

REPORT TO: Employment, Learning & Skills PPB

DATE: 17 November 2008

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Health & Community

SUBJECT: Annual Report for Voluntary Sector Funding for 2007/08

WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To receive the Annual Report for Voluntary Sector Funding 2007/08.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That:

- i) **The report be received.**
- ii) **The Board comment on the delivery of voluntary sector services in receipt of core grant support from the Council.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The report examines the policy context for providing core grant support to the Voluntary Sector and examines the current funding climate for the Voluntary Sector. The report also looks at the benefits of supporting volunteering opportunities.

3.2 The report also provides performance information on the 13 organisations Core Grant supported in 2007-08.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None at this stage.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The Government has a vision of a stable sustainable and productive relationship with the third sector and is encouraging passing the certainty of 3 year funding to voluntary organisations in line with the 3 year Comprehensive Spending Review settlement.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

None at this stage.

6.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

None at this stage.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

None at this stage.

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

None at this stage.

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

None at this stage.

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 The PPB will monitor that the grant is being spent appropriately and the Council and Halton residents receive value for money.

7.2 The PPB will need to consider what funding is available in 2009-10 before any guarantees or decisions are made to commit funding to the future projects identified within this report.

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 To receive a grant organisations have to demonstrate that acceptable equality and diversity policies are in place.



Annual Report

2007/2008

Voluntary Sector Funding

**The Benefits to Halton from funding the
Voluntary Sector 2007/2008**

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3.1 Annual Report for Voluntary Sector Core Funding 2007-2008

Background and Context

Funding Climate for the Voluntary Sector

Nationally, the long term expansion in active charities in the Voluntary Sector has been increasing, since 1991 in total by 40% overall.

However, the sectors income nationally is heavily concentrated in a relatively small number of organisations. Over 70% of total income into the sector flows to just 2% of the organisations. The vast majority of organisations (86%) have incomes of less than £100,00 and this 86% consumes only 7% of the sectors overall income.

Most of this funding is distributed through contracts rather than grants, a shift that tends to favour larger charities while putting the grant and donor dependent smaller organisations at risk. Individual donations to charities are being effected by the current economic squeeze and public giving fell by 3% last year.

Many grant funding streams to the voluntary sector are being reduced due to many different drivers. Lottery funding is expected to be severely reduced due to the Olympics, being hosted in London in 2012. The National Lottery will be making a contribution of £2.2 billion, and £1.425 billion of the funding will be taken from the Good Causes.

The move to encouraging Voluntary Sector Organisations in bidding for Contracts for Public Service Delivery is still on the Government's Agenda. To enable our local organisations to bid alongside large national charities and business the Council provided local training courses. Last year was a large awareness event, this year this focus this year is on helping the organisations to understand the how to complete the primary tendering document.

For some organisations, bidding for Public Service Contracts is appropriate. For others however, it is not an option as they do not provide services that are a statutory requirement for a Public Service. These often smaller organisations who none the less, add value locally by: addressing the needs or interests for specific groups within the community; building social capital; improving quality of life; and providing a sense of community and belonging.

A Study undertaken on behalf of National Association for Voluntary and Community Action by Sally Cooke in June 2007 looked at why grants are important for a healthy local Voluntary Sector. The study found that providing grants:

- ❑ Increases the signposting of potentially vulnerable individuals to appropriate services
- ❑ Builds social capital and connections within the community and a capacity for self-help
- ❑ Encourages diversity and responsiveness
- ❑ Enables leverage of resources into the locality from elsewhere
- ❑ Enhances potential for engagement with communities

- Nurtures an independent sector capable of responding to current and future service needs
- Nurtures complementary and preventative services

Benefits of Volunteering

The Core Grant Fund provides some security especially for organisations who provide opportunities for volunteering whose input continues to underpin the sector. The 2005 Home Office Citizenship Survey estimates that 44% of the population of England and Wales volunteered formally at least once over a 12 month period, that is up by 39% since the last citizenship survey in 2001.

It is estimated that the UK's current level of volunteering equates to 1.2 million full time workers, a value of £27.5 billion, demonstrating the continuing role of volunteering in underpinning the sector.

Baroness Neuberger's review of Volunteering in the Public Service: Health and Social Care in March of 2008 stated

“Volunteering allows individuals to collaborate with each other and create people centred services. It is in no way about services being provided on the cheap. I have no desire to see the work that paid staff do being displaced by volunteers”

A report by Volunteering England published in September 2008 found that the research data shows a clear link between volunteering and good health both for volunteers and service users.

