

# Bolton Council

**Report to:** Executive Cabinet Member - The Deputy Leader

**Date:** 12<sup>th</sup> October 2015

**Report of:** John Livesey, Acting Director, Children's and Adult Services

**Report No:**

**Contact Officer:** David Smith, Acting Assistant Director, Children's and Adult Services

**Tele No:** x 2130

**Report Title:** Review of Children's Services Voluntary, Community & Faith Sector Grant Funding 2015/17

**Confidential / Non Confidential:**

**(Non-Confidential)** This report does not contain information which warrants its consideration in the absence of the press or members of the public.

**Purpose:**

To set out proposals to review Voluntary and Community Grants for Children and Young People (2015).

**Recommendations:**

The Executive Cabinet Member is recommended to approve the attached report for consultation purposes with the Children's Services Voluntary, Community & Faith Sector.

**Decision:**

**Background Doc(s):**

*(for use on Exec Rep)*

**Signed:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Leader / Executive Cabinet Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Monitoring Officer

**Date:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Summary:**

An Executive Summary is set out within the report below which includes the following appendices:

- Appendix 1 Children and Adult Services Grant Process
- Appendix 2 Voluntary and Community Grants for Children and Young People
- Appendix 3 Equality Impact Assessment

## 1.0 Background

- 1.1 On the 10<sup>th</sup> November 2014, the Council's Cabinet approved the start of consultation on a programme of savings covering the years 2015/16 and 2016/17.
- 1.2 The Council subsequently approved savings options in February 2015, following the December 2014 Local Government settlement, in order to meet an increased savings target of £43m for the 2015/17 period.
- 1.3 Following the significant budget reductions already made by Bolton Council, further savings will be very challenging and will result in a reduction in staffing and resources across the Department that will inevitably impact on the services provided to children, young people and adults in the Borough.
- 1.4 Decisions about where savings can be made within Children's and Adult Services and Public Health are difficult. However, in the budget report of February 2015, the Council identified a set of criteria against which departmental and corporate savings targets will be allocated, to ensure that organisational priorities and values are protected as far as possible. This includes that as much as possible savings should be found from:
- Reductions in management, administration and from further efficiencies
  - Protecting the most vulnerable with lower levels of savings found from children's and adults social care services
  - Protecting services to individuals and areas in greatest need and deprivation
  - Efficiencies and non-frontline reductions where possible.
- 1.5 The community, voluntary and faith sector (voluntary sector) in Bolton has an important role to play in helping the Council's Children's and Adults Services Department and its partners deliver against a wide range of important priorities.
- 1.6 Children's and Adult Services have undertaken a review of current funding to the voluntary sector.
- 1.7 Children's and Adults Services have recently introduced a revised Grant Framework (Appendix 1) and it is intended that this framework be applied as part of the review process. As part of the framework there will be two funding levels available:

Type	Amount	Duration
Small Grant	£5,000	1 year
Full Grant	Up to £50,000	2 years

- 1.8 The financial saving resulting from the proposals set out in this report equals £244,682. This equates to approximately 19% of the total current 2015/16 Budget for Voluntary and Community Grants for Children and Young People with 28% of the funding from the Local Authority (LA) Funding Block.

- 1.9 Whilst this report deals only with the funding that has historically been commissioned or managed by Children's Services, we have worked closely with other Departments across the Council to ensure that a consistent approach has been taken throughout the process. Work has also been undertaken to ensure that the proposals within this report take account of the overarching corporate framework in relation to changes in funding to the voluntary sector.
- 1.10 The Council, through the Chief Executives Department is currently piloting a £500,000 Community Empowerment Fund (CEF) which provides a small, time limited investment to community partners in return for greater involvement of local communities to improve their local areas. The funding aims to help the voluntary sector develop creative ideas and projects to address existing and emerging issues across the borough. Successful projects are expected to provide long term, sustainable solutions by building on the resources which exist in our communities. It is not the intention that this fund creates an on-going funding stream and must be used as an investment, to stimulate initiatives that have a long term impact that must be sustainable.
- 1.11 The CEF is being piloted with priorities around cleaner, greener and safer and opportunities for young people with the specific objectives of:
- Reducing the demand for Council services and
  - Making sustainable improvements to the environment and / or
  - Creating sustainable opportunities for meeting the needs of young people
- 1.12 This report sets out a proposed programme as the basis for consultation which the Executive Member is asked to approve. If approved, we will consult with appropriate groups and stakeholders with a view to bringing back more detailed proposals to the Executive Member. In developing the proposals, we will be mindful of the requirements within the Voluntary Sector Compact and ensure we engage fully with individual groups and give adequate notice of any changes in funding or agreements.

## **2.0 Proposals**

- 2.1 The proposals for savings and efficiencies are part of a review of the Voluntary and Community Grants for Children and Young People and the commissioning of the existing resource for 2015/16 and 2016/17.
- 2.2 It is recognised that the sector is complex with many different groups and organisations and a mix of funding/grant arrangements.
- 2.3 Historically, funding to develop activity came from specific government grants. The withdrawal of these grants in previous years has resulted in this support falling to mainstream funding and with the need to make significant savings it is necessary to undertake a full review of the current funding and the activity it supports.

2.4 The intention is to undertake a further detailed review of each area of work with Heads of Services /Budget Holders to update and develop revised specifications to ensure they are meeting the priorities of the Council. New and existing providers will have the opportunity to submit revised bids based on the new specifications.

2.5 Funding bids based on revised specifications will be invited from Autumn of 2015 and implemented from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016.

### **3.0 Review of Children's Services framework and funding to the voluntary sector**

3.1 The review of Children's Services funding to the voluntary sector has been undertaken within an agreed framework and each contract or grant will be assessed against the principles and priorities set out within this framework.

3.2 Many voluntary organisations have detailed understanding of specific local needs, high levels of trust and engagement with local communities and the ability to work across multiple services to provide "holistic" services for individuals as well as:

- Acting as a `critical friend` in helping the council improve the quality of services
- Attracting additional external resources and funding to Bolton
- Being able to reach excluded communities statutory services sometimes cannot
- Harnessing the time, talents and ambitions of local residents who wish to volunteer
- Provide evening, weekend and holiday services
- Providing a local `community voice`.

