

**REPORT TO:** Employment Learning & Skills Policy and Performance Board

**DATE:** 21 September 2009

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director – Health & Community

**SUBJECT:** Community Development Annual Report 2008/09

**WARD(S)** Borough-wide

**1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To inform the board on the delivery of Community Development in 2008/09.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That:**

- i) The Board comment on service performance;**
- ii) The Board consider future developments of service delivery**

**3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 3.1 The purpose of Community Development is to build relationships with our communities, to help groups and networks of people take joint action on matters that concern them. It is also about enabling individuals to influence the decisions that affect their lives.
- 3.2 To do this Community Development combines a number of aspects:
- Encouraging people to work together
  - Building the strengths and independence of community organisations and networks
  - Promoting equity, inclusiveness and cohesion amongst people, and their organisations
  - Supporting people and organisations, empowering them to influence policy, services and other issues affecting their lives, as appropriate
  - Providing information and support to colleagues and partners enabling them to work more effectively with local people and groups
- 3.3 The Community Development Team sits in Cultural & Leisure Services and is made up of four full-time posts and two part-time posts and a Senior Community Development Officer.
- 3.4 The team is located in neighbourhoods providing a key link to those communities in which they are based and a platform for Halton Borough Council services and partners on which to engage.

- 3.4 The team is also responsible for distributing Halton Borough Council starter grants, community development grants and voluntary youth development grants.
- 3.5 The team has a pivotal role in providing strategic support to external funding bringing additional funding streams to Halton. The Team supports groups accessing external funding leveraging considerable amounts into the borough directly supporting community activity.

#### 4.0 **SERVICE PERFORMANCE**

- 4.1 The Community Development team in 2008/09 provided direct support to 97 community organisations. This support enabled capacity building for groups to play a key role in delivery of 122 community led initiatives. 2,164 active volunteers have participated in supporting community groups, delivering initiatives and providing community events, an increase of 80 from the previous year.
- 4.2 Community Development Officers are active in developing and facilitating partnership approaches, during 2008/09 the team worked with 48 partner organisations on 231 projects/initiatives.
- 4.3 Supporting community groups to lever external funding into the Borough has become an increasing element of the Community Development Officers role. In 2008/09 we assisted local groups to access £903,395 from external streams and £15,159 from internal grant pots, a total of £918,554.
- 4.4 This was an exceptional year and includes the £643,000 Heritage Lottery Award for Hale Park. Community development officers worked closely with officers from Parks & Countryside, External Funding, Landscape Services and in partnership the Friends of Hale Park to secure the grant.
- 4.5 An evaluation of the service is undertaken annually to contribute to continuous improvement for the service.
- 4.5 This year evaluation was carried out in two stages. A half yearly service user evaluation was taken for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> September. And reported to the January Meeting, the following is a summary of that information.

Of the Seventy-eight groups who had used the service during this period fifty-four returned completed evaluation forms a response rate 69%. Key points from the evaluation were:-

- Almost all organisation were very satisfied with the service.
  - Groups valued existing support and advice received from Community Development Officers high-lighting funding support and identified training and shared resources for further support.
  - Improved marketing was identified as a way to improve access to the service.
- 4.6 The second stage of the evaluation covered the period from October 2008 to

April 2009 and involved the nineteen new groups involved with the service during this period. Eleven groups completed the evaluation form, a response rate of 58%. The points made by those organisations mirrored the above comments with additional key points:-

- Again all of the organisations were very satisfied with the service received, over half felt that the support they received was more than they expected.
- Information/training events like the Funding Market place are very good and should be continued and the range extended.
- Be pro-active in contacting groups i.e. Pensioners Organisations.

4.7 Community Development Officers provide quarterly briefings to the Ward Members and have circulated Annual Reports for the 2008/09 period. Some high-lights of Community Development activity contributing to strategic priorities are detailed in 9.0.

4.8 Halton Community Development Practitioners Forum provides a leadership role and facilitates a cohesive approach to community development across all sectors in the borough. It provides a mechanism for networking, sharing of best practice and common issues. The forum meets quarterly, there are 26 local agencies represented. The meetings are well attended and valued by participants. This is the approach recommended by the Government, to link efforts across agencies and sectors to improve community engagement.

4.9 In April 2008 Halton played a leading role in raising awareness of and responding to Central Government initiatives in the sector and hosted a well attended regional Community Development Conference, "The Grit in the Oyster" raising awareness of and responding to the Central Government initiative 'The Community Development Challenge'

4.10 Halton Community Engagement Network – Community Development Team and Research & Intelligence Section are undertaking a corporate review of the network. The training sessions, providing practical support to staff from Halton Borough Council services and departments and partner organisations have continued. The two workshops held were very well attended and will continue in 2009/10

4.11 During 2008/09 the Community Development Team had one full-time member of the team on secondment to the Job Evaluation Team. The team was only at full capacity from February 2009, hence here are some dips in service delivery figures however these are marginal variances.