“ Volunteering can increase volunteers' longevity, improve their mental health, keep them fitter, and enable them to cope better with illness when it occurs. Volunteering also has a positive impact on a range of factors affecting service users including self-esteem and adoption of health behaviours.”

Halton provides funding to organisations who in turn offer volunteering opportunities, for 2007/08 285 individuals have been active volunteers. These volunteers provided 28,885 hours of volunteering which, if paid for would cost £375,500. This figure alone is more than we gave in Core Funding Grant and is only the tip of the iceberg with regards to benefits gained. The full picture can be seen on page 23

Changes in funding for Legal Services

Charities providing legal services face uncertain futures after new contracts were introduced by the Legal Services Commission.

The commission, which runs the legal aid scheme in England and Wales, introduced unified contracts October 2007 saying that organisations it funds will be paid fixed fees rather than traditional hourly rates.

About 440 voluntary organisations are funded by the commission. Many deal with the most complex and time-consuming cases and fear the new rules could jeopardise their income, some may be reluctant to take on too many complex cases.

The only organisation who receives HBC Core Funding and who also receives funding under the new Legal Services Contract in Citizens Advice Beaureu. It is too soon to assess the impact this new regime has on the organisation. However in Hull earlier this year the CAB lost their Legal Services Contract, which has subsequently been awarded to A4E, a private company.

Application Process for Voluntary Sector Core Funding

Voluntary Sector core funding is applied for in December and awarded the following March, with funding commencing in the April. The successful organisations are those who provide services, which support the Councils priorities across Halton. For a synopsis of the organisations and the services provided see Organisation profiles later in the report.

Halton Borough Council's Funding Criteria

As well as meeting the general objectives outlined above, groups must also meet the following specific criteria:

- Working in one or more of the Council priority areas
- Networking and liaison with statutory and voluntary bodies within the Borough.
- Commitment to equal opportunities in service delivery.
- Accountability within the organisation.
- Effective management of paid/volunteer staff.
- Effective financial management.
- Examines to what extent the service is already being provided and demonstrates added value and additionally to the service thus avoiding duplication.
- Providing an accessible service (accessible meaning the ease with which the Community can access and use the service).
- Providing value for money.
- Being non-party political.
- Providing a quality service.
- Provides a service throughout Halton
- Has considered whether another Authority might be reasonably expected to be a more appropriate source of funding e.g. health authority.
- Has the ability to continue after the grant money has expired.

Funding allocation for 2007/08

Last year 2007/2008 there was a budget of **£307,148** awarded in full to Voluntary Sector Organisations for core funding.

Organisations receiving under £5000 report on activities on a 6 month basis and organisations receiving over £5000 sign a Service Level Agreement and are monitored quarterly. All organisations receiving funding have regular liaison meetings with HBC Voluntary Sector Co-ordinator throughout the year. The Voluntary Sector Co-ordinator also works with the various organisations offering advice and support, often working in partnership on joint initiatives. Monitoring reports are available for Members perusal in the members rooms. Monitoring information is presented to PPB at mid and end of year

This financial year there had been a £45,000 budget reduction. The budget for 2006/2007 had been £352,150 – 2007/2008 the budget was reduced to £307,148. It was decided that the reduction if funding would be shared proportionately between the 2 largest organisations who also received the largest grants. These were Citizens Advice Bureaux and Halton Voluntary Action.

The table below details the core funding awards for 2007/2008

Cheshire Asbestos Victim Support Group	£15,000
Cheshire Halton & Warrington REC	£6615
Cheshire Victim Support Area Scheme	£8,400
Halton District Citizens Advice Bureau	£152,403
Halton Talking Newspapers	£3,500
Halton Voluntary Action	£63,586
Rape & Sexual Abuse Support Centre	£3,397
Relate Cheshire	£10,300
Runcorn Frodsham and District Mencap	£2,402
Samaritans of Warrington, Halton & St Helens	£4,000
Vision support	£9545
Warrington Community Law Centre	£15,000
Widnes & Runcorn Cancer Support Group	13,000
Total	£307,148

External Funding Accessed for 2006/2007

Cheshire Asbestos Victims Support Group			
Halton Borough Council Core Funding	£15,000	Sponsorship	£5,000
		Donations	£16,203
		Other inc fees from solicitors	£20,000
		Total	£41,203

Cheshire Racial Equality Council		Cheshire Wide Service	
Halton Borough Council Core Funding	£6,615	Cheshire Wide Service	%
		Total for Cheshire =	£39,100