3.3 The commissioning intentions will focus on funding priorities that are linked to the Councils key themes of:

- Protecting the most vulnerable
- Target those most in need
- Targeted in deprived areas
- Keeping citizens and the organisation safe

3.4 Due to government funding reductions the Council will not be able to continue to fund voluntary sector to the level of previous years. However, there will be a continued commitment to community cohesion and integration, ensuring we continue to have good community relations and a culture that recognises and celebrates diversity. There will also be a commitment that the voluntary sector should not be expected to have to carry an unfair burden of funding reductions and any changes should be in line with those experienced within Children's and Adult Services.

3.5 Children's and Adults Service will continue to support key infrastructure or umbrella organisations, i.e. Bolton Together and CVS, through in-kind i.e. support with funding bids, strategic representation, networking and partnership support rather than a direct grant.

- 3.6 There will be a prioritisation of funding to organisations who support children and young people who have been identified and as being the most in need, for example, children with disabilities, looked after children, terminally ill children, children affected by domestic violence, homeless young people and young carers.
- 3.7 Based on the above principles, it is proposed that the new programme for 2016/17 will total £1,007,430 annually, which signifies the Council's significant on-going commitment to voluntary sector organisations working with children and young people in Bolton.
- 3.8 A full summary of the savings and the proposed reductions can be seen in Appendix 2 and a summary of the budget categories and percentage reductions is illustrated in the table below:

**Table 1. Summary of funding changes to voluntary sector organisations, by category.**

<b>Budget Category</b>	<b>DSG Funding £'000</b>	<b>LA Funding £'000</b>	<b>Funding Reduction £'000</b>	<b>LA Funding £'000</b>	<b>Reduction %</b>
	<b>Current</b>		<b>Proposed</b>		
Youth and Play Services Positive Activities 5 -19	26	280	112	168	40
Short Breaks for Disabled Children and Young People	0	247	47	200	20
Vulnerable Children and Young People	0	306	61	245	20
Early Years Ages 0 – 5	358	0	0	0	0
In Year Savings	0	25	25	0	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>858</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>613</b>	<b>28%</b>

- 3.9 Vulnerable Children includes a contribution of £15k to Derian House (terminally ill children) and it is proposed that this funding is protected and will not receive any cut.
- 3.10 Although there are no proposal to reduce the Early Years budget the intention is to recommission services as part of the review of Children's Centres.
- 3.11 The Council will ensure that performance management systems are in place to ensure that organisations are accountable for the effective and efficient delivery of services and are allocated in the best possible way to ensure high quality and value-for-money. Consequently, the proposed option in this report is one which matches the Council's and the Department's priorities and seeks to minimise the impact on the most vulnerable.

#### **4.0 THE PROPOSALS**

- 4.1 The proposal is to adopt a single integrated Children's and Adult Services Grants Framework which will:

- make sure that spend is delivering against outcomes
  - provide a fair process for sharing out limited funding
  - encourage the development of new types of services and organisations, in line with developing choice and control for local people
  - invest in early intervention and prevention services that will reduce demand for statutory services
  - lift the burden of formal tendering processes from small voluntary organisations
  - ensure that the Council funding of local, Bolton based voluntary and community groups is prioritised.
- 4.2 The revised Grants Framework documentation has already been trialled through the Adults Services Prevention and Carers Grants process and the intention is to use the new process which includes a Full Grant application process for up to £50k per year for two years or a Small Grant application of £5k for 12 months.
- 4.3 To create a level playing field and to encourage providers to apply for funding in specified categories. This approach will also allow for identification of targeted and/or niche provision i.e. geographical area, target group.
- 4.4 The intention is to assess the best method of re-contracting i.e. grants programme, competitive tender and framework contract depending on the value and specialist nature of the contract. There are some statutory services that are currently commissioned and it is intended that these services may be tendered and procured separately at a later date.
- 4.5 Commissioning opportunities will be developed based on needs analysis and prioritisation of the outcomes to be achieved. The revised specifications will clearly state the aims and objectives and will be influenced by statutory requirements and local priorities.
- 4.6 The Council also recognises that some smaller organisations will not wish to take on commissioned services or activities through a competitive tendering and procurement process and therefore the Small Grants programme has been designed to support these smaller groups to access funding of up to £5,000.
- 4.8 The following criteria will apply to funding applications:
- Only organisations with a Bolton address can apply for a grant
  - Organisations do not have to have their head office in Bolton, but they will need to have some form of office based in Bolton
  - Have an income of less than £1,000,000 per year. This will impact on some organisations. The Council reserves the right to make an exception to this criteria where we recognise that the grant application is of particular importance and that public intervention is required to ensure that the services which the Provider intends to deliver under the grant application are available in the Bolton borough.

- 4.9 Only the following organisation types will be considered:
- registered charities
  - voluntary organisation that have a formal written constitution or
  - a registered social enterprise
- 4.10 It is recommended that this be a competitive grants process and awards will depend on the relevance and likely impact of the various proposals which will need to be balanced against the needs of different communities and localities.
- 4.12 It is recognised that the period of grant needs to be long enough for organisations to develop sustainable services, build awareness and use of services and recruit and retain any support staff and systems needed. This needs to be balanced against over-committing the Council in a time of financial constraints and the changing needs and aspirations of local people. In order to move to a more regular award programme it is recognised that initially grants are awarded on an annual (Small Grant) or 2 year (Full Grant) basis.
- 4.13 Commissioning opportunities will be advertised and the process and timescales will be made clear. Opportunities will be advertised via the North West's Local Authority Procurement Portal 'The Chest', <https://www.the-chest.org.uk>, CVS and Bolton Together.
- 4.14 New and existing providers will be invited to attend a provider briefing sessions and given support with accessing the Chest etc. Once organisations have ascertained their eligibility and ensured their proposals meet at least one of the council's target outcomes, they will be required to submit an application form online. Bids will be assessed by individual members of Awards Panel (Appendix 1) using the Councils e-procurement system 'Award Solution'.
- 4.15 The outcome of all commissioning activity will be reported to the Executive Member for consideration and final approval.
- 4.16 The proposed scheme has been designed to recognise the important types of service already provided, whilst also making sure that there is a fair way to distribute limited resources by investing in services that deliver outcomes that improve lives, as well as reduce demand for high level care and support services. This should limit the impact where existing providers can demonstrate that this is what they deliver for Bolton.
- 4.17 The continued investment in some non-statutory services recognises that these services are valued and are in line with the Council' desire to ensure care and support for the health and wellbeing of vulnerable children and adults is provided.
- 4.18 To allow a smooth transition, the Cabinet is requested to allow existing providers to be notified in writing of the intention to end contract in line with the schedule in Table 2 below. All contracts are due to end on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 (Appendix 2). Where deemed necessary contracts may be extended inline with the proposed programme of activities and dates.



