

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to the Deputy Executive Leader for Decision 05 February 2018

Portfolio:	Leisure and Community
Subject:	Relate Solent SLA
Report of:	Director of Finance and Resources
Strategy/Policy:	Leisure and Community
Corporate Objective:	Strong and Inclusive Communities

Purpose:

This report seeks approval for Relate Solent Counselling Service to be awarded funding for a further one year, commencing 1 April 2018.

Executive Summary:

Relate Solent provides couple and family counselling, individual relationship support, sex therapy and life skills training courses. They currently provide support to residents of the Borough from their offices in Southampton, Portsmouth and at other outlets in Fareham and Whiteley.

Approval is being sought for a further one year agreement with funding of £4000 to provide this much-needed service in the Borough of Fareham.

The provision of funding for a further one year helps to ensure that the service remains accessible for those who cannot afford to pay the full cost of a session.

Recommendation:

That approval is given for the Council to enter into a one-year agreement with Relate Solent for the provision of counselling services, with a grant of £4000.

Reason:

To enable residents of the Borough who cannot afford to pay the full cost of counselling sessions with local accessible services.

Cost of Proposals:

The cost of this proposal is £4000, funded from the Community Grants budget

Risk Assessment:

There are no risks associated with this proposal

Appendices: **A:** Service Level Agreement between Relate Solent and Fareham Borough Council. 1 April 2018 – 31 March 2019

B: Relate Solent Constitution

Reference papers: None

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Executive Briefing Paper

Date:	05 February 2018
Subject:	Award of Contract
Briefing by:	Director of Finance and Resources
Portfolio:	Leisure and Community

INTRODUCTION

1. This report seeks approval for the Council to enter into a new agreement with Relate Solent, an independent registered charity who provides counselling services benefiting residents of the Borough
2. Relate Solent represents a partnership between Relate services in Portsmouth and Southampton, who have come together to provide a service for Fareham residents. Relate Solent offers a range of services, including;
 - Couple counselling
 - Family counselling
 - Children and young people counselling
 - Individual relationship support
 - Sex therapy
 - Life skills training courses
3. Relate Solent counselling helps people understand and cope with the impacts on their personal relationships and family at all life stages. Parents carry a huge responsibility to sustain a nurturing environment for their children and often need external support for their relationships as a couple, as a family or as separating parents.
4. Relate Solent offers residents requiring counselling and support the option to meet at either their offices in Portsmouth and Southampton, and over the past 12 months sessions are also available in Fareham Town Centre and in Whiteley, to help those residents unable to make the journey to Portsmouth or Southampton.

5. Relate Solent has a broad case of clients across a wide range of ages. The main issues being presented by Fareham residents are;
 - Domestic violence and abuse
 - Child protection issues (Child abuse/violence)
 - Drugs, alcohol and substance abuse
 - Mental health problems (in particular anxiety & depression)
 - Sex and internet addiction

PROPOSAL

6. This proposal is for the Council to provide funding of £4000 for one year to Relate Solent, for the delivery of counselling sessions and contributions towards the bursary scheme for Fareham residents.
7. This funding would provide residents of Fareham with access to a local counselling service at a reduced cost.

LOCAL DEMAND

8. Both Relate organisations aim to provide relationship counselling and sex therapy to residents of the Borough requesting the service, irrespective of their ability to pay the full cost of the sessions. The average cost per session is £55 and its proposed that this will remain the same for 2018/19.
9. It is recognised, especially in the current financial climate that the ability of some residents to pay the full cost of a counselling session has declined. The ability of clients to sustain their contribution has been affected and it is estimated that clients are now only able to contribute £35 towards each session. In this circumstance and with some of the funding provided through the SLA, Relate is able to operate a bursary scheme to help subsidise residents in need.
10. The bursary scheme is 'means tested'. The client is asked to make a declaration of income and then a bursary payment is allocated on a sliding scale depending on that client's individual circumstances. The funding provided by Fareham Borough Council enables these residents to access the service in cases where it would otherwise be financially difficult and in some cases impossible.
11. During the last financial year (2016/17), 192 residents have benefited from the bursary scheme. Relate Solent have also provided;
 - 482 Relationship counselling sessions
 - 38 Family counselling sessions
 - 19 Sex therapy sessions

- 8 Young people's counselling sessions
12. It is recognised that with an agreement of £4000, Relate Solent will still have a funding shortfall. To help address this gap fundraising through events and projects will need to continue.

RISK ASSESSMENT

13. There are no risks associated with this proposal.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

14. The Service Level Agreement would provide Relate Solent with £4000 for a further one year, commencing on 1 April 2018. This funding would be funded from the Community Grants budget.
15. Payment would be released upon the signing of the Service Level Agreement (marked Appendix A). Furthermore, at six monthly intervals, Relate Solent will provide the Leisure and Community Manager with statistical information detailing the services provided and the postcodes of Fareham service users. The Centre Manager will also be invited to present to the Leisure and Community Policy Development and Review Panel.

CONCLUSIONS

16. Relate Solent provide a counselling service for Fareham residents. The provision of funding for a further year would provide the organisation with stability, which would enable the service to be more accessible to residents who cannot afford to pay the full cost of a session.

Enquiries:

For further information on this report please contact Emma Watts, Leisure and Community Manager (Ext. 4440)