Cheshire Victim Support		Cheshire wide service	
Halton Borough Council Core Funding	£8,400	Funds allocated to Halton from National Association Of victims support schemes	£71,038
		Total	£71,038

Halton Citizens Advice Bureaux			
Halton Borough Council Core Funding	£152,403	Sure Start/Children's Centre	£84,128
		NRF & disadvantage fund	£82,445
		DTI & DWP & YMCA	£64,206
		LSC Legal Aid Contract	£149,790
		LSC Money Advice Project	£108,034
		Bank interest & miscellaneous	£12,971
		Total	£501,574

Halton Talking Newspapers			
Halton Borough Council Core Funding	£3,500	Donations from Listeners	£435
		Sale of Xmas cards	£172
		Interest from accounts	£1,328.53
		Total	£1,935.53

Halton Voluntary Action			
Halton Borough Council Core Funding	£63,586	NRF funding	£188,000
		PCT	£50,750
		Change up & V project	£38,300
		Big Lottery	£37,238
		Merseyside Com Foundation	£3,000
		ERDF	£11,427
		Government Office	£22,279
		Legacy	£34,600
		V stops Sefton CVS	£20,175.43
		IT/ Training Services	£22,909.08
		Generated income	£18,192.20
		Other misc income	£12,906
		Carers Grant	£5,500
	Total	£465,276.71	

Runcorn & Frodsham MENCAP			
Halton Borough Council Core Funding	£2,402	Generated income	£9,683.20
		Donations	£1,936.50
		Grants for specified projects	£11,095
		Total	£22,714.70

Rape & Sexual Abuse Centre			
Halton Borough Council Core Funding	£3,397	Domestic Abuse Forum	£20,000
		Morgan Foundation	£10,000
		BBC Children in Need	£12,330
		Victims Fund	£7,074
		Home Office	£6666
		Total	£56,070

Relate		Cheshire Wide Service	
Halton Borough Council Core Funding	£10,300	From Donations & other generation of funds i.e. rental	£12,000
		Relateen	£4,000
		Total	£16,000

Samaritans		Cheshire Wide Service	
Halton Borough Council Core Funding	£4,871	Grants	£4479
		Donations & Gifts	£4,114.44
		Fundraising	£1,240.89
		Legacies, 200 club, Bank Interest	£2,040.56
		Total	£11,874.89

Vision Support		Cheshire and North Wales Service	
Halton Borough Council Core Funding	£9,545	Cheshire Health Authority	£16,988
		Social Services	£25,200
		Neighbourhood Learning	£3,675
		Total	£45,863

Warrington Law Centre			
Halton Borough Council Core Funding	£15,000	Court Rota Payments	£7,305.48
		Total	£7,305.48

Widnes & Runcorn Cancer Support Group			
Halton Borough Council Core Funding	£12,787	Grants General	£28,835
		Grants Specific	£3,150
		Grants – Big Lottery	£7,698
		Donation, Fundraising etc	£18,530
		Total	£58,213

Total amount levered in from external funding for all organisations 2007/08 = £1,338,168
Total awarded in Voluntary Sector Core Funding 2007/2008 = £307,150

This means that for every £1 awarded by Voluntary Sector Funding the Voluntary Organisations are able to access £4.36 from other sources.

3.2 Organisation Profiles

Please note that the information below is only a synopsis of the information and monitoring held for these groups.

Cheshire Asbestos Victims Support Group
3/5 Fryer Street, Runcorn Cheshire WA7 1ND
01928 576641

£15,000

Access & availability

- An open door advice service providing a minimum of 20 hours per week at 3/5 Fryer Street, Runcorn.
- Office opening times are from 9am – 1pm
- The paid member of staff works outside the office opening hours on casework
- Telephones lines are staffed from 9am – 1pm for work with ongoing clients and to receive referrals from other agencies. Plus a 24-hour answer phone service.
- Home visits throughout Halton

Aims and objectives

Advice and assistance is given on the benefits available to those suffering with an asbestos related disease.

Provide information on Asbestos and create awareness of the dangers of asbestos to the public in general

Advice and assistance is given to families of those who have died as a result of an asbestos related disease.

The group runs a static caravan in Wales (donations were received to enable the group to buy a new caravan in April 07) for use by victims and their families, organise trips and have recently organised self-support meetings.