- 4.19 Overall, the total reduction in funding to voluntary sector organisations working with children and young people is broadly in line with the anticipated reduction in funding to children’s services over the coming years.
- 4.20 The Department for Education (DfE) Dedicated Schools Budget (DSG) is a ring fenced budget which funds educational activity delivered through the voluntary sector totalling £393,400. Savings generated in the DSG must be retained within the ring-fenced budget and therefore cannot contribute to the savings target for the LA. However, the intention is to recommission these activities in the light of other reviews of services.
- 4.21 In line with the Council’s commitment to prioritise services for the most vulnerable, some services have had a proportionality less reduction.
- 4.22 In-Year savings of £28k have already been agreed and relate to end of contracts for Bolton Together (£10k) and NACRO (£15k).
- 4.23 Details of the proposed 2015 - 2017 programme of funding to voluntary sector organisations working with children and young people in Bolton are set out below.

**Table 2:** Summary of funding, timescales and independencies:

Budget Category	Total £	Timescale	Interdependency
Youth and Play Activities (5 -19’s)	193,660	Nov 2015 – Jan 2016	Following the Youth and Play Review and focus on emerging gaps.
Short Breaks for Disabled Children	200,441	Feb 2016 – Apr 2016	Following a review of the overall provision.
Vulnerable Children	245,129	May 2016 – July 2016	Following a programme by programme review
Early Years (0 – 5’s)	368,200	TBC	Early Years/Children’s Centres Review
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,007,430</b>		

## 5.0. Transitional Arrangements

- 5.1 It is important to note that all of the funding arrangements and grants to voluntary sector organisations made through Children’s Services end on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015. The Council has given no commitment to any organisation that funding will continue beyond April 2016.
- 5.2 The Council has engaged closely with the voluntary sector about the proposed reductions in funding to the sector and began discussions with the sector and its groups at an early stage, as soon as possible after the announcement of the Council’s funding by central government.
- 5.3 The Council wrote to all voluntary sector organisations on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2015 to notify them of the likely overall reduction in funding and to outline the need for a

review of funding/grant arrangements with voluntary sector organisations. Since notifying voluntary sector organisations of the review of funding council officers have attended Bolton Together, has undertaken briefing and advice sessions for all third sector groups working with children and young people in the Borough and has received representations directly from the representatives of these groups. Further meetings are planned through the consultation period.

## **6.0 Consultation and Implementation**

6.1 The proposals set out in this report are for consultation. The report and the proposals will be shared with all affected organisations and Council officers will be available during the consultation period to meet with each individual organisation.

6.2 We will be mindful of the Compact that we are fully committed, to but also hope that groups will want to work with us constructively to help find a sensible way through these difficult circumstances.

6.3 There will be a 60 day period of consultation which will close at 5pm on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2016. Following this, a final set of proposals will be drawn up for consideration by the Executive Member. Affected organisations will be notified of the final funding decisions immediately following the decision of the Executive Member.

## **7.0 Equality Impact Assessment**

7.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, the council must have due regard to:

- Eliminating unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by the Act;
- Advancing equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it; and
- Fostering good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

7.2 It is therefore important to consider how the proposals contained within this report may positively or negatively affect this work. To support this analysis, an Equality Impact Assessment (“EIA”) screening form has been completed for the proposals outlined in this report, and is attached at Appendix 3.

7.3 The EIA looks at the anticipated (positive and/or negative) impacts of the proposal on people from Bolton’s diverse communities, and whether any group (or groups) is likely to be directly or indirectly differentially affected.

7.4 Due to the nature of the proposals, it is possible that there could be some adverse impact. This analysis is set out in more detail in the EIA.

7.5 The analysis of equality impact will be tested during consultation, and an updated EIA will be included with the report setting out the final proposals.

## **8.0 Recommendations**

- 8.1 The Executive Cabinet Member is recommended to approve the attached report for consultation purposes with the Children's Services Voluntary, Community & Faith Sector.

## CHILDREN'S AND ADULT SERVICES GRANTS

PROGRAMME	PROCESS					GOVERNANCE			
	LIMIT	DURATION	TIMETABLE	CHEST	AWARD	Rec.	Sign - off	Approval	
Young People and Children's Grants	Service Delivery Grant	Up to £50,000	Up to 2 years	Roll on – Roll off	Yes	Yes	Panel	DMT	Exec Member
	Small Delivery Grant	Up to £5,000	Up to 1 year	Roll on – Roll off	No	No	Panel	DMT	Exec Member

2015/16	1	November 2015	December 2015	January 2016	<p>Opportunities advertised through: The Chest, Bolton Council Website, CVS, Bolton Together</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>PANEL MEMBERS</th> <th>REFERENCE GROUP</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Budget Holder</td> <td>Chief Executive Department</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Head of Service (or Rep)</td> <td>External Funding</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Commissioning</td> <td>Procurement</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Others</td> <td>Finance.</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>CVS</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><b>These dates may be subject to change.</b> Panels will only meet if funding rounds are open and receiving grant applications</p>					PANEL MEMBERS	REFERENCE GROUP	Budget Holder	Chief Executive Department	Head of Service (or Rep)	External Funding	Commissioning	Procurement	Others	Finance.		CVS
	PANEL MEMBERS	REFERENCE GROUP																			
Budget Holder	Chief Executive Department																				
Head of Service (or Rep)	External Funding																				
Commissioning	Procurement																				
Others	Finance.																				
	CVS																				
2	February 2016	March 2016	April 2016																		
2016/17	1	May 2016	June 2016	July 2016																	
	2	August 2016	September 2016	October 2016																	
	3	November 2016	December 2016	January 2017																	
	4	February 2017	March 2017	April 2017																	
2017/18	1	May 2017	June 2017	July 2017																	
	2	August 2017	September 2017	October 2017																	
	3	November 2017	December 2017	January 2018																	
	4	February 2018	March 2018	April 2018																	

