



Annual Report

2008/2009

Voluntary Sector Core Grant Funding

**The Benefits to Halton from funding the
Voluntary Sector 2008/2009**

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3.1 Annual Report for Voluntary Sector Core Funding 2008-2009

Background and Context

Funding Climate for the Voluntary Sector Nationally and Regionally

The recession has had a noticeable effect on the Voluntary Sector this past year, and a report was published in June 2009, by Change up Merseyside, which looked at the early impact the recession had on Voluntary Organisations in Greater Merseyside including Halton.

200 individual responses were received from across Merseyside and key trends were identified as follows:-

- Lack of availability and reduction in funding was the most commonly reported impact (82% of the impacts were funding related).
- Increased demand for services – in particular debt advice and family support.
- Increased anxiety and lower morale in both staff of the voluntary organisations and the community members they work with.
- Achieving funding targets has become much more difficult, especially if they are related to meeting 'back to work' employment targets.
- Respondents are seeing restrictions on the types of funding available, as well as restrictions on which organisations are eligible.

The positive effects of the recession were noted as:

- An increased number of services users.
- Increased number of organisation members and volunteers.

Respondents believed that “problems obtaining funding will continue into the future and that organisations will innovate and take risks less often, preferring to concentrate on survival and continuation of existing projects, rather than start up new projects.”

The national infrastructure body, The National Association for Voluntary and Community Action (NAVCA), Crunch Time report, pulls together information gathered by local infrastructure organisations from approximately 900 frontline organisations in 20 areas of England, published in August 2009.

The report found that the effects of the recession varied across the country but demand for services, such as housing support and financial and employment advice had risen by as much as 50% in some deprived areas.

It also found that many organisations, particularly those with annual incomes of between £10,000 and £150,000, were struggling to meet rising demand for volunteer placements while income fell from donations, sponsorship, trading and foundations.

Application Process for Voluntary Sector Core Funding

Voluntary Sector core funding is applied annually with applications assessed against funding criteria and considered by a Members Panel consisting of the Chair and Vice Chair of PPB and the Portfolio member for Voluntary Sector.

Halton Borough Council's Funding Criteria

As well as meeting the Councils Key priorities, groups must also meet the following specific criteria:

- Delivering in one or more of the Council key 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 other sources of funding.
- Has the ability to continue after the grant money has expired.

Funding allocation for 2008/09

In 2008/09 the Councils voluntary sector budget was £262,148 which was awarded in full.

Organisations receiving under £5,000 report on activities on a 6 month basis and organisations receiving over £5,000 sign a Service Level Agreement and are monitored quarterly. All organisations receiving funding have regular monitoring meetings. Monitoring information is presented to PPB at mid and end of year and monitoring reports are available for Members perusal in the members rooms. The Voluntary Sector Co-ordinator also works with the various organisations offering advice and support, often working in partnership on joint initiatives

In 2008/09 the budget was reduced by £45k. The reduction was shared proportionally by those organisations receiving grants over £5k.

The table below details the core funding awards for 2008/2009

| | |
|--|----------|
| Cheshire Asbestos Victim Support Group | £13,300 |
| Cheshire Halton & Warrington REC | £6,000 |
| Cheshire Victim Support Area Scheme | £7,400 |
| Halton District Citizens Advice Bureau | £139,000 |
| Halton Talking Newspapers | £600 |
| Halton Voluntary Action | £57,000 |
| Rape & Sexual Abuse Support Centre | £3,200 |
| Relate Cheshire | £9,200 |
| Runcorn Frodsham and District Mencap | £2,400 |
| Samaritans of Warrington, Halton & St Helens | £4,000 |
| Vision support | £8,200 |
| Widnes & Runcorn Cancer Support Group | 11,848 |
| Total | £262,148 |