Monitoring information

Activity	Yearly totals
Counselling hours	1312
Welfare Rights obtained	£136,054
Civil Claims etc DTER	£2559,492
Volunteer hours per year	2688 approx
No of volunteers over the year	15
Telephone enquiries	1447
Personal visits to centre	234

HBC Priorities met by organisation
A Healthy Halton
A Safer Halton

Cheshire Halton & Warrington Racial Equality Council
92, Watergate Street, Chester, CH1 2LF
Tel: 01244 400730 Fax:- 01244 400 722

£6,615

Access and availability

Contact by phone 10am – 4pm Monday to Friday

Aims and objectives

To work towards the elimination of good relations between persons of differing racial groups

To this end REC works under 4 main areas of work

- 1 Race Discrimination Casework – this involves providing legal advice & assistance to individuals complaining of racial discrimination & harassment
- 2 Policy Development – providing advice to the public, private and voluntary sectors regarding good equal opportunities practice. Also encourages adoption of CRE standards – Racial Equality Means Quality, Racial Equality Means Business & ‘Learning for All’ standard for schools.
- 3 Community Development – helping local community groups to become self-sustaining, establishing groups where none exist, developing consultation roles for local ethnic minority communities.
- 4 Public Awareness & Campaigns – providing general information on race issues to the public.

Monitoring information

Activity	Yearly totals
Attend CLSP Exec & Provider meetings	4
Hate Crime Panel	0
Local Criminal Board Consultation & Sub Group	2
Race issues multi agency group	0
Cheshire Chief Executive Advisory Group on Gypsies & Travellers	6
Casework	2 male
REC connecting communities project – people registered for work from Halton	0

HBC Priorities met by organisation
A Healthy Halton
A Safer Halton
Halton’s Children & Young People
Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

Cheshire Relate
Allman House, Langley Road, Northwich, Cheshire, CW9 8AW
01606 350995

£10,300

Access & availability

- Relate operates an appointment based counselling sessions in Runcorn to cover all clients in Halton
- Telephone contact service 9am – 9pm Monday to Thursday, 9am to 4pm Friday

Aims and objectives

Relate works in Halton to promote Health, Respect and Justice in Couple and Family Relationships. The Relate service in Halton generates opportunities and creates the support systems that enable individuals and families to support themselves
Relate believes good couple and family relationships form the heart of a thriving community

The central office is in Northwich, Halton is supported by a team of 2 full time appointment secretaries, the Central Admin infrastructure and by the apportioned time of the Director. In Halton there are 5 voluntary counsellors and one part time paid counsellor. There are 2 part time paid office co-ordinators and 2 voluntary evening receptionists

Monitoring information

Activity	Yearly totals
Counselling hours	1043
'Relateen' group hours	202
Volunteer hours per year	640
No of volunteers over the year	8
Telephone enquiries	1417
Personal visits to centre	1043

HBC Priorities met by organisation
A Healthy Halton
A Safer Halton
Halton's Children & Young People

**Cheshire Victims Support
Widnes Police Station
Kingsway, Widnes, WA8 7QJ
0151 495 3528**

£8,400

Access and availability

- Maintain a 5 days 8.00 – 16.00, 1st of June 8.00 – 18.00 & Summer time 8.00 – 20.00
- local response system for supporting victims of crime
- A national help line is available (0845 3030900) Weekdays 9.00 – 21.00 Weekends 9.00 – 18.00 and Bank Holidays 9.00 – 17:00 Working in close consultation with police and other relevant agencies. The Police Family Liaison Officer now operates as 1st point of contact for all victims of serious crime; they then refer to Victims Support. All other crime victims go directly to Victims Support.

Aims and objectives

Victims Support aims to provide a comprehensive service to all victims of crime and their families, and to all witnesses (especially with vulnerable and intimidated), both prosecution and defence, attending Crown and Magistrates Courts.

Actively involved with both Community Based Victim Support and Witness Service Provides all volunteers with ongoing training especially around new initiatives e.g. Dealing with Children and Young Persons and working with witnesses within the Video Link Rooms

Monitoring information

Activity	Yearly totals
Counselling hours	376
Volunteer hours per year	2378.7
No of volunteers over the year	48
Telephone enquiries & letters/e-mails/fax	1700
Home visits seen	562
unseen	84
Pre Trail visits	475
Court Attendances	1462

HBC Priorities met by organisation
A Healthy Halton
A Safer Halton
Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

Cheshire Vision Support
Halton Independent Living Centre, Collier Street, Runcorn, WA7 1HB
01928 582944 (evening answer phone)

£9,545

Access & availability

An open door advice service providing a minimum of 5 days per week at Halton Independent Living Centre. Opening times from 10am – 3pm

Office is staffed from 10 am to 3pm on weekdays for work ongoing clients and to receive referrals from other agencies. There is also an out of hours answer phone service

A home visiting service for housebound, or socially isolated, people who require it, throughout Halton.