## Appendix 2: Voluntary and Community Grants for Children and Young People

Youth and Play Activities Ages 5-19								
Current Provider	Service Description	Current Funding £				Proposed Savings Target from LA - Children Services		Proposed LA (Children and Other Departments) Funding 2016-2017 £
		DSG	LA - Childrens	LA - Other Departments	Total	%	Amount £	
BCoM	Targeted positive activities for young BME women in targeted areas of the borough including opportunities to gain accredited qualifications.	25,600			25,600			
Bolton Lads & Girls Club (BLGC)	Positive activities provision for young people 13-19s		68,340	18,000	86,340			
Fortalice	Support to children affected by domestic violence; 1:1 sessions, on-going support, group work and opportunities to gain accreditation.		24,000		24,000			
HAFWAY	Targeted positive activities in targeted areas of the borough.		5,200		5,200			
Harmony Project	Targeted positive activities for young BME children; opportunities to gain accredited qualifications in sport, health and improve general educational attainment and personal and social development.		14,400		14,400			
Hibbert Street	Provision of building resource		15,000		15,000			
Johnson Fold Youth Club	Open access recreational activities for children in targeted area of the borough		9,600		9,600			
Nightingale Centre	Predominantly diversionary activities for BME young men; opportunities to gain accredited qualifications in sport, health and improve general educational attainment and personal and social development.		24,000		24,000			
Sycamore Project (Zacs)	Targeted positive activities for children and young people		19,960		19,960			
Urban Solutions	Parenting support to the BME community via delivery of parenting programmes and capacity building in the BME communities throughout Bolton.		24,000		24,000			
YMCA	Targeted positive activities for children aged 5 to 19, including provision of a varied programme of activities.		57,600		57,600			
<b>Total Youth and Play Activities Ages 5 - 19</b>		<b>25,600</b>	<b>262,100</b>	<b>18,000</b>	<b>305,700</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>112,040</b>	<b>168,060</b>

**Appendix 2: continued/ ... Voluntary and Community Grants for Children and Young People**

<b>SEN Short Breaks</b>								
<b>Current Provider</b>	<b>Service Description</b>	<b>Current Funding</b>				<b>Proposed Savings</b>		<b>Proposed LA (Children and Other)</b>
		<b>DSG</b>	<b>LA - Childrens</b>	<b>LA - Other Departments</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Amount £</b>	
Heartlift	Positive activities for disabled children offered through access to sport and recreational activities.		59,000		59,000			
Kidz2gether	Postive acitivies for autistic children		55,000		55,000			
Sycamore Project (Zacs)	SEN provision for young people including weekend provision and short breaks.		48,200		48,200			
Autistic Society	Positive activities for older autistic children		10,500		10,500			
Bolton Bullets	Positive activities for disabled children – Wheel Chair Football		5,000		5,000			
Bolton Crossroads	Support, information and advice to young carers.		8,000		8,000			
Day Trippers	Short breaks for disabled children - provides days out and activity for disabled children and their families.		10,000		10,000			
Bolton Lads & Girls Club (BLGC)	Short breaks for children with disabilities		16,101		16,101			
Bolton Lads & Girls Club (BLGC)	Short breaks for young carers		10,000		10,000			
Bolton Lads & Girls Club (BLGC)	Short breaks for young adults			10,000	10,000			
<b>Total of contracts in scope</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>221,801</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>231,801</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>46,360</b>	<b>185,441</b>
Derian House	Contribution to the support to terminally ill children/young people. (PROTECTED)		15,000		15,000			15,000
<b>Total SEN Short Breaks</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>236,801</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>246,801</b>		<b>46,360</b>	<b>200,441</b>

**Appendix 2: continued/ ... Voluntary and Community Grants for Children and Young People**

<b>Vulnerable Children</b>								
<b>Current Provider</b>	<b>Service Description</b>	<b>Current Funding £</b>				<b>Proposed Savings Target from LA - Children Services</b>		<b>Proposed LA (Children and Other Departments) Funding 2016-2017 £</b>
		<b>DSG</b>	<b>LA - Childrens</b>	<b>LA - Other Departments</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Amount £</b>	
Action for Children	Independent advocacy for Looked After Children and family support for vulnerable children, young people and their families.		90,000		90,000			
Barnardos	Family Group Conferencing		52,560		52,560			
Bolton Lads & Girls Club (BLGC)	Mentoring Support for looked after young people and young carers.		17,000		17,000			
Bolton Lads & Girls Club (BLGC)	Staying Safe and Think Family		7,051		7,051			
Bolton Lads & Girls Club (BLGC)	CAMHS - Mental Health support for young people		20,000		20,000			
Fortalice	Staying Safe		32,000		32,000			
Time to Talk	Mediation support for vulnerable children and young people (Not vol org – internal to the council)		16,000		16,000			
Urban Outreach	“Runa” Project - Support to homeless young people or those young people that have run away from home.		50,000		50,000			
Children's Opportunities Group (COG)	Parent Partnership - Statutory Educational Service		21,800		21,800			
<b>Total Vulnerable Children</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>306,411</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>306,411</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>61,282</b>	<b>245,129</b>