## 5.0 **SERVICE DEVELOPMENT**

5.1 The two year service level agreement Community Development had with Neighbourhood Management terminated on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009. However Community Development has been commissioned to provide a further one year focused community development support in the three pilot areas from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009.

- 5.2 There will be a reduction in the number of hours of support given to neighbourhood management. However generic community development support will continue to be delivered in the three Neighbourhood Management Area's.
- 5.3 A two year service level agreement has been agreed from April 2009 with Older peoples Services for community development to deliver Intergenerational activity, with the aim of challenging the perceptions between young and old and provide community activity for joint participation.
- 5.4 To provide a starting point for the development of future intergenerational activity, Community Development organised Halton's first intergenerational conference on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2009. The key objectives of the conference were to provide an opportunity for young and older residents of Halton to come together to share knowledge and experiences.
- 5.5 Over 200 people attended the conference, many of whom had never engaged at this level before. People embraced the concept that intergenerational initiatives and projects encourage a greater understanding between the generations. Additionally, several participants agreed to be involved directly to help drive forward continued intergenerational work in Halton.
- 5.6 As a result of the success of the conference, the robust consultation that took place and the database information collated, Halton is now better placed to take forward the intergenerational agenda.
- 5.7 The CPA Inspectors identified intergenerational activity as a key area of focus.
- 5.8 The current economic climate has had an impact on availability of grants for community organisations. Grant availability is reducing and the application process has become more competitive. Two small grant market place events have been planned for 2009/10, to improve access to existing funding streams and to maximise community organisations success in attracting other funding,
- 5.9 The first event has taken place in June 2008, it was attended by over 140 people representing fifty community organisations. The next event will be in November.

## 6.0 GRANTS

- 6.1 During 2008/09 grants were approved by members as follows:-

### Community Development and Starter Grants

These grants are available for pump priming and the delivery of community led initiatives. In 2007 – 2008 the budget was £6,900 and 24 Grants have been awarded - **Total £6,770**

#### **STARTER GRANTS**

Ward	Group Name	People Benefitting	Total Awarded
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Grange	Grangeway Helping Hands	40	£ 150
Halton Castle	The Shepherd	84	£ 150
Halton Castle	Connect	35	£ 150
Halton Lea	Dorset Gardens Club	50	£ 150
Halton Lea	The Lodge Community Centre	50	£ 150
Mersey	Victoria Road Music Group	38	£ 150
Riverside	St Mary's Special Events Forum	10	£ 150
Widnes Wide	Widnes Floral Art Group	45	£ 150
Windmill Hill	WH Bumble Bees	14	£ 150
	<b>Total</b>	<b>366</b>	<b>£1,350</b>

#### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

Ward	Group Name	People Benefitting	Total Awarded
Borough wide	Halton Daemons	26	£ 360
Borough wide	Canal Boat Project	170	£ 400
Hale	Hale Youth Centre	18	£ 400
Halton Castle	Castlefields Community Forum	70	£ 400
Halton Castle	Friends of Wigg Island	200	£ 400
Halton Lea	Hallwood Park Forum	250	£ 400
Halton Lea	Hanover Court Social Group	45	£ 400
Halton Lea	Palace Fields CC Volunteers	200	£ 400
Halton Lea	Hallwood Park Forum	150	£ 240
Hough Green	Hama Tae Kwondo	40	£ 255
Hough Green	H G Scouts & Guides	314	£ 100
Kingsway	Kingsway Bike Project	205	£ 465
Kingsway	Clayton Community Association	155	£ 400
Riverside	Loose Music	16	£ 400
Riverside	St Mary's Special Events Forum	60	£ 400
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,919</b>	<b>£5,420</b>

### 6.3 Voluntary Youth Organisations Grants and Bursaries for Young People

Voluntary youth grants are available to voluntary/community organisations who organise activities and initiatives for young people. The Bursaries are available to people between the ages of 13 – 18 pursuing personal development .