Voluntary Sector Core Grant Supported Organisations Funding Profile 2008/2009

| Cheshire Asbestos Victims Support Group | | | |
|---|---------|---------------------------------|---------|
| Halton Borough Council | £13,300 | Fees & solicitors disbursements | £33,593 |
| Core Funding | | Donations | £12,320 |
| | | Memberships, Caravan & others | £3,558 |
| | | Total | £49,471 |

| Cheshire Racial Equality Council | | Cheshire Wide Service | |
|----------------------------------|--------|---------------------------|---------|
| Halton Borough Council | £6,000 | Cheshire Wide Service | % |
| Core Funding | | Capacity Builders % | £23,260 |
| | | Equality & Human Rights % | £6,517 |
| | | Total for Cheshire = | £29,777 |

| Cheshire Victim Support | | Cheshire wide service | |
|-------------------------|--------|--|---------|
| Halton Borough Council | £7,400 | Funds allocated to Halton from National Association Of Victims Support Schemes | £82,652 |
| Core Funding | | Premise support costs from Police | £15,000 |
| | | Total | £97,652 |

| Halton Citizens Advice Bureaux | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------|--|----------|
| Halton Borough Council | £139,000 | Legal Services Commission | £102,463 |
| Core Funding | | Treasury | £6,684 |
| | | Extended Schools (for service deliver 2009/10) | £43,000 |
| | | Sure Start | £80,000 |
| | | Dept of BERR (formerly Dti) | £86,000 |
| | | WNF | £67,000 |
| | | N,hood Learning Fund | £4,662 |
| | | PCT (NB 37,000 for service delivery in 2009/10) | £37,500 |
| | | Disadvantaged Area Funding | £10,000 |
| | | Financial Literacy Pilot | £6,725 |
| | | Bank Interest | £4,500 |
| | | Total | £448,084 |

| Halton Talking Newspapers | | | |
|---------------------------|------|--------------------------|--------|
| Halton Borough Council | £600 | Donations from Listeners | £435 |
| Core Funding | | Sale of Christmas cards | £172 |
| | | Interest from accounts | £1,328 |
| | | Total | £1,935 |

| Halton Voluntary Action | | | | | |
|--|---------|--|----------|-------|----------|
| Halton Borough Council Core Funding | £57,000 | PCT (Core Activities) | £25,000 | | |
| | | Merseyside Community Foundation (Grass Roots) | £2,677 | | |
| | | Donations (Balloon Decorating) | £292. | | |
| | | Interest (Interest earned) | £8,140 | | |
| | | Generated Income (various inc refunds) | £12,768 | | |
| | | Generated Income (training room hire) | £4,404 | | |
| | | Generated Income (rent of office space) | £6,590 | | |
| | | Generated Income (fund raising dinner) | £540 | | |
| | | Generated Income (general tasks inc PAT testing) | £604 | | |
| | | Other | £107,620 | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | Big Lottery (Basis Project) | £243,496 | | |
| | | Government Office (ISB Project) | £22,279 | | |
| | | HBC (DATS Project) | £11,000 | | |
| | | Russell Commission (V Project) | £117,124 | | |
| | | HBC – WNF (Network / Communication Project) | £20,607 | | |
| | | Lottery (Awards for All) | £7,665 | | |
| | | HBC – WNF – (PQASSO Support) | £5,904 | | |
| | | HBC (Health & Community) | £26,744 | | |
| | | St Helens CVS (Links Project) | £78,316 | | |
| | | HBC – WNF (VSCP Project) | £42,602 | | |
| | | HBC – NLDC (VSCP Training) | £3,818 | | |
| | | St Helens CVS – NLDC (VSCP Training) | £1,797 | | |
| | | Synergy (YAT Team Events) | £1,000 | | |
| | | GMPC (YAT Team Events) | £8,000 | | |
| | | HBC (Childrens' Workforce Development) | £26,538 | | |
| | | NAVCA (Grant for Child WKFC Dev) | £2,000 | | |
| | | HBC – ERDF (Capacity Building) | £8,892 | | |
| | | HBC – WNF (Capacity Building) | £13,943 | | |
| | | | | Total | £810,360 |