**Appendix 2: continued/ ... Voluntary and Community Grants for Children and Young People**

<b>Early Years Ages 0 - 5</b>								
<b>Current Provider</b>	<b>Service Description</b>	<b>Current Funding</b>				<b>Proposed Savings</b>		<b>Proposed LA (Children and Other)</b>
		<b>DSG</b>	<b>LA - Childrens</b>	<b>LA - Other Departments</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Amount £</b>	
Homestart	Provides support to young families and a volunteering support programme for new parents.	80,000			80,000			
Bolton Toy Library	Provision of toy loan service via Children's Centres to groups, child-minders and families	25,000			25,000			
Special Needs Under 5's	Supporting families and school with SEN children under five.	40,000			40,000			
Children's Opportunites Group (COG)	Provides independent information advice & support to parents/carers for SEN children. Out of School, playgroups and nursery provision.	213,200			213,200			
<b>Total Early Years Ages 0 - 5</b>		<b>358,200</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>358,200</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
		<b>383,800</b>	<b>805,312</b>	<b>28,000</b>	<b>1,217,112</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>219,682</b>	<b>613,630</b>
<b>In Year Savings</b>								
Bolton Under Fives Forum		10,000			10,000			
Third Sector 5-19 Forum (Birtenshaw)			10,000		10,000		10,000	
NACRO			15,000		15,000		15,000	
<b>Total Funding and Proposed Savings</b>		<b>393,800</b>	<b>830,312</b>	<b>28,000</b>	<b>1,252,112</b>		<b>244,682</b>	<b>613,630</b>



## Equality Impact Assessment Part 1: Screening Form

<b>Title of report or proposal:</b>
<b>Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector Funding 2015/17</b>

<b>Department</b>	Children's Services
<b>SIAP Unit</b>	Directorate
<b>EIA Screening Undertaken?</b>	Yes
<b>Date of Screening</b>	16 September 2015

This report is for decision and is therefore subject to an Equality Impact Assessment. The following questions have been completed to ensure that this proposal, procedure or working practice does not discriminate against any particular social group. Details of the outcome of the Equality Impact Assessment have also been included in the main body of the report.

# Equality Impact Assessment Questions

**1. Describe in summary the aims, objectives and purpose of the proposal, including desired outcomes:**

This proposal recognises that the amount of funding available to the Department for the commissioning of services from our third sector partners has been reduced in proportion with the Department's overall budget as a result of the current financial settlement.

This final proposal responds to our recent consultation on the Department's response to this reduction. We have sought to develop proposals for using our remaining funding fairly and transparently. Protecting the most vulnerable children and families is central to the Department's response to the reduction and we believe that the proposed new approach to the allocation of funds will achieve the fairest distribution of resources to agencies supporting vulnerable children and young people within the resources we have available.

We have used Bolton Council criteria to help us identify the activity which will be the greatest priority for continued funding. Those criteria are:

- Reductions in management, administration and from further efficiencies
- Protecting the most vulnerable with lower levels of savings found from children's and adults social care services
- Protecting services to individuals and areas in greatest need and deprivation
- Efficiencies and non-frontline reductions where possible.

We have also sought to provide one-off short term funding to ease the transition where possible, within the resources we have available

**2. Who are the main stakeholders in relation to the proposal?**

- *Staff of partner agencies*
- *Volunteers of partner agencies*
- *Governors/Trustees of partner agencies*
- *Children and Young People*
- *Families*
- *Bolton CVS*
- *NHS Bolton*
- *Partner/commissioned agencies*
- *Other council Departments*

### 3. In summary, what are the anticipated (positive or negative) impacts of the proposal?

The Department recognises the unique contribution the third sector makes to life in Bolton. We will always try to make informed decisions which treat the sector fairly and do not expect it to take more than its fair share of financial pressure as a result of the financial settlements the borough receives.

In consequence of this we have adopted an approach toward grant funding for agencies supporting children and young people which aim to:

- make sure that spend is delivering against outcomes
- provide a fair process for sharing out limited funding
- encourage the development of new types of services and organisations, in line with developing choice and control for local people
- invest in early intervention and prevention services that will reduce demand for statutory services
- lift the burden of formal tendering processes from small voluntary organisations
- Ensure that the Council funding of local, Bolton based voluntary and community groups is prioritised.

Despite our rigorous application of these principles, it will inevitably be the case that not all agencies currently receiving funding will be able to continue to receive it. Some groups or agencies will receive funding at a reduced level, some will lose their funding entirely and some will see funding continue at the current level. This will inevitably have some impact on service provision, but we have aimed to prioritise activity in line with the principles set out above.

To understand the impact of the changes, we have carefully considered the impacts of each individual proposed change to the funding allocations the Department has made. The tables on the following pages summarise the impact of the changes on service users and on the staff and agencies who receive grant funding from the Department. **The impacts identified in these tables are the issues identified within the Department at the initial screening stage.** These impacts will be reconsidered during the consultation period and the list of impacts identified will be updated when final proposals are brought forward accordingly.

4. With regard to the stakeholders identified above and the diversity groups set out below:

**SERVICE USERS**

	<b>Is there any potential for (positive or negative) differential impact?</b>	<b>Could this lead to adverse impact and if so what?</b>	<b>Can this adverse impact be justified on the grounds of promoting equality of opportunity for one group, or for any other reason?</b>	<b>Please detail what measures or changes you will put in place to remedy any identified adverse impact</b>
<b>Race</b>	We recognise that some of the agencies which have been brought into the scope of this review provide services to children and young people who may have been subject to discrimination. We have at all times been mindful of the impact of the changes to the way we will support voluntary sector agencies.	Any reduction in grant could potentially lead to a reduction in the range and quantity of services available to children and young people. We would stress, however, that we recognise the importance of continuing to fund services which recognise and respond to the effects of discrimination and we will ensure that all future commissioning decisions take full account of our statutory obligations to promote equality of opportunity.	<p>Whilst accepting the statutory requirement to set a balanced budget, the Council has sought to behave in a way which treats the third sector fairly and transparently and which allows for the protection of the most vulnerable and the continuation of our own and our partners' efforts to combat disadvantage.</p> <p>We believe we have done this to the best of our ability within the resources available to us but we note that this proposal marks the start of a period of consultation and we will be actively seeking feedback from our stakeholders on the extent to which we have done this.</p>	When taking decisions about the future shape of our commissioned provision, we will take due account of our obligation to promote equality and fair access to services.