A Mobile Resource Unit for Cheshire that will be visiting venues in Widnes & Runcorn, e.g. shopping centres, medical centres, sheltered housing accommodation and anywhere it is able to park, where they might reach more people with a visual impairment.

A Tele-friending service that contacts visually impaired people in Halton and operates between 6 & 8 pm and is staffed by a team of trained volunteers.

On site IT training facilities with qualified trainers who work with alongside clients to enhance and develop their computing skills

Several clubs and social groups meet at the Centre.

Aims and objectives

Their aim is to enhance the quality of life, promote the continuing independence, and raise awareness of the needs of all visually impaired people throughout the community, irrespective of age.

People do not have to be registered blind or partially sighted to receive this service. RNIB survey found that 23% of visually sighted people living in private households who are eligible to be registered as blind or partially sighted are in fact registered. Vision Support bridges this gap by offering support to all.

Halton pay for 25 hours of support worker time to visit service users in their own homes to enable individuals to obtain their rights and entitlements by providing front line information, advice and representation service which is confidential and free.

Vision support also runs training courses and support groups and has recently started a new service called Tele-befriending.

Monitoring information

Activity	Yearly totals
Clients visits to Resource Centre inc family visit	1,347
Telephone enquiries from service users & their families	703
Other agencies visits to centre	455
Other agencies telephone calls	1178
Home visits to new and existing service users	1441
Welfare Rights inc. DLA and back pay	£11,574

HBC Priorities met by organisation
A Healthy Halton
A Safer Halton
Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

Halton District Citizens Advice Bureau
Unit 3, Victoria Building, Lugsdale Road, Widnes, WA8 6DJ
0151 257 2443

£152,403

Access and availability

Public advice line no. 019128 710000 – out of hours, answer phone should be on to give information regarding opening time. Answer phone will accept messages whilst the open door service in operation, except in debt cases when messages can be left at any time. Hours open to public 10 – 1pm Monday/Tuesday/Thursday/Friday

CAB provide a minimum of 24 hours of open door access for advice and information per normal working week (12 hours in Widnes & 12 hours in Runcorn)

Clients will receive an appointment

Clients with appointments may be seen outside of the ‘open door’ office times

Home visiting service for housebound people in Halton is provided where possible.

Aims and objectives

- Provision of free, confidential, impartial and independent legal and practical advice on a wide range of issues e.g. Welfare Rights, Debt, Consumer, Employment, Housing, Immigration, Tax, Relationships, Health, Education and many other areas of law.
- It is the only agency in Halton to have the Specialist Quality Mark in both Debt & Welfare Rights & offer a free service.
- CAB also exercises a responsible influence on the development of social policies and services, both locally and nationally.

CAB operates from 2 bases, one in Lugsdale Road, Widnes and also from Grosvenor House in Runcorn.

CAB receives many different streams of funding which are ring fenced to certain projects e.g. Children Centre & Specialist Debt workers.

Monitoring information

Activity	Yearly totals
Number of unique users	5917
Number of cases worked on	6491
Information/Advice Given	9,444
Welfare Rights	£442,970
Debt written off	£52,681
Debt handled	£7,701,085
Gains (employment)	£56,348
Volunteer hours	8,269
Number of volunteers	32
Telephone enquiries	2,400
Letter/email/fax	376
Home Visits	360
Tribunals attended	25
Court attendances	35

HBC Priorities met by organisation
A Healthy Halton
A Safer Halton
Halton’s Children & Young People
Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

Halton Talking Newspaper
The Old Police Station, Mersey Road, Runcorn, WA7 1DF
(Mrs Beatrice MacPherson, 2 Penrhyn Cres., Runcorn, Cheshire, WA7 4XJ)
01928 588500

£3,500

Access & availability

- The organisation has a recording studio and copying facilities at the Old Police Station.
- All the people involved in this project are volunteers
- Service Users tend to be referrals from Social Services

Aims and objectives

To provide Blind and Partially Sighted people with access to local news by producing and distributing a ninety minute audiotape of local news by volunteers

Talking News sends out the tapes and have them returned free by Royal Mail

Talking News also distribute tapes quarterly containing the information from the Inside Halton and other publications, enabling people to keep informed about important issues affecting their lives e.g. Theatre groups, explaining performances and local government agencies information.