| Runcorn & Frodsham MENCAP | | | |
|--|--------|-------------------------------|---------|
| Halton Borough Council Core Funding | £2,400 | Generated income | £4,723 |
| | | Donations | £801 |
| | | Grants for specified projects | £7,925 |
| | | Total | £13,449 |

| Rape & Sexual Abuse Centre | | | |
|--|--------|----------------------|----------|
| Halton Borough Council Core Funding | £3,200 | Domestic Abuse Forum | £20,000 |
| | | Morgan Foundation | £20,000 |
| | | BBC Children in Need | £12,330 |
| | | Victims Fund | £35,370 |
| | | Home Office | £20,000 |
| | | Total | £107,700 |

| Relate | | Cheshire Wide Service | |
|--|--------|-----------------------|---------|
| Halton Borough Council Core Funding | £9,200 | Donations | £25,000 |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | Total | £25,000 |

| Samaritans | | Cheshire Wide Service | |
|--|--------|---------------------------------|--------|
| Halton Borough Council Core Funding | £4,000 | Grants | £4,161 |
| | | Donations & Gifts & Fundraising | £3,831 |
| | | Total | £7,992 |

| Vision Support | | Cheshire and North Wales Service | |
|--|--------|----------------------------------|---------|
| Halton Borough Council Core Funding | £8,200 | Halton PCT | £16,988 |
| | | HBC Adult Services | £25,000 |
| | | Neighbourhood Learning | £5,500 |
| | | Total | £47,488 |

| Widnes & Runcorn Cancer Support Group | | | |
|--|---------|------------------|---------|
| Halton Borough Council Core Funding | £11,848 | PCT | £22,667 |
| | | Morgan Trust | £20,000 |
| | | HBC Carers Grant | £2,500 |
| | | Misc. restricted | 5,491 |
| | | Donations | £8,368 |
| | | Fundraising | £15,523 |
| | | Bank Interest | £977 |
| | | Total | £75,526 |

The total amount of funding levered in from external sources for core grant supported organisations in 2008/09 = £1,714,434

Total amount awarded from Halton Borough Council Voluntary Sector Core Funding 2008/2009 = £262,148

Hence, every pound the council awarded to core grant support. Halton's Voluntary Sector organisations enabled a further £6.75 to be accessed from other funding.

Organisation Profiles

Please note that the information below is a brief synopsis of the information and monitoring for these organisations.

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

£13,300

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 for housebound victims who request it, 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 provides a caravan in Wales for use by victims and their families for recreational breaks, organise trips and have recently organised self-support meetings at the Runcorn centre.

Monitoring information

| Activity | Yearly totals |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| Counselling hours | 1,213 |
| Welfare Rights obtained | £179,763 |
| Civil Claims etc DTER | £2,113.229 |
| Volunteer hours per year | 1,832 |
| No of volunteers over the year | 14 |
| Telephone enquiries | 1,041 |
| Personal visits to centre | 156 |

| HBC Priorities met by organisation |
|---|
| A Healthy Halton |
| A Safer Halton |

Access and availability

Contact by phone 10am – 4pm Monday to Friday

Aims and objectives

To work towards the elimination of racial discrimination and promote equality of opportunity and good race relations

To this end REC works under 4 main areas of work

- 1 Race Discrimination Casework – this involves providing legal advice & assistance to individuals challenging 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 HIAP Exec & Provider meetings | 4 |
| Hate Crime Panel | 0 |
| Local Criminal Board Consultation & Sub Group | 3 |
| Race issues multi agency group | 0 |
| Cheshire Chief Executive Advisory Group on Gypsies & Travellers | 2 |
| Casework | 1 male |
| REC connecting communities project – people registered for work from Halton | 0 |
| Number of hours undertaken in casework | 116.5 |

| 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

£9,200

Access & availability

- Relate operates 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 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, and by the apportioned time of the Director.

