

REPORT TO: Employment, Learning and Skills Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 11 September 2006

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Health and Community

SUBJECT: Voluntary Sector Grants

WARD(S): Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To receive a presentation from Halton Citizen's Advice Bureau (CAB) about their work and contribution to Halton's priorities.

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That

- (1) the presentation be noted; and**
- (2) Members of the PPB comment on the work of the CAB, particularly in relation to the service offered for the amount of grant received.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 In 2005/06 the Prosperity and Equality PPB received presentations from all the voluntary sector organisations in receipt of a grant of £5000 or over.

3.2 Of such organisations the CAB and Halton Voluntary Action (HVA) received the major grants. For 2006/07 CAB received £179,755 and HVA £75,000.

3.3 Both these organisations have three year Service Level Agreements that terminates in March 2007. The agreements are currently under review. Because of this it was felt timely for this Board to consider the work of these two organisations. The CAB have been asked to attend the September Board Meeting and HVA the November meeting. The November meeting will also receive the 2005/06 annual report on the other groups receiving grants.

4.0 POLICY AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None at this stage.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no financial implications as the grant has already been approved for 2006/07.

5.2 The work of the CAB should impact greatly on social inclusion and anti-poverty and diversity issues. These should be highlighted in the presentation.

6.0 RISK ANALYSIS

6.1 None directly. The PPB, however, will monitor that the grant is being spent appropriately and the Council and Halton people receive value for money.

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

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

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

8.1 None under the meaning of the Act.