	<p>However, given the scale of these proposals, it is inevitable that some projects working in this area may see a reduction in or end of funding.</p>			
<p><b>Religion</b></p>	<p>Public services are provided on the basis that they will be accessible to people of all faiths and none. Nevertheless, we recognise that some of the agencies which have been brought into the scope of this review provide services to children and young people who may have been subject to discrimination We have at all times been mindful of the impact of the changes to the way we will support voluntary sector agencies.</p>	<p>Any reduction in grant could potentially lead to a reduction in the range and quantity of services available to children and young people. We would stress, however, that we recognise the importance of continuing to fund services which recognise and respond to the effects of discrimination and we will ensure that all future commissioning decisions take full account of our statutory obligations to promote equality of opportunity.</p>	<p>Whilst accepting the statutory requirement to set a balanced budget, the Council has sought to behave in a way which treats the third sector fairly and transparently and which allows for the protection of the most vulnerable and the continuation of our own and our partners' efforts to combat disadvantage.</p> <p>We believe we have done this to the best of our ability within the resources available to us but we note that this proposal marks the start of a period of consultation and we will be actively seeking feedback from our stakeholders on the extent to which we have done this.</p>	<p>When taking decisions about the future shape of our commissioned provision, we will take due account of our obligation to promote equality and fair access to services.</p>

	<p>However, given the scale of these proposals, it is inevitable that some projects may see a reduction in or end of funding.</p>			
<p><b>Disability</b></p>	<p>We recognise that the voluntary sector plays a very special role in the provision of services for disabled children and young people, and that many of the services provided by the sector are crucial to children’s – and their family’s – wellbeing. We have at all times been mindful of the impact of the changes to the way we will support for voluntary sector agencies.</p> <p>However, given the scale of these proposals, it is inevitable that some</p>	<p>Any reduction in grant could potentially lead to a reduction in the range and quantity of services available to children and young people. We would stress, however, that we recognise the importance of continuing to fund services which recognise and respond to the needs of disabled children and young people and we will ensure that all future commissioning decisions take full account of this.</p>	<p>Whilst accepting the statutory requirement to set a balanced budget, the Council has sought to behave in a way which treats the third sector fairly and transparently and which allows for the protection of the most vulnerable and the continuation of our own and our partners' efforts to combat disadvantage.</p> <p>We believe we have done this to the best of our ability within the resources available to us but we note that this proposal marks the start of a period of consultation and we will be actively seeking feedback from our stakeholders on the extent to which we have done this.</p>	<p>Our proposals recognise the unique role of the sector by committing the council to continuing to fund short break services for disabled children and young people.</p> <p>When taking decisions about the future shape of our commissioned provision, we will take due account of our obligation to promote equality and fair access to services.</p>

	<p>projects working in this area may see a reduction in or end of funding.</p>			
<p><b>Gender (including gender reassignment)</b></p>	<p>We recognise that some of the agencies which have been brought into the scope of this review provide services to children and young people who may have been subject to discrimination. We have at all times been mindful of the impact of the changes to the way we will support voluntary sector agencies.</p> <p>However, given the scale of these proposals, it is inevitable that some projects working in this area may see a reduction in or end of funding.</p>	<p>Any reduction in grant could potentially lead to a reduction in the range and quantity of services available to children and young people. We would stress, however, that we recognise the importance of continuing to fund services which recognise and respond to the effects of discrimination and we will ensure that all future commissioning decisions take full account of our statutory obligations to promote equality of opportunity.</p>	<p>Whilst accepting the statutory requirement to set a balanced budget, the Council has sought to behave in a way which treats the third sector fairly and transparently and which allows for the protection of the most vulnerable and the continuation of our own and our partners' efforts to combat disadvantage.</p> <p>We believe we have done this to the best of our ability within the resources available to us but we note that this proposal marks the start of a period of consultation and we will be actively seeking feedback from our stakeholders on the extent to which we have done this.</p>	<p>When taking decisions about the future shape of our commissioned provision, we will take due account of our obligation to promote equality and fair access to services.</p>

<p><b>Age</b></p>	<p>We recognise that the voluntary sector plays a very special role in the provision of services for and young people. The sector provides services which help young children get a good start in life, and that support the development young people. We have at all times been mindful of the impact of the changes to the way we will support for voluntary sector agencies.</p> <p>However, given the scale of these proposals, it is inevitable that some projects working in this area may see a reduction in or end of funding.</p>	<p>Any reduction in grant could potentially lead to a reduction in the range and quantity of services available to children and young people. We would stress, however, that we recognise the importance of continuing to fund services which recognise and respond to the effects of discrimination and we will ensure that all future commissioning decisions take full account of our statutory obligations to promote equality of opportunity.</p>	<p>Whilst accepting the statutory requirement to set a balanced budget, the Council has sought to behave in a way which treats the third sector fairly and transparently and which allows for the protection of the most vulnerable and the continuation of our own and our partners' efforts to combat disadvantage.</p> <p>We believe we have done this to the best of our ability within the resources available to us but we note that this proposal marks the start of a period of consultation and we will be actively seeking feedback from our stakeholders on the extent to which we have done this.</p>	<p>Our proposals recognise the unique role of the sector by committing the council to continuing to fund services for children under 5 and for children and young people aged 5-19</p> <p>When taking decisions about the future shape of our commissioned provision, we will take due account of our obligation to promote equality and fair access to services.</p>
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<p><b>Sexuality</b></p>	<p>Specialist services for LGBT young people are not grant funded by Bolton Council and are therefore not affected by this review</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p><b>Caring status (including pregnancy &amp; maternity)</b></p>	<p>We recognise that the voluntary sector plays a very special role in the provision of support to families, and that many of the services provided by the sector are crucial to children’s – and their families – wellbeing. We have at all times been mindful of the impact of the changes to the way we will support for voluntary sector agencies.</p> <p>However, given the scale of these proposals, it is inevitable that some projects working in this area may see a</p>	<p>Any reduction in grant could potentially lead to a reduction in the range and quantity of services available to children and young people, and place extra stress on their families. We would stress, however, that we recognise the importance of continuing to fund services disabled children and children undergoing health difficulties get the support that they and their families need. We will ensure that all future commissioning decisions take full account of our statutory obligations to promote equality of opportunity.</p>	<p>Whilst accepting the statutory requirement to set a balanced budget, the Council has sought to behave in a way which treats the third sector fairly and transparently and which allows for the protection of the most vulnerable and the continuation of our own and our partners' efforts to combat disadvantage.</p> <p>We believe we have done this to the best of our ability within the resources available to us but we note that this proposal marks the start of a period of consultation and we will be actively seeking feedback from our stakeholders on the extent to which we have done this.</p>	<p>Our proposals recognise the unique role of the sector by committing the council to continuing to fund short break provision. In addition, our support for Bolton Hospice will be maintained.</p> <p>When taking decisions about the future shape of our commissioned provision, we will take due account of our obligation to promote equality and fair access to services.</p>

