

Summary of Options

Option 1: Maintain Status Quo (i.e. one year SLA)	
<p>Advantages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimal disruption to services • The grant provided allows CARC stability to explore other income streams • No reputational damage to ECDC • Fixed cost of £47,346.80 	<p>Disadvantages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Duplication of services as other organisations (including ECDC), have evolved to meet the changing needs of residents. For example, holistic approach to advice and support through Community Hubs and partnership work with the Rosmini Centre • Rigid performance targets reduce opportunities for flexible and innovative ways of working • Lack of control for the Council to intervene
Option 2: Re-tender SLA service using revised criteria	
<p>Advantages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New criteria provides an opportunity for alignment with ECDC strategies and Corporate Plan priorities • By reviewing SLA criteria there is an opportunity to review what services are provided by various organisations to minimise duplication • Testing the market could provide an opportunity to obtain better value, attract innovative solutions to the criteria and provide opportunity for organisations to develop a consortia to deliver services more effectively 	<p>Disadvantages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes may take time to embed • Lack of control for the Council to intervene

Option 3: ECDC to directly deliver the service

Advantages:

- Duplication reduced as much of the service (approx. 80%) is already provided by ECDC
- Track record for delivery of prevention and support services
- Direct control of service being offered
- Opportunity to design innovative and flexible service
- Established relationships with external organisations
- Access to specialist advice
- Expanding team = greater ability to expand community hubs throughout the whole of the district
- Ability to offer Better Business to Businesses in our District
- Meets the needs of The Council's Vulnerable Community Strategy
- Better links with the Council's developing Youth Strategy
- Compliments the Council's two Think Communities Projects
- Offers residents a one stop shop
- More access to services as Council Offices are open longer with more face-to-face availability

Disadvantages:

- Whilst this option presents an additional cost to the Council there will be an improvement in the services offered to the community. The additional costs can be met through ring fenced Central Government funding for early intervention and prevention and the £47,000 grant fund previously awarded to CARC.