In Halton there are 5 voluntary counsellors and 1 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 | 1239 |
| 'Relateen' group hours | 230 |
| Volunteer hours per year | 672 |
| No of volunteers over the year | 8 |
| Telephone enquiries | 1236 |
| Personal visits to centre | 1239 |

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

Cheshire Vision Support
Halton Independent Living Centre, Collier Street, Runcorn, WA7 1HB
01928 582944

£8,200

Access & availability

An open door advice service providing a minimum of 5 days per week at Halton Independent Living Centre. Opening times from 9.30am – 2.30pm supporting existing clients and to deal with referrals from other agencies. There is also an out of hours answer phone service and a home visiting service for housebound or socially isolated people who require it throughout Halton.

Vision Support use a mobile resource unit that will be visiting venues in Widnes & Runcorn, e.g. shopping centres, medical centres, sheltered housing accommodation etc where they might reach more people with a visual impairment. A Tele-friending service that contacts visually impaired people in Halton operates between 6 & 8 pm and is staffed by a team of trained volunteers.

On site IT training facilities with qualified trainers who work alongside clients to enhance and develop their computing skills. Support to several clubs and social groups meet at the Independent Living 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 only 23% of visually impaired 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.

Monitoring information

| Activity | Yearly totals |
|---|----------------------|
| Clients visits to Resource Centre inc family visit | 1,114 |
| Telephone enquiries from service users & their families | 853 |
| Other agencies visits to centre | 604 |
| Other agencies telephone calls | 826 |
| Home visits to new and existing service users | 1,256 |
| Welfare Rights inc. DLA and back pay | £16,809 |

| 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

£139,000

Access and availability

By telephone on 08451 30 40 55 this is a local rate (not geographic) telephone number which allows the calls to be picked up from either the Widnes or Runcorn office. Answer phone will accept messages during opening times, out of hours answer phone service gives information regarding opening time, with an exception for debt cases when messages can be left at any time. Hours open to public 10 – 1pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Fridays. Email – advice@haltoncab.org.uk Internet – www.haltoncab.org.uk

CAB provide a minimum of 24 hours of open door access for advice and information per 12 hours in Widnes & 12 hours in Runcorn
 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 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 | 5144 |
| Number of cases worked on | 6503 |
| Information/Advice Given | 13,088 |
| Welfare Rights | £484,481 |
| Debt written off | £1,099,143 |
| Debt handled | £17,538.446 |
| Gains (employment) | £53,226 |
| Volunteer hours | 8,706 |
| Number of volunteers | 26.5 |
| Telephone enquiries | 1,603 |
| Letter/email/fax | 5,736 |
| Home Visits | 302 |
| Tribunals attended | 3 |
| Court attendances | 76 |

| 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
01928 588500

£600

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.
- Referrals from Vision Support.
- Most service users are 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 which are 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

£57,000

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 an E-access directory of voluntary/community groups in Halton and introducing production and distribution of a quarterly newsletter.

Aims and objectives

- HVA is a Council for Voluntary Services (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 | 4973 |
| Individuals - sessions attended - Training / Activities | 93 |
| No of volunteer involved in HVA activities | 9 |
| No of volunteer hours | 276.5 |
| Telephone enquiries | 4973 |
| Newsletter distributed | 2746 |
| Volunteers recruited (for placements) | 437 |

| 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

£3,200

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 they provide are free.

Monitoring information

| Activity | Yearly totals |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|
| No of volunteers over the year | 6 |
| No of volunteer hours | 500 + |
| Telephone calls to centre | 760 |
| Telephone calls identified as Halton | 132 |

| 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
01928 722910

£2,400

Access & availability

- Regular planned activities through the week for a target client group – people with additional learning needs who may not attend a day centre.
- List of activities include: - Cooking and basic skills, keep fit, youth club, disco.
- They run a 3 week play scheme in the summer.
- They have a weekly bingo to provide activity and support fundraising.