In 2008 – 2009 the budget was £11,230, 29 grants & bursaries have been awarded - **Total £ 10,808**

#### GROUP AWARDS

Wards Covered	Group Name	Young People	Adults	Total Awarded
Runcorn Wide	North West Scout Fellowship	72	10	£ 307
Runcorn Wide	North West Scout Fellowship	78	10	£ 316
Daresbury	Sandymoor Youth Club	20	8	£ 500
Runcorn Wide	Runcorn Premier Majorettes	30	15	£ 600
Runcorn Wide	Halton Komets	38	20	£ 600
Runcorn Wide	Urban Saints, Runcorn	84	10	£ 600
Borough Wide	Moorfield Angels	36	5	£ 300
Borough Wide	Runcorn Amateur Boxing Club	34	6	£ 522

Runcorn Wide	Runcorn Sea Cadets	48	7	£ 631
Halton Lea	Hallwood Park Youth Event	200	10	£ 500
Mersey	Vale Royal Majorettes	26	12	£ 600
Borough Wide	Halton speak Out	75	75	£ 500
Borough Wide	Moorfield Angels	20	7	£ 380
Mersey	HT & TK Open Door Project	95	15	£ 500
Windmill Hill	WH Youth Club	30	5	£ 500
Riverside	St Mary's Boys Brigade	24	10	£ 352
	<b>Total</b>	<b>910</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>£7,708</b>

### **BURSARIES**

<b>Ward</b>	<b>Activity Funded</b>	<b>Total Awarded</b>
Norton South	Piano Lessons & Expenses	£ 250
Kingsway	Voluntary work overseas	£ 250
Hough Green	Voluntary work overseas	£ 250
Kingsway	Equipment etc for Reptile Exhibit	£ 250
Farnworth	Dance School Expenses	£ 250
Farnworth	Dance School Expenses	£ 250
Hough Green	Towards International Scout Camp	£ 250
Norton North	To compete in National Horse riding competition	£ 250
Heath	Dance teachers qualification	£ 250
Grange	To compete in national talent completion	£ 350
Windmill Hill	Tennis lessons & competitions	£ 250
Norton South	Piano exams & expenses	£ 250
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£3,100</b>

6.4 In 2008 - 09 the Voluntary Youth Organisation grants supported 225 adults volunteers to provide activity, which benefited 922 young people.

7.0 Applications for both grant programmes can be made at any time by constituted community organisations. Applications are considered by the Community Development Team and must support one or more of Halton Borough Councils Strategic Priorities. A recommendation is made and the application is sent for final approval to the relevant Executive Board Member and the Operational Director for Culture & Leisure Services.

- The Community Development and Starter Grants will be decided upon by the Executive Board Member for Neighbourhood Management and Development.
- The Voluntary Youth Grants will be decided upon by the Executive Board Member for Community.

### 8.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 None at this stage.

### 9.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

## 9.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

- Playbuilder Projects – developed the Best Practice Guidance for Engaging with Communities and Children & Young People Carried out the consultation in Runcorn Town Hall Park, Spike Island, Hale Park and Crow wood and supported partners agencies with their consultation in Gorsewood, Murdishaw and Halton Brook
- Party in the Park – Worked with partners and local community groups to organise this successful family activity day in Phoenix Park, Runcorn. Over 4,000 local residents attended on the day.

## 9.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

- Widnes Historical Society – capacity development to review and revise their constitution and develop other policies which will enable them to access funding and demonstrate their credibility as a community organisation.
- Grangeway Community Café – Developed a pilot project to provide training for young people and a twice weekly lunch club for older residents in the Grange area. Working with HITS and Halton YMCA funding was secured from Connexions, the Area Forum and Older Peoples Services. The luncheon club has been running since February 2009, serving approximately 50 lunches per week. There have been positive outcomes for a number of the trainees, who have either obtained employment, accessed further training some have remained in the café as volunteers, mentoring new trainees.

## 9.3 **A Healthy Halton**

- Hallwood Park Community Forum –Capacity development to enable group to submit a successful application to the PCT to develop a community allotment in partnership with the local primary school.
- Castlefields Healthy Eating Group – Support to parents at the Park school to enable the distribution of Fruit and Vegetable bags to 25 families per week between June and November 2008 when the project was no longer required as a fruit & vegetable service has been established at the community centre on a Wednesday morning.

## 9.4 **A Safer Halton**

- Arley Drive Community Safety Day – Working with the community safety team and other partners a community information and activity day was held in September 2008. This initiative was organised in response high levels of Anti-Social behaviour in the area.
- Grange Anti-Social Behaviour Steering Group – Provided pivotal role in bringing together local community organisations, concerned individuals and local businesses with partner agencies responsible for providing services to the estate. . This provided a forum to find solutions to the increasing incidents of ASB experienced around the centre of the estate. A Grange Action Plan was implemented. This led to a decrease in problematic behaviour and improved relationship between the community, the Police and other agencies.

## 9.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

- Friends of Hale Park – capacity development to help them develop a training plan, a welcome pack, background history of the park and an action to support volunteering in the park.
- Half Moon Community Garden, Kingsway – Capacity development for residents group to enable them to raise the funding from WREN and others build a community garden on the Kingsway estate.

## 10.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

10.1 None at this stage.

## 11.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

11.1 None at this stage.

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

None.