Monitoring information

Activity	Yearly totals
Numbers of individuals receiving recordings each week	174
Volunteers involved with the organisation	31
Weeks per year service is provided	52
Volunteer hours per year	1184 approx

HBC Priorities met by organisation
A Healthy Halton
A Safer Halton

Halton Voluntary Action
Sefton House, Public Hall Street, Runcorn WA7 1NG
01928 592405

£63,586

Access & availability

- Providing an open drop-in service Monday – Friday between the hours of 9am to 4pm
- Providing telephone answer phone facilities and appointment service outside these hours
- Maintaining a paper database of voluntary/community groups in Halton and introducing an E-access directory
- Production and distribution of a quarterly newsletter

Aims and objectives

- HVA is a Council for Voluntary Groups (CVS) – a voluntary organisation which is set up, owned and run by local groups to support, promote and develop local voluntary and community action.
- Their goal is to make our local voluntary sector as strong, vibrant, effective and diverse as they can – Strategic aims are:
- To improve the capacity and quality of voluntary and community groups
- To provide support and develop individual volunteers and volunteer-involving organisations
- To facilitate liaison within the voluntary sector and with statutory and private organisations on behalf of volunteers, groups and organisations in the community
- To support and promote local voluntary community action
- To promote best practice and be well managed, financially secure and quality assured organisation.

Monitoring information

Activity	Yearly totals
Information & Advice given	5983
Individuals - sessions attended - Training / Activities	96
No of volunteer involved in HVA activities	15
No of volunteer hours	198.5
Telephone enquiries	5983
Newsletter distributed	2539
Volunteers recruited (for placements)	290

HBC Priorities met by organisation
A Healthy Halton
A Safer Halton
Halton's Children & Young People
Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

Rape & Sexual Abuse Support Centre (Cheshire & Merseyside)
Old Police Station, Runcorn, Cheshire, Cheshire WA7 1DF
01928 588523

£3,397

Access & availability

- A 5 day a week helpline
- Counselling at either the Runcorn office , in the victims home or at a suitable community location
- A “response” team of volunteer support workers and paid crisis worker able to respond quickly to the needs of people and helping them with the process of seeking medical advice and treatment and reporting to the police.

Aims and objectives

To provide support and advice to men, women and young people who have experienced any form of sexual violence, whether it happened recently or many years previously. They also offer support to non- abusing family members.

The services include counselling, group work and a telephone helpline.

They also provide specialist training for professionals and volunteers. All of the services we provide are free.

Monitoring information

Activity	Yearly totals
No of volunteers over the year	5
No of volunteer hours	638 +
Telephone calls to centre	1140
Telephone calls identified as Halton	147

HBC Priorities met by organisation
A Healthy Halton
A Safer Halton
Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

Runcorn Frodsham & District Mencap
The Acorn Club, Laburnam Grove, Runcorn, WA7 5EX
(Mrs J Fish, 5 Old Chester Road, Helsby, WA6 9JY)
01928 722910

£2,402

Access & availability

- Not a drop in facility – there are regular activities run regularly through the week for a target client group – people with extra learning needs who do not necessarily attend day centre
- List of activities include :- Cooking and basic skills, keep fit, youth club, disco
- Astmoor use the centre for outreach
- They run a 3 week play scheme in the summer
- They have a weekly bingo to raise funds

Aims and objectives

To provide a centre for education and social activities for people (adult & children) with learning disabilities. They also provide respite for their parents and carers. They act as a focus group to improve services for people with learning disabilities.

The group strive to ensure that inclusion is paramount in their organisation and that people with a learning disability are active at all levels including the management committee

Monitoring information

Activity	Yearly totals
No of volunteers over the year	12
No of volunteer hours	4,628
Personal visits to centre for activities	5908

HBC Priorities met by organisation
A Healthy Halton
A Safer Halton
Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

Samaritans
46 Arpley Street, Warrington, WA4 1LX
01925 235000

£4,000

Access & availability

- 24 hour a day help line – The Samaritans we fund, are a local branch of a national support organisation.
- The service is primarily a telephone contact service – however there is limited scope for people to visit the centre on an appointment service
- Samaritans also have a 5 strong prison team who support the Listener Scheme in Risley Prison, attending fortnightly evening support meetings and occasional suicide meetings.

Aims and objectives

Samaritans are a local branch of a national organisation and a charity in their own right. They provide a confidential emotional support for people who are experiencing feelings of distress or despair, including those, which may lead to suicide. The service is provided entirely by volunteers who are carefully selected, trained and supported.

