

REPORT TO: Executive Board
DATE: 19 March 2009
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Health and Community
SUBJECT: Voluntary Sector Funding – Grant Allocation 2009/10
WARD(S): Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To recommend Voluntary Sector Grant Awards for 2009/10.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- (1) Members of the Executive Board approve the recommended grant allocations; and**
- (2) further applications be approved by the Strategic Director, Health and Community, in consultation with the Voluntary Sector Liaison 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 and end of year reports.
- 2) Review meetings are held with the organisations in receipt of core grant on a quarterly basis.
- 3) Mid-year and annual reports are presented to the Employment, Learning and Skills Policy & Performance Board and are made available in the Members Room at Municipal Building.
- 4) Voluntary sector grant performance monitoring information

contributes to corporate assessments and Commission for Social Services Inspectorate (CSCI) monitoring.

4.0 APPROVAL OF GRANTS 2009/10

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. These recommendations are for an annual allocation for the financial year 2009/10.

The budget available is £262,150

	2008/09	2009/10
Cheshire Asbestos Victims Support	£13,300	£13,300
Cheshire Racial Equality Council	£6,000	£6,000
Cheshire Victim Support	£7,400	£7,400
Halton Citizens Advice Bureaux	£139,000	£139,000
Halton Voluntary Action *	£57,000	£55,903
Halton Talking Newspapers**	£600	£0
Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre	£3,200	£3,200
Relate	£9,200	£9,200
Runcorn & Frodsham Mencap	£2,400	£2,400
Samaritans	£4,000	£4,000
Vision Support	£8,200	£8,200
Warrington Law Centre ***	0	0
Widnes & Runcorn Cancer Support Group	£11,848	£11,848
TOTAL	£262,148	£260,451

* Organisation requested less for next financial year - 09/10 :-

- Halton Voluntary Action requested a lesser amount in their application.

** Organisation did not apply for funding for 2009/10

- Halton Talking Newspapers did not submit an application for funding for 2009/10

*** Application not recommended to receive funding: -

- Warrington Law Centre - £16,000

This organisation previously received a grant in 2007/08 and the cases being dealt with were debt and welfare rights as opposed to specialist housing advice. The panel recommended not to fund in 2008/09 and wish to uphold this recommendation for 2009/10. Warrington Law Centre continue to provide assistance at Runcorn Court through their Legal Services Commission contract and Halton residents can also be referred to Shelter for specialist housing advice.

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 in the general grants budget.

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

7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

The service delivery from organisations receiving core grant in many cases is cross cutting in the context of the Council's strategic priorities. There is 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 Youth Volunteer programme delivered by Halton Voluntary Action (the V Project) is targeted at young people participating in their community.

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 effected by the disease, encompassing young members of families.

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

7.3 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.

7.4 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 and participate in skill development and recreational activity.

7.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None identified.

8.0 RISK ANALYSIS

8.1 The PPB will monitor how the grants are being spent and ensure that the Council and Halton people 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.