

REPORT TO: Health & Wellbeing Board

DATE: 12 November 2014

REPORTING OFFICER: Director of Public Health,
Strategic Director, Policy & Resources

PORTFOLIO: Health and Wellbeing

SUBJECT: Health & Wellbeing Grants

WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To inform the Health & Wellbeing Board on the progress of the Health & Wellbeing Grants.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION: That the Board Note contents of the report.**

3.0 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 The Health & Wellbeing Board agreed to support a small grants scheme to strengthen community participation in the health and wellbeing agenda. The grants would be available in this financial year only with a pot of £7k.

3.2 The grants were launched at the Vintage Rally in September 2014, four categories of application are available:-

3.2.1 Recognition Award - nominations in this category recognise individuals who have made a special contribution to improving health and wellbeing either individually or as part of a team or group. This could also include individuals who have significantly improved their own health and wellbeing and have acted as a positive role model to others. (There is no funding attached to this category although a Health Champion may be a member of a community group seeking funding to continue their positive impact in the local community and may express a wish for their activity to be considered for funding by the panel linked to the next category).

3.2.2 Community Group Award – this award will be aimed at community groups who, through the services or activities they deliver have improved the health & wellbeing of local people.

3.2.3 Healthy Workplace Award – this award is aimed at local organisations and businesses who have developed; and are actively

implementing health and wellbeing initiatives within the workplace,

3.2.4 Healthy School Award – the Healthy Schools Initiative already works in Halton to improve the Health & Wellbeing of local children. These awards will complement the Healthy Schools initiative inviting nominations from local schools who feel they've made an outstanding contribution to health and wellbeing

3.2.5 Three rounds of applications will be invited with deadlines of 17th October 2014, 19th December 2014 and 27th March 2015.

4.0 GRANTS SUBMITTED

4.1 The first round of grants received 17 applications for funding (appendix one). The panel have agreed eleven grants, one deferral for further information, one rejected as it would have been retrospective funding and four referred to other avenues for support. The total amount awarded in the October 2014 round is £4,085. Three of the applications approved were for recognition awards for contributions to supporting Health & Wellbeing.

4.2 The range of applications is broad and varied demonstrating the grass roots activity that contributes to the wellbeing agenda. These small injections of funding making a difference to groups activities being sustained and benefiting significant numbers of residents across the spectrum of Halton's community.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

5.1 Children & Young People in Halton

Improving the Health of Children and Young People is a key priority in Halton, the grants provide an opportunity to embrace the wider community at grass roots in impacting on this priority.

5.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

The grants programme supports active community groups, workplaces, schools and individuals. Being active and participating in community life through targeted health & wellbeing activities increases skills and ability to support employment and learning.

5.3 A Healthy Halton

All issues outlined in this report focus directly on this priority.

5.4 A Safer Halton

Reducing the incidence of crime, improving Community Safety and reducing the fear of crime have an impact on health outcomes particularly on mental health. Supporting active community groups facilitates an increased sense of community connectedness which impacts on how safe residents feel in their neighbourhoods.

5.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

The environment in which we live and the physical infrastructure of our communities has a direct impact on our health and wellbeing. Active communities identifying improvements and seeking funding demonstrates empowered and resilient communities.

6.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

6.1 The JSNA identifies that whilst Halton has made progress in a number of health and wellbeing areas, there is still much to do as the rate at which Halton has improved is still behind the national averages. By implementing a new, innovative way of engaging with the communities of Halton on Health and Wellbeing Issues and offering services to meet the specific needs of those communities it is anticipated that this will contribute further to the positive direction of health and wellbeing in Halton.

7.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

7.1 The Health & Wellbeing grants are universally accessible.

8.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

None under the meaning of the Act.