

**REPORT TO:** Executive Board  
**DATE:** 20 March 2008  
**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director – Health and Community  
**SUBJECT:** Voluntary Sector Funding – Grant Allocation 2008/09  
**WARD(S):** Borough-wide

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

**1.1** To recommend Voluntary Sector Grant Awards for 2008/09.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDED THAT:**

- i) the board approve the recommended grant allocations; and**
- ii) further applications be approved by the Strategic Director, Health and Community, in consultation with the Neighbourhood Management 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 corporate and departmental 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 2008/09

### 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.

Halton Voluntary Action and Citizens Advice Bureau are to receive the largest reductions, this is proportionate with the grant levels and equates to approximately 10% on the 2007/08 allocation. As these are the two largest grants given the Panel felt this was the fairest way to deal with the budget reduction.

	2007/08	2008/09 Recommended	Variation
Cheshire Asbestos Victims Support	15,000	13,300	- 1,700
Cheshire Racial Equality Council	6,615	6,000	- 615
Cheshire Victim Support	8,400	7,400	- 1,000
Halton Citizens Advice Bureaux	152,403	139,000	- 13,403
Halton Talking Newspapers *	3,500	600	- 2,900
Halton Voluntary Action	63,586	57,000	- 6,586
Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre	3,397	3,200	- 197
Relate	10,300	9,200	- 1100
Runcorn & Frodsham Mencap	2,402	2,400	- 2
Samaritans	4,000	4,000	0
Vision Support	9,545	8,200	- 1345
Warrington Law Centre **	15,000	0	- 15,000
Widnes & Runcorn Cancer Support Group	13,000	11,848	- 1152
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£307,148</b>	<b>£262,148</b>	<b>- £45,000</b>

\* Application receiving significant reduction:-

- Halton Talking Newspapers

After inspection of the previous years accounts – this organisation only requires £600 from Voluntary Sector Core Funding to meet the required expenditure. The organisation has sufficient reserves to run for many years. Hence this significant reduction should not impede the organisations ability to deliver the service.

\*\*Application not recommended to receive funding: -

- Warrington Law Centre - £16,000

Much of the activity currently funded by this organisation could be undertaken by other advice giving departments and/or agencies. As the cases being processed are predominantly debt and welfare as opposed to specialist housing.

Warrington Law Centre will still be providing independent housing information as part of the Legal Service Contract funded by the Legal Services Commission at Runcorn Court. Similarly Shelter still receives referrals for Halton clients for specialist housing advice through a Legal