

REPORT TO: Executive Board
DATE: 13 March 2014
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Communities
PORTFOLIO: Economic Development
SUBJECT: Voluntary Sector Funding – Grant Allocation 2014/15
WARD(S): Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To report on the Voluntary Sector Grant Funding Awards for 2014/15.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the grant allocations, as outlined in the report, be approved.

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 to be negotiated prior to signing a service level agreement. Targets are now linked to both departmental and corporate priorities reflecting a targeted approach to funding.

Applications are assessed and recommendations agreed by a panel consisting of the Executive Board Member with portfolio responsibility for the Voluntary Sector and Officers from the Communities Department.

3.2 Monitoring Arrangements

- 1) All grants must agree a Service Level Agreement and provide quarterly monitoring reports. Grants under £5,000 provide mid-year and end of year reports.
- 2) Review meetings are held with the organisations in receipt of core grant on an annual basis.
- 3) Voluntary sector grant performance monitoring information contributes to corporate assessments.

4.0 APPROVAL OF GRANTS 2014/15

4.1 Voluntary Sector Core Funding Grants

The grants are listed below; the report is in the context of the budget

allocation and the panel's assessment. These recommendations are for an annual allocation for the financial year 2014/15.

The budget available is £227,716

	2014/15
Cheshire Asbestos Victims Support	£8,000
Cheshire Race & Equality Council	£4,000
Cheshire Victim Support	£5,000
Halton Citizens Advice Bureaux	£133,000
Halton & St Helens VCA	£40,276
Halton Talking Newspapers	£1,000
Relate	£9,000
Runcorn & Frodsham MENCAP	£2,590
Samaritans	£4,000
Vision Support	£7,850
Widnes & Runcorn Cancer Support Group	£13,000
TOTAL	£227,716

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None at this stage.

6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The recommended grants do not exceed the current budget allocations

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

6.3 A review of the Voluntary Sector funding will need to be undertaken as part of the budgetary setting process for 2015-16.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

The service delivery from organisations receiving core grants in many cases is cross cutting in the context of the Council's strategic priorities. There are significant levels of welfare rights and debt handling support provided which impacts on anti-poverty issues for the Borough.

7.1 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 Samaritans is open to all age ranges and does receive calls from young people in the Borough looking for support.

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

Mencap runs a weekly youth group for young people with extra needs.

Halton CAB provides advice to Sure Start families.

Cheshire, Halton and Warrington Race and Equality Centre, in partnership with Manchester Metropolitan university has undertaken a three year research project - Schools Stand Up 2 Racism to research racism and its effects in Cheshire, Halton and Warrington secondary schools.

7.2 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 has experienced local volunteers gaining local employment as result of the training and experience.

Halton and St Helens VCA supports volunteers to gain work experience, train and get qualifications and develop new skills which enable them to explore new career paths.

Relate offers placements for students on counselling degrees.

7.3 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 provides a resource centre for visually impaired and offers home visits and welfare rights support.

Halton Talking Newspaper service enables their clients to receive

news on current affairs and community activities on a weekly basis including GP/Pharmacy opening times.

7.4 A Safer Halton

Cheshire Victim Support provides 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 Race & Equality Centre 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.

Mencap provides a community meeting point for disabled members in Halton offering a safe environment for their clients to engage in community activity and participate in skill development and recreational activity.

7.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None identified.

8.0 RISK ANALYSIS

8.1 The Quality Assurance Team will monitor the grants and ensure the Council and Halton residents receive value for money.

9.0 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY ISSUES

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

10.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

10.1 None under the meaning of the Act.