

**REPORT TO:** Executive Board  
**DATE:** 15 March 2007  
**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director – Health and Community  
**SUBJECT:** Voluntary Sector Funding – Grant Allocation 2007/08  
**WARD(S):** Borough-wide

**1.0 Purpose of Report**

**1.1** To recommend Voluntary Sector Grant Awards for 2007/08.

**2.0 Recommended that:**

(1) the board approve the recommended grant allocations; and

(2) further applications be approved by the Strategic Director – Health and Community, in consultation with the Neighbourhood Management and Development Portfolio Holder.

**3.0 Supporting Information**

**3.1** In a report to the Executive Board on 3 January 2002 the expectations for voluntary sector funding were established. It was agreed that awards be judged against agreed criteria and actual targets be negotiated prior to signing a service level agreement. Targets are now linked to both departmental and corporate priorities reflecting a more targeted approach to funding.

Applications are assessed and recommendations agreed by a Members Panel consisting of the Executive Board Member with portfolio responsibility for the voluntary sector and the Chair and Vice Chair of the Employment, Learning and Skills Policy and Performance Board.

**3.2 Monitoring Arrangements**

- 1) All grants in excess of £5k must agree a service level agreement and provide quarterly monitoring reports. Grants under £5k provide mid year & end of year reports.
- 2) Quarterly/half yearly monitoring reports are required and copies are made available in the Members' room at the Municipal Buildings.
- 3) Review meetings take place with the Voluntary Sector Co-ordinator on a quarterly basis.
- 4) Half yearly written reports summarising monitory data are provided to the Employment, Learning and Skills Policy & Performance Board.

#### 4.0 Approval of Grants 2007/08

##### 4.1 Voluntary Sector Core Funding Grants

The recommended grants are listed below; the recommendations are in the context of the budget allocation and the panel's assessment.

	<b>2007/08</b>	<b>2006/07</b>
Cheshire Asbestos Victims Support	15,000	15,000
Cheshire Racial Equality Council	6,615	6,615
Cheshire Victim Support	8,400	8,400
Halton Citizens Advice Bureaux	152,403	179,755
Halton Talking Newspapers	3,500	3,500
Halton Voluntary Action	63,586	75,000
Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre	3,397	3,397
Relate	10,300	10,300
Runcorn & Frodsham Mencap	2,402	2,402
Samaritans	4,000	4,871
Vision Support	9,545	9,623
Warrington Law Centre	15,000	15,000
Widnes & Runcorn Cancer Support Group	13,000	12,787
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>307,148</b>	<b>346,650</b>

Applications not recommended to receive funding are: -

- Halton Disability Advice & Appeals Centre - £9,100
- Shelter - £7,824

**4.2** It is recommended these grants be awarded for one year, 2007/08. Halton Voluntary Action and Citizens Advice Bureau previously had a three year funding agreement however the current budget position does not provide the required level of sustainability. Faced with the uncertainty of funding within the comprehensive spending review it is not possible to continue funding these organisations at previous rates.

#### 5.0 Policy and other Implications

5.1 None.

#### 6.0 Other Implications

6.1 The approved applications do not exceed the current budget allocations in the general grants budget.

**6.2** The work of the voluntary sector receiving core funding grants impacts greatly on social inclusion, community involvement, anti-poverty and diversity issues.

**7.0 Risk Analysis**

**7.1** The reductions in the grant may impact upon the organisations capacity to deliver services and there may be the subsequent staffing implications for the organisations where the greatest reductions apply.

**7.2** The PPB will monitor how the grants are being spent and ensure that the Council and Halton people receive value for money.

**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**

**9.1** None under the meaning of the Act.