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 | 37 |
| No of volunteer hours | 9 |
| Personal visits to centre for activities | 4,744 |

| 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 Council support the nearest local branch of the national 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 five 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 | 12,839 |
| Volunteer hours per year | 8,000+ |
| No of volunteers over the year | 58 |
| Personal visits to centre | 9 |
| E-mails | 471 |

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

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

£11,848

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, known 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.

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 users.

Monitoring information

| Activity | Yearly totals |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| Counselling hours | 121 |
| Listening hours | 1506 |
| Information centre - patients | 127 |
| Volunteer hours per year | 4,066 |
| No of volunteers over the year | 983 |
| Information phone calls | 127 |
| Listening phone calls | 449 |
| HUGS club | 983 |
| Hand in Hand | 124 |
| Busom buddies | 358 |
| Therapies and workshops | 741 |

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

Activities & Events to Support Halton's Voluntary Sector



On the 26 November 2008 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. A lively buzz of chatter filled the room as enthusiastic volunteers swapped ideas, shared information and picked up valuable practical tips, funding advice and guidance. More than 200 people said they thoroughly enjoyed 'Find', a networking event at Stobart Stadium, organised by Halton Council for the third year running.

"Excellent, well-organised & well-attended event".

"Valuable opportunity for networking. Thank you."

"Excellent day, made new contacts and found out new information".

"Very useful. Opportunity to make links with other organisation and promote our service. Have made some very good contacts and will certainly be contacting them to come to our team meetings etc. to talk to staff"

"Enjoyed A4A workshops!"

"We have made some very useful contacts. It a was very worthwhile Event and was great for networking, it has raised my awareness of the services in Halton, to enable me to offer alternative services to my clients."

*"Excellent networking opportunities
I attended this same event last year & found it very useful – this years event was even better:- made lots of new contacts & access to funding – nice to catch up with other projects / organisations".*

"Well co-orientated. Half day great as not too long. Presentations very useful".

It was the biggest event of its kind, with more than 60 stalls representing voluntary organisations, Halton Council departments, charities, statutory organisations and the media. Voluntary organisations and community groups were able to find out about funding, information, advice, support and volunteering.

HBC External Funding and Community Development services presented two workshops to encourage more groups to bid for Awards 4 All lottery grants. One of the facilitators said:

“Halton has a good rate of applications but only a 50 per cent success rate. This is possibly because forms are not being filled in correctly. It is not because there isn't any money. Grants of between £300 and £10,000 are available for a wide range of community projects. “

Groups taking part included: BBC Children in Need, Children and Young People Partnership, Cheshire Fire and Rescue, Community Bridge Builders, Ashley House and Drugs and Alcohol Treatment Services, Deafness Support Network, Digital Media Changeover, Halton Access To Media, Halton Autistic Family Support, Halton Carers Centre, Halton Children's Centres, Halton Community Transport, Halton Domestic Abuse Partnership, Relationship Centre, Women's Aid, Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre, Halton Housing Trust and Riverside Housing, Halton Information and Advice Partnership, Halton Health Improvement Team and Healthy Living Centre, Health and Community Care Forum, HITS, Halton Voluntary Action, Halton Fund, Link, Mind, Neighbourhood Management, Princes Trust Business Support, Red Cross, Sports For All Banner Scheme, Stop The Loan Sharks, Surestart for Older People, Diamond Life, Halton Council Voluntary Sector, Volunteer Centre, V Involve, Runcorn and Widnes World, Windmill Hill Telematics, Youth Federation, Halton Youth Service, Halton Citizens Advice Bureau, Vision Support and Cheshire Race Equality Council.

Halton Borough Council: Adult Learning, Community Development, Community Centres, Enterprise Development and Employment, External Funding, Tourism, Libraries, Sports Development and Voluntary Sector Co-ordinator



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.

