
4. In return for the grant Accessible Arts & Media (AAM) will develop a vibrant range of accessible, inclusive and affordable projects for vulnerable groups that push boundaries; enhance personal progression and challenge stereotypes.
 5. They will do so by providing a programme of arts activities, including creating music, media and the arts for disabled people and young people in York and the surrounding area which in 2012 will include four key projects:
 - To support and develop the Hands and Voices Choir and the choir's public performances
 - To continue to develop AAM's Ableweb project
 - To continue to develop AAM's Yormusic Sensory Extra (9-19 yrs)
 - To continue to develop AAM's outreach programme
 6. Accessible Arts and Media will continue to increase the use of online technologies to publicise activities and engage with a range of stakeholders, including developing over the next 3 years AAM's online media projects. They are expected to work in partnership with the City of York Council to convert a specialist sensory space at Burton Stone Community Centre to further develop AAM's sensory programme.
 7. The service provision and project programmes required of the Accessible Arts & Media are in line with those contained in the preceding agreements. Any additional requirements or services reflect changes in the organisation's premises and the development of new and existing provision, reflecting the needs of their client base. In support of the new SLA requirements there are a series of grant conditions which are provided in Annex 1.

Consultation

8. The Director of Accessible Arts & Media has been briefed on the process and prospects of securing a new three year funding

agreement and the new SLA requirements has been agreed with the organisation's trustees.

Options

9. The options available to the Cabinet Member are:

Option 1: Agree to the proposals set out in paragraphs 3 to 7 and detailed in Annex 1.

Option 2: To offer a different level of funding to that proposed in Paragraph 3

Option 3: Suggest further and/or alternative requirements to those set out Paragraphs 4 to 7 and detailed in Annex 1.

Analysis

10. Option 1 is recommended because this provides targeted funding for the delivery of a valued and important range of activities, projects and programmes for some of the most vulnerable York residents. The funding will provide a base for the wider activities and opportunities provided by Accessible Arts & Media. It provides leverage for additional funding from other sources, ensures the stability of this organisation over the next three years through forward business planning. Option 2 is not recommended as this may create greater financial uncertainty for the organisation and would also be out of line with others offers being made to the third sector. Option 3 is possible but would need further discussion with the organisation to check their capacity and ability to provide more or different services.

Council Plan

11. The actions set out in the report contribute to the following corporate priorities as set out in the Council Plan 2011-15:

Building stronger communities by:-

- encouraging and enabling vulnerable and disadvantaged residents to engage with the wider community through positive and affirmative opportunities
- Supporting the voluntary sector; providing volunteering opportunities and the chance to gain new skills.

Implications

12. Equalities – this funding support enables the most vulnerable sections of the community to access art and media opportunities and to gain new skills in this sector.
13. There are no Financial, Legal, Property, Human Resources, Crime and Disorder, or Information Technology implications arising from this report.

Risk Management

14. Failure to continue support the Accessible Arts & Media could result in a loss of a valuable service to a vulnerable and disadvantaged section of the community, and would require full equality impact assessment.

Recommendation

15. The Cabinet Member is asked to approve Option 1 – to offer the Accessible Arts & Media a three year funding agreement as set out in Paragraphs 3 to 7 for the provision of programme of arts activities, including creating music, media and the arts for disabled people and young people in York and the surrounding area.

Reason: To increase the wellbeing and quality of life of disabled residents through arts and creative activities within the community.

Contact Details

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	Report Approved		Date
Specialist Implications Officer(s): N/A			

Wards Affected:	All	✓
For further information please contact the author of the report		

Background Papers:

Annex 1 – Service Level Agreement

See www.a-arts-media.org/ for information about the organisation and the Friends activities