Monitoring information

Activity	Yearly totals
Listening calls	13,854
Volunteer hours per year	4160
No of volunteers over the year	56
Personal visits to centre	8

HBC Priorities met by organisation
A Healthy Halton
A Safer Halton
Halton's Children & Young People
Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

Warrington Community Law Centre
The Boultings, Winwick Street, Warrington, WA2 7TT,
01925 258360
 (Not funded 2008/2009)

£15,000

Access & availability

- Telephone advice or to make an appointment for clients and agencies was available during office hours
- Provision of legal advice and representation at possession hearings at Runcorn Court.
- Surgeries were provided from 2 sites: at Runcorn & Widnes Age Concern. Runcorn on Wednesday Morning and Widnes on Thursday Morning

Aims and objectives

The Law Centre provides support at Runcorn and Warrington County Court for people threatened with eviction because of rent or mortgage arrears.

They will also advise people from Widnes who will have repossession hearings at St Helens County Court.

The Law Centre runs general advice sessions at Runcorn and Widnes Age Concern to advise people who:

- Are at risk of eviction or tenancy problems including disrepair
- Are experiencing potential or actual homelessness and landlord harrassment.
- Have housing linked benefit issues, and those in urgent need of advice in other areas of general law.

The funding received from the Legal Services Commission does not cover the full cost of cases so the funding received from HBC covers:

- Casework completion
- Post Hearing support to ensure that clients understand the decisions of the court and the actions to be taken by themselves to retain tenancy or home ownership.

The Law Centre has also worked with Halton Housing to try to establish referral protocols and attends the Homeless Forum and Community Service Meetings.

Monitoring information

Activity	Yearly totals
Number of people contacted with information prior to court case	73
Number of cases resolved which prevents court cases	8
Number of court session attended	20
Number of people seen at court sessions	42
Number of new cases opened	3
Number of cases closed	1

HBC Priorities met by organisation
A Healthy Halton
A Safer Halton
Halton's Children & Young People

Widnes & Runcorn Cancer Support Group
21-23 Alforde Street, Widnes, Cheshire, WA8 7TR
0151 423 5730

£13,000

Access & availability

- The centre is open Monday to Friday between the hours of 10.00am to 3.00pm
- Busom Buddies group meets on the first Wednesday of each month at Trinity Church Hall, Peelhouse Lane, Widnes for patients with breast cancer.
- Outreach Service, know as the Hand in Hand group, at The Old Police Station on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm. Open to any patient or carer from any part of Halton with any type of cancer
- Out of hours answer phone service.

Aims and objectives

To provide support services for the people of Halton who are living with cancer
 To extend those services to the Carers and families of those living with cancer
 To provide information and advice about Cancer for the general public in Halton Borough Council

Services provided include information, advice, listening, sign-posting, emotional and psychological support. Counselling is available by appointment. There are currently three Self-Help groups which meet. The HUG club meets weekly, Bosom Buddies and Hand in Hand are outreach groups which meet monthly.

Services also include:

Complementary therapies, Beauty Therapies, Art Therapies, The Bowen Technique and Reiki Healing sessions for patients and carers

Online support for those unable to attend the centre

The organisation now has a Respite caravan in Wales for service user.

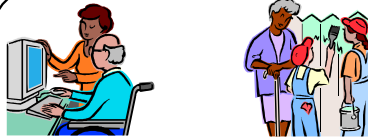
Monitoring information

Activity	Yearly totals
Counselling hours	170
Listening hours	1429
Information centre - patients	115
Volunteer hours per year	3,722
No of volunteers over the year	46
Information phone calls	108
Listening phone calls	438
HUGS club	1062
Hand in Hand	131
Busom buddies	387
Therapies and workshops	516

HBC Priorities met by organisation
A Healthy Halton
A Safer Halton
Halton's Children & Young People
Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton



Local news provided weekly to **174** residents of Halton who are registered blind



A minimum **29,232** Volunteer hours per year in service delivery
The economic value of this contributions is ***£ 380,009**



A total of **3730** face to face counselling hours have been provided covering issues ranging from:-
* Relationships * Debt
* Isolation * Cancer
* Homelessness * Health
If this service was paid for it would cost at least **£88,700**

£52,681 of debt written off for Halton Residents



£7.7 million debt handled for

* "The economic value of volunteering is calculated on an average wage rate of £13.00 based on the 2006" Annual Survey of Hours & Earnings
Source - Volunteering England

What did Halton get for its **£307,148 in 2007/08**

Organisations have organised training for **264** individuals & Participation rate for various activities **8,759**



