

# FAREHAM

## BOROUGH COUNCIL

### Report to the Executive for Decision 03 November 2014

**Portfolio:** Leisure and Community  
**Subject:** **Relate Solent Service – Funding Request**  
**Report of:** Director of Community  
**Strategy/Policy:**  
**Corporate Objective:** To build strong and inclusive communities

**Purpose:**  
This report seeks approval for a funding award towards Relate Solent.

**Executive summary:**  
'Relate Solent' represents a partnership between two Relate branches. Relate Solent provides couple counselling, family counselling, individual relationship support and training courses in life skills.

Relate Solent wishes to provide a funding subsidy for Fareham residents wishing to access local Counselling Services. Residents can access services in either Eastleigh or Portsmouth. Fareham residents can also access support through a locally based office in High Street, Fareham.

The provision of funding for two years would provide the partnership with a bursary for use by local clients; this would enable the service to be more accessible to those residents, who are unable to pay the full cost of a session.

Any award would be subject to a satisfactory service specification being agreed.

**Recommendation:**  
That the Executive approves the award of a grant of £4,000 per annum for a period of two years to Relate Solent.

**Reason:**  
This grant will benefit residents of Fareham to access relationship counselling and it is especially aimed at those who would otherwise be unable to pursue counselling due to their individual or family financial circumstances.

**Cost of proposals:**

Funding this proposal costs £4,000 per annum for a two year period, this equates to an award of £8,000 in total. This cost can be met from the Community Grants budget.

**Appendix A: Summary of Relate Solent 2013/2014**

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### Executive Briefing Paper

**Date:** 03 November 2014

**Subject:** Relate Solent, Counselling Service - Funding Request

**Briefing by:** Director of Community

**Portfolio:** Leisure and Community

#### INTRODUCTION

1. 'Relate Solent' represents a partnership between two Relate branches; both of whom provide support to residents of the Borough. Residents can access counselling from the offices of 'Relate Solent and Winchester', based in Eastleigh or through 'Relate Portsmouth', based in Portsmouth City Centre.
2. Relate Solent provides couple counselling, family counselling, individual relationship support and training courses in life skills. They currently provide support to residents of the Borough from their offices in Eastleigh and through Portsmouth Relate, based in Portsmouth City. In August 2007, Relate set up a Fareham outpost service at Neville Lovett School, for residents who were unable to travel to Portsmouth or Southampton. During the last six months, this counselling base has relocated to a venue in High Street, Fareham.

#### PROPOSAL

3. This report seeks approval for the Council to fund Relate Solent; a partnership between two independent registered charities, to benefit the residents of the Borough and to help provide for a Fareham based counselling service.
4. Approval is being sought for two years funding at the cost of £4,000 per annum, this would provide a bursary scheme to support Fareham residents and continuation of this much needed service in the Borough of Fareham.
5. This funding would provide residents of Fareham with access to a local counselling service at a reduced cost. The service would be delivered jointly by Relate Solent and Eastleigh and Relate Portsmouth and District, under the partnership of 'Relate Solent'.

#### RELATE SERVICE

6. Both Relate organisations aim to provide relationship counselling and psychosexual therapy to residents of the Borough requesting the service, irrespective of their ability to pay the full cost of the sessions. In the past financial

year the average cost of counselling was £57 per session and it is estimated that this figure will remain at a similar level for the year 2014/15.

7. It is recognised that some residents are unable to pay this cost in full and Relate operates a bursary scheme to subsidise these residents. The bursary scheme is means tested. The client is asked to make a simple declaration of income and then bursary is allocated on a sliding scale. There is a minimum charge of £10 in all cases; this has helped to ensure that clients keep their appointments.
8. The money provided by Fareham Borough Council enables local residents to access the service. Last year, One fifth (around 19%) of the appointments offered by Relate to Fareham residents were supported by the bursary
9. The benefits of the service to the Borough are vital in maintaining family stability. At a strategic level, it is recognised that the prevention of family breakdown, has a major impact on the local economy, crucially, disrupted families often leads to housing difficulties and pressures on the housing budget, as well as potential financial hardship on the family members concerned.
10. The Federation of Relate Centre's has conducted a nation-wide survey of the cost benefit to local areas who 'invest' in the provision of Relate Services for local residents. Relate has a long-held acknowledgement towards the understanding that where people enjoy healthy couple and family relationships, this enables greater benefits to their community.
11. Consequently the survey suggests that for every £1.00 of local government funding spent, the cost benefit or saving from the public purse is around £11.00. The summary below, based on Relate research illustrates some of the areas where the quality of life is affected by relationships.

#### **Common Presenting issues in Relate Counseling;**

- Domestic Violence and Abuse
  - Child Protection Issues (Child abuse/violence)
  - Drugs, Alcohol and Substance Abuse
  - Unemployment
  - Financial Hardship
  - Mental Health Problems (in particular depression)
  - Sex and Internet Addiction
  - Affairs
  - Bereavement
  - Low Self Esteem
  - Blended Family Difficulties
  - Parenting difficulties
  - Teenage pregnancies
12. If this award is granted, officers would work with Relate Solent to define the specific use of the funds. The grant will be monitored by the Community Development Manager through the provision of statistics and an annual meeting with Officers from Relate.
  13. For Members' information, details on the use of their grant last year, is attached at Appendix A.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

14. The request would provide Relate Solent with £4,000 per annum for two years; 2014/16.
15. It is acknowledged that for the Council has provided financial support for Relate for the last seven years, this has predominantly been provided through three-year Service Level Agreements and funded through the Community Grants Budget. However, with the on-going pressure on the Council's budgets, it is proposed that a two year agreement may be a more prudent measure during the current economic climate.

## **CONCLUSION**

16. Relate provide a counselling service for Fareham residents to access. This can be through offices in Eastleigh or Portsmouth or from an outpost located in the Borough of Fareham. The provision of funding for the next two years would provide the organisation with a bursary purse, which would enable the service to be more accessible to residents who can not afford to pay the full cost of a session.

## **Reference Papers:**

**Appendix A: RELATE SOLENT:** Fareham, 2013/2014 Statistics on use of the SLA.

## RELATE SOLENT: Fareham 2013/2014 Statistics

Seen	Appointments	Cases	Individuals
<i>(All Sites including schools)</i>	<b>632</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>230</b>
All Sites Not including Hampshire County Council Schools & Colleges	607	131	222
Fareham Outpost	75	11	17
Gosport Outpost	42	16	26
Portsmouth	220	42	72
Southampton	182	46	81
Winchester Centre	88	16	28
Clients who accessed Fareham Bursary	113	34	20

### Statistics:

- **Types of appointments seen (not including HCC Schools):**  
 Family counselling = 6  
 Relationship on-going counselling = 433  
 Psychosexual Therapy = 51 Domestic Violence = 11  
 Initial Consultations = 106
- 14 clients who we worked with experienced Domestic Violence within their relationships.
- 14% of all clients accessed our bursary.
- 18% of seen appointments utilised our bursary scheme.
- 53% of clients were female, 47% were male.
- Ethnicity of clients:  
 White British - 162                      White Other - 5  
 Chinese - 1                                      Unknown - 56
- Worked with in Northern Junior and Crofton Schools;  
 Families supported in Fareham via HCC Schools Project - 2  
 Individuals supported in Fareham via HCC Schools Project - 4
- Worked in Southampton City College  
 Young people supported from Fareham - 2