	reduction in or end of funding.			
<b>Marriage and civil partnership</b>	No impact identified on grounds of marriage	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Socio-economic</b>	<p>We recognise that the voluntary sector plays a very special role in the provision of services for and young people. The sector provides services which help young children get a good start in life, and that support the development of young people. We have at all times been mindful of the impact of the changes to the way we will support for voluntary sector agencies.</p> <p>However, given the scale of these proposals, it is</p>	<p>Any reduction in grant could potentially lead to a reduction in the range and quantity of services available to children and young people. We would stress, however, that we recognise the importance of continuing to fund services which recognise and respond to the effects of discrimination and we will ensure that all future commissioning decisions take full account of our statutory obligations to promote equality of opportunity.</p>	<p>Whilst accepting the statutory requirement to set a balanced budget, the Council has sought to behave in a way which treats the third sector fairly and transparently and which allows for the protection of the most vulnerable and the continuation of our own and our partners' efforts to combat disadvantage.</p> <p>We believe we have done this to the best of our ability within the resources available to us but we note that this proposal marks the start of a period of consultation and we will be actively seeking feedback from our stakeholders on the extent to which we have done this.</p>	<p>Our proposals recognise the unique role of the sector by committing the council to continuing to fund services for to support the most vulnerable young people</p> <p>When taking decisions about the future shape of our commissioned provision, we will take due account of our obligation to promote equality and fair access to services.</p>

	inevitable that some projects working in this area may see a reduction in or end of funding.			
<b>Other comments or issues</b>	<p>We recognise that some of the agencies which have been brought into the scope of this review provide services to children and young people who may have been subject to discrimination or who face disadvantage. We have at all times been mindful of the impact of the changes to the way we will support voluntary sector agencies.</p> <p>However, given the scale of these proposals, it is inevitable that some projects working in this area may see a reduction in or end of funding. Any reduction in grant could potentially lead to a reduction in the range and quantity of services available to children and young people. We would stress, however, that we recognise the importance of continuing to fund services which recognise and respond to the effects of discrimination and we will ensure that all future commissioning decisions take full account of our statutory obligations to promote equality of opportunity.</p> <p>Whilst accepting the statutory requirement to set a balanced budget, the Council has sought to behave in a way which treats the third sector fairly and transparently and which allows for the protection of the most vulnerable and the continuation of our own and our partners' efforts to combat disadvantage.</p> <p>We believe we have done this to the best of our ability within the resources available to us but we note that this proposal marks the start of a period of consultation and we will be actively seeking feedback from our stakeholders on the extent to which we have done this.</p> <p>.</p> <p>When taking decisions about the future shape of our commissioned provision, we will take due account of our obligation to promote equality and fair access to services.</p>			

## Staff in Commissioned Agencies

	<b>Is there any potential for (positive or negative) differential impact?</b>	<b>Could this lead to adverse impact and if so what?</b>	<b>Can this adverse impact be justified on the grounds of promoting equality of opportunity for one group, or for any other reason?</b>	<b>Please detail what measures or changes you will put in place to remedy any identified adverse impact</b>
<b>Race</b>	Research conducted by Race on The Agenda in London identified concerns that some BME voluntary sector organisations currently feel isolated from some of the support mechanisms available for the sector as a whole and may consequently be less able to benefit from support mechanisms in place	If this is the case in Bolton, the worst case scenario could be that BME organisations are disproportionately less able to benefit from measures put in place to allow the sector as a whole to mitigate the impact of changes to funding or commissioning arrangements	The proposal is shaped by the Council's need to set a balanced budget. Whilst accepting the statutory requirement to set a balanced budget, the Council has sought to behave in a way which treats the third sector fairly and transparently and which recognises its key role in service provision.	Bolton CVS has a strong tradition of involvement of BME agencies at all levels of the organisation which we anticipate will mitigate against this being a significant issue in Bolton
<b>Religion</b>	The question of whether an agency can be described as "faith based" is not always one which can be given a	When we commission a faith based agency to deliver a public service, we would expect that agency to deliver the service to any child or young person who met the	The proposal is shaped by the Council's need to set a balanced budget. Whilst accepting the statutory requirement to set a balanced budget, the Council has sought to behave in a way which treats the third sector fairly and	It will be noted that the Council has sought to prioritise its own provision of informal educational and developmental activity so that those most in need receive priority access to positive

	<p>simple answer.</p> <p>Some organisations were founded in the nineteenth century as explicitly faith based agencies – and still maintain their ethos today while playing a key role at the heart of Britain’s 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector. Other organisations have been founded more recently, and continue to deliver services to children and young people of all faiths and none.</p> <p>Faith based organisations have played, and continue to play, a significant role in the development of the sector – irrespective of whether the faith based nature of some of the agencies active in</p>	<p>referral criteria, irrespective of whether they were followers of any faith or none.</p> <p>Questions as to whether or not the <i>staff</i> of an agency are more likely to be of any faith, or none, than the workforce as a whole have not formed part of any decisions as to whether a service currently commissioned by the Department should be recommissioned – rather we have examined the nature of the service provided and asked whether the service should be treated as a priority because of issues relating to the children or young people it works with.</p>	<p>transparently and which recognises its key role in service provision.</p>	<p>activities. Practical support to find alternative sources of funding will be available from the CVS and the Council</p>
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	<p>the sector is made overt to service users. Like all the other agencies identified in this review, faith based agencies may potentially suffer a reduction in the amount of grant funding they receive.</p>			
<p><b>Disability</b></p>	<p>Research conducted by the LSE suggests that the proportion of paid employees in the voluntary sector who self-define as having a disability is higher than the proportion of such employees in the workforce as a whole. If grant reductions for services which provide care and support lead to job losses in the sector, these could disproportionately affect people with</p>	<p>In the worst case scenario, grant reductions for services which provide care and support lead to job losses in the sector. Potentially, these could disproportionately affect people with disabilities.</p>	<p>The proposal is shaped by the Council's need to set a balanced budget. Whilst accepting the statutory requirement to set a balanced budget, the Council has sought to behave in a way which treats the third sector fairly and transparently and which recognises its key role in service provision. .</p>	<p>Practical support to find alternative sources of funding will be available from the CVS and the Council</p>

