

**REPORT TO:** Employment, Learning & Skills PPB

**DATE:** 16 November 2009

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

**SUBJECT:** Annual Report for Voluntary Sector Funding

**WARD(S)** Borough-wide

**1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To receive the Annual Report for Voluntary Sector Funding 2008/09.

**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.

3.2 The report also looks at the benefits of supporting volunteering opportunities.

3.3 The report provides performance information on the twelve organisations Core Grant supported in 2008/09.

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

3.4 Case studies will be shared at the PPB meeting, given the confidential and sensitive nature of some of the services delivered

they will not be circulated in advance.

#### 4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 None at this stage.

#### 5.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There are no financial implications at this stage however, the Council should be aware of Central Governments policy guidance on three year funding commitments for voluntary sector organisations. This is not a mandatory requirement for local authorities, it is to support the governments vision of a stable, sustainable and productive relationship with the third sector and is encouraging the certainty of 3 year funding to voluntary organisations in line with the three year funding settlements.

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

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

The work delivered by Relate in preventing family breakdown and offering counselling to teenagers has a direct impact on those children and young people in the Borough.

The Youth Volunteer programme delivered by HVA (the V Project) is targeted at young people participating in their community.

The Samaritans is open to all age ranges and receives calls from young people in the Borough looking for support.

Widnes & Runcorn Cancer Support group offer support to all members of families effected by the disease, encompassing young members of families.

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

The voluntary sector organisations have a significant reliance on volunteer time to deliver services. The organisations provide training opportunities for volunteers to enable the delivery of service and improve their skills and employability. The CAB in particular have experienced local volunteers gaining local employment as a result of the training and experience.

##### 6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

Widnes & Runcorn Cancer Support have a major impact on the health and well being of our residents diagnosed and in remission from cancer through the support, advocacy and therapies they are able to offer.

Cheshire Asbestos works with sufferers and their families to support them through the illness, offering welfare support and recreational breaks for the sufferers and their families.

Vision support provide a resource centre for visually impaired and offer home visits and welfare rights support. The talking newspaper enables their clients to receive news on current affairs weekly

#### 6.4 **A Safer Halton**

Cheshire Victim Support provide support to victims of crime through to pre trial preparation and court attendances which can be daunting for residents left vulnerable from crimes against them.

Cheshire, Halton & Warrington Racial Equality Council work with minority groups in the Borough to contribute to a cohesive and integrated community in Halton. They offer support to individuals experiencing discrimination and will support in challenging discriminatory practice and will help people through tribunal processes.

The Rape & Sexual Abuse Centre provides support to the victims of crime. The Centre provides an assessment necessary for criminal proceedings and follow on support to the individuals.

Mencap provides a community meeting point for disabled members in Halton offering a safe environment for their clients to engage in community activity

#### 6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

None directly.

#### 7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 None directly. The PPB, however, will monitor that the grant is being spent appropriately and the Council and Halton's 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.

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

None under the meaning of the Act.