

Summary of Existing Sensory Provision

Sensory services in York are delivered through a number of internal and external arrangements which have evolved in a somewhat ad hoc fashion over a number of years. There exists a range of provision delivered by the CYC Sensory Team and various contracts with external providers.

As indicated above the Care Act demands a more cohesive approach, with greater emphasis placed upon service co-production, involving voluntary and user organisations, service users, carers and communities in the design and delivery of services.

The fragmentation of existing provision coupled with the legislative drive towards personalisation has led to the consideration of various alternative delivery models (outlined in Section 5 of this report). Before considering these it is initially important to understand the current budgetary and operational position as outlined below.

Operational Budget

The acting Group Manager for Sensory Services holds a budget for staffing. Line management responsibility for CYC staff sits under the Group Manager's responsibilities.

The total CYC operational budget for Sensory services is £138,910 per annum of which staff costs form £127,810. (A breakdown of posts within this budget as follows).

- 1 x Social Care Worker for Visually Impaired. (CYC currently employ 1 x officer, grade 7, 18.5 hrs per week).
- 1 x Social Care Worker for Deaf and Hard of Hearing. (CYC currently employ 1 officer, grade 7, 25 hrs per week).
- 1 x Social Care Worker for Dual Sensory Impairment. **Vacant post**, grade 7, 20 hours per week.
- 1 x Senior Practitioner for Sensory Impairment. **Vacant post**, grade 10, 22 hrs per week.

- 1 x Rehabilitation Officer for Visually Impaired. (Directly employed by Wilberforce Trust. Salary paid through CYC operational budget, grade 9, 30 hrs per week).
- NB The operational budget also includes 11k to cover subscriptions to RNIB Talking Books Service. (This has been included as a 2016/17 budgetary saving since the service will shortly be offered to individuals free of charge – see page 6 for further detail).

CYC Commissioned Voluntary Sector Provision:

In addition to the above the Adults Contracts and Commissioning team contracts with York Blind and Partially Sighted Society and York Deaf Resource Centre as detailed below. The team also has a call-off type contract with the Wilberforce Trust (although this contract is funded through the operational budget). All existing contracts currently expire on 31st March 2016 (Although it is proposed to extend to enable the move to a new operating model. See timeline)

- **Wilberforce Trust**
Provision of Visual Impairment Rehabilitation short interventions. This is a call-off type contract with a maximum annual contract value **£27,600** (met through operational budgets as referred to in 3.1 above).
- **York Blind & Partially Sighted Society (YBPSS):** 4 x SLAs **£45,568 per annum**

Equipment Service: Equipment identified in the social care assessment is issued through an SLA with York Blind and Partially Sighted Society (YBPSS). YBPSS procure equipment and manage a demonstration centre which customers can assess directly. CYC funded equipment is only issued by YBPSS if it has been identified in a social care assessment. The equipment element of the SLA amounts **£4,543** per annum

for the purchase of CYC-assessed equipment and admin support.

Volunteer Visiting Service: Contribution to the costs of project co-ordination of YBPS volunteer/home visiting scheme. **£17,937**

Talking Books Service: Administration of subscriptions to the RNIB talking books service. **£3,168**

Information and Advice Service: Partial contribution to the costs of the YBPS shop-front city centre information and advice centre. **£19,920**

- **York Resource Centre for Deafened People (RCDP):** 2 x SLAs **£14,358 per annum**

Equipment Service: RCDP have permission to issue equipment (which is funded from the ASC operational budget). The equipment is procured by Be Independent. The organisation is also authorised to register people as hard of hearing. A record of their discussion is kept by the RCDP and recorded on their own system ***but is not recorded on Frameworki.*** **£5,139**

Volunteer Visiting Service: The Adults Commissioning team have a contract with RCDP to provide a home visiting service which includes the fitting of minor equipment in the customer's property. **£9,129**

NB: Customers who have more severe hearing difficulties are referred through CAAT to the CYC Social Care Worker for Deaf & Hard of Hearing.

These customers are offered a specialist sensory assessment and the option to be registered as deaf.

Savings proposals from the CYC Operational Budget (as part of the 2016/17 budgetary savings plan) are set out in the table below:

	£
Existing Staffing Budget	127,810
RNIB Talking Books Subscriptions	11,100
Sub Total - Existing Operational Budget	138,910
16/17 Savings Proposals	
RNIB Talking Books Subscriptions	11,100
Senior Sensory Practitioner Post	27,736
Total Savings Proposals	38,836
Net Operational Budget for 2016/17	£100,074

NB: RNIB Talking Books service has been included as a budgetary saving since this service will shortly be offered to individuals free of charge.

Summary of Available Budget for Future Sensory Proposals:

Operational Budget £100k

Commissioned Services £60k

Total £160k

**(Delivers upfront savings of 39k as part of 2016/17
Budgetary Savings Proposals)**

Summary of Current Sensory Provision

It is evident from the information outlined above that current sensory pathways and referral routes are complex. Delivery is piecemeal and fragmented across pathways and providers. Whilst relationships between providers are generally strong, there is a lack of consistent practice in the identification, recording and assessment of people with sensory impairments.

Service provision, whilst often of reasonable quality, suffers from a similar lack of co-ordination and integration. There is also no specialist provision to meet the needs of people with Dual Sensory Loss in terms of assessment, support planning or service delivery.

Evidence suggests that the demand for preventative information, advice and support from older people with sight and hearing loss is greater than the capacity of current service provision. The connections between health and social care services could also be considerably stronger.

It was in this context that a re-commissioning approach in partnership with the voluntary sector was initially considered. The primary intention was to gauge the views of the sector about the pros and cons of existing sensory provision and to elicit expertise and opinion around what could be done differently in the future.

This led to CYC hosting a Sensory Engagement Event in October 2015, with input from local, regional and national partners and providers.

As indicated in Section 3.3 above, the savings detailed in the 2016/17 Budgetary Savings Plan are 20% of the current available budget. The proposal is for up to £160k to be made available for the delivery of sensory provision moving forwards.

There is the potential to realise further savings still. The commissioning of new providers may leverage added resource - or result in alternative, more cost-effective service models of service delivery. The potential for additional savings further to the £39k already realised is, however, unlikely since the main purpose of any new model is to ensure consistency of provision, that provision is Care Act compliant etc.