25,679 people have accessed information and advice



Free Holistic therapies for people who have cancer including:
Bowen Treatment & Reiki
Massage & Reflexology
Beauty Treatments
If this service was paid for it would cost **£11,910**

Organisations have dealt with a total of **14,447**



Telephone enquires

Respite breaks in caravans have been accessed for **58** weeks estimated cost benefit of **£29,000**



1,441

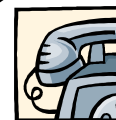


Home visits to Halton Residents who are registered blind

£3.24million in Benefit gains including:
Welfare
Rights
Civil Claims



HBC provided funding for **285** volunteers to be involved in voluntary Organisations services



13,854 Calls to Samaritans

Other activities supporting the

Voluntary Sector in 2007/2008

As part of the support provided by the Council to the Voluntary Sector, a series of training events were organised in 2007/2008

First Step to winning Contracts

Voluntary Sector organisations were invited to a series of short training events. The training was delivered by a Contract Manager from the Local Authorities Social Services team at the offices of Halton Voluntary Action, our local CVS.

The course content aimed to:

- ❑ De-mystifying the Pre Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ)
- ❑ Give 'Top Tips'
- ❑ Sharing samples of acceptable policy documents
- ❑ Explaining how to get yourself known to Social Services

This was delivered to small groups of 6 – 8 people to allow them to go through the PQQ, discuss what each section means, and gave the opportunity for everyone to ask questions.

We ran 3 sessions last year in September/October 2007 and a further session April 2008.

Next Steps to winning Contracts

Following on from the First Steps to Contracting we ran a Next Steps course several times this looked at Next Step to winning Contracts, this course focused on the Invitation to tender (IT) document

This is the main document that is evaluated in areas of:

- ❑ Costs submitted
- ❑ Organisational structure
- ❑ Action / implementation plans of the contracts etc

Tips were provided on how to complete the IT Document.

The IT document is sent to the successful organisations after they have completed a PQQ and have been short-listed, and it is important that all the relevant information is included. This will help you to win the contract. Again the training was limited to small groups to allow discussion.

The evaluation forms from these sessions were all very positive and praised the quality and relevance of information provided

"This was very useful and timely for me. Thank you"

"Very helpful – amazing amount of info and in a very short space of time"

"Managed a small group well, a very interactive and informative session"





On the 27 November we held an event at the Stadium called Find.....

The event was to give to opportunity to find out about:

- Funding
- Information / Advice / Support
- Your Perfect Partner - ship
- Volunteers (or become a volunteer)
- How to use the Media
- What's Happening in Halton
- And much more

It was aimed at Voluntary & Community Sector Organisations and Statutory agencies who are keen to work together in partnership, network and provide a service to the community

There were 40 stalls from various statutory & voluntary sector agencies plus others who offer services in Halton.

They offered a range of information from how to access funding, how to get information into the paper, how to get or become volunteers to making vital links with other agencies to forge new partnerships.

There was a presentation from Halton Voluntary Action giving feedback from a feasibility study into voluntary organisation sharing premises

The stall holder were also encouraged to network, and from their evaluation most found the event useful and made new contacts. They would also like a stall at the next event

Comments

The majority of the comments were very positive, ranging from “Very useful & busy” “Very organised, welcoming “ “This was a good opportunity to speak to other organisations who can work in partnership with us” & “Excellent !!! Thanks for organising”

Of the visitors 66 people signed in 38 evaluation forms completed

All found the event useful and would attend a similar event next year nearly everybody found out some new piece of information

The comments from the visitors were very positive:

“It’s been very useful in terms of networking & finding opportunities”

“Lots of useful information and helpful people. Hope to have built some good links to work with in the future”

“Best funding event I have been to in a long time”

“Very helpful to have so many agencies in one place – and brilliant when people say “I can’t help you but over there can, or speak to.

“I have found it very useful & reassuring that there is so much on offer for the residents in Halton. I have gathered a lot of information, which I will pass around.



Other Events

Throughout the year there have been several smaller events

Informal Reception

In May we had our annual informal reception where the Council and Mayor say 'Thank You' to the groups to whom we award Core Funding.

This event is a recognition for the hard work and dedication of the staff and volunteers from their organisations.



Halton 4 Community – funding finding website

The Voluntary Sector budget also contributes to the Halton 4 Community web portal, which provides funding searches and can be accessed through the Council site.



Looking for Funding?

Check out the link on
Halton Borough Council's Website

Halton 4 Community

This is a free funding database which can
help you search for funding for your project

Log onto - www.halton.gov.uk
Look for the Halton 4 Community Link