	disabilities			
<b>Gender (including gender reassignment)</b>	<p>Research conducted by the University of London points to significant gender imbalances in the staffing of services which seek to provide care and support. These services typically employ many more women than men, though some particular kinds of caring service tend to have less pronounced gender imbalances than others. Nevertheless, if grant reductions for services which provide care and support lead to job losses in the sector, these could disproportionately</p>	<p>In the worst case scenario, grant reductions for services which provide care and support lead to job losses in the sector, these could disproportionately affect women.</p>	<p>The possible disproportionate impact of this on women is a result of wider social pressures and historic issues relating to the gender balance within care and support work. As Cameron and Moss's research for the University of London makes clear, this problem is not unique to Bolton – or even to the UK.</p>	<p>Practical support to find alternative sources of funding will be available from the CVS and the Council</p>

	affect women.			
<b>Age</b>	We have not identified any evidence that the age profile of staff within the sector differs from that within the workforce as a whole at this stage.	No impact identified on this basis at this stage	No impact identified on this basis at this stage	No impact identified on this basis at this stage
<b>Sexuality</b>	American research has suggested that people with same sex partners may be more likely than their married peers to work in the third sector. If this is also the case in the UK, and grant reductions for third sector lead to job losses in the sector, these could potentially disproportionately affect lgb people.	In the worst case scenario, grant reductions for services which provide care and support lead to job losses in the sector, these could disproportionately affect people with same sex partners.	The proposal is shaped by the Council's need to set a balanced budget. Whilst accepting the statutory requirement to set a balanced budget, the Council has sought to behave in a way which treats the third sector fairly and transparently and which recognises its key role in service provision.	Practical support to find alternative sources of funding will be available from the CVS and the Council



<p><b>Caring status (including pregnancy &amp; maternity)</b></p>	<p>Research conducted by “working families” suggests that third sector organisations are highly likely to have a comprehensive set of policies in place to help employees of the organisation balance the demands of work and home/family life. Such policies inevitably play a significant role in making voluntary sector organisations attractive employers to those with caring responsibilities – opening up the possibility that grant reductions which lead to job losses in the sector could have a disproportionate impact on people with caring responsibilities.</p>	<p>In the worst case scenario, grant reductions for services which provide care and support lead to job losses in the sector, these could have a significant impact on people with caring responsibilities.</p>	<p>The proposal is shaped by the Council's need to set a balanced budget. Whilst accepting the statutory requirement to set a balanced budget, the Council has sought to behave in a way which treats the third sector fairly and transparently and which recognises its key role in service provision. .</p>	<p>Practical support to find alternative sources of funding will be available from the CVS and the Council</p>
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<b>Marriage and civil partnership</b>	No impact identified on this basis at this stage	No impact identified on this basis at this stage	No impact identified on this basis at this stage	No impact identified on this basis at this stage
<b>Socio-economic</b>	Research conducted by NAVCA/CWDC has highlighted the benefits that involvement with 3 <sup>rd</sup> sector activity – whether as a volunteer or as a staff member – can offer to people who have not previously had an opportunity to develop the skills associated with paid employment in the sector.	There is potential for adverse impact in so far as some people who might have had opportunities to develop the skill set associated with employment – with its consequent implications for future employment prospects - in the children's workforce may not receive such opportunities in the future.	The proposal is shaped by the Council's need to set a balanced budget. Whilst accepting the statutory requirement to set a balanced budget, the Council has sought to behave in a way which treats the third sector fairly and transparently. and which recognises its key role in service provision.	Practical support to find alternative sources of funding will be available from the CVS and the Council
<b>Other comments or issues</b>				
<b>Please provide a list of the evidence used to inform this EIA, such as the results of consultation, service take-up, service monitoring, surveys,</b>				

stakeholder comments and complaints where appropriate.

If you have undertaken consultation as part of the proposal, the consultation manager will upload it on to the corporate database.

## **EVIDENCE FROM RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS**

***The Economic Downturn and the Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) third sector*** An evidence-based report looking at challenges and responses to the recession by London's BAME and equality third sector – research conducted for ROTA, London

***Gender Issues in Care Work in Europe*** – Claire Cameron and Peter Moss, Thomas Coram Research Unit, Institute of Education, University of London

***Paid employment in the self-defined voluntary sector in the late 1990s: An initial description of patterns and trends***  
*Civil Society Working Paper 7* Stephen Almond and Jeremy Kendall. LSE

***Voluntary Organisations and Social Policy in Britain: Perspectives on Change and Choice***

Margaret Harris (Editor), Colin Rochester (Editor)

***Modeling Nonprofit Employment: Why Do So Many Lesbians and Gay Men Work for Nonprofit Organizations?***  
Gregory B. Lewis

***Changing our World: A report on balancing work and home in the voluntary sector: a working families publication***

***Championing the children's workforce Learning from experience*** NAVCA/CWDC

**This EIA form and report has been checked and countersigned by the Departmental Equalities Officer before proceeding to Executive Member(s)**

Please confirm the outcome of this EIA:

No major impact identified, therefore no major changes required – proceed	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adjustments to remove barriers / promote equality (mitigate impact) have been identified – proceed	<input type="checkbox"/>
Continue despite having identified potential for adverse impact/missed opportunities for promoting equality – this requires a strong justification	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Stop and rethink - the EIA identifies actual or potential unlawful discrimination	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Report Officer**

Name:

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Signature:

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Date and Contact No:

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**Departmental Equalities Lead Officer**

Name:

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Signature:

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Date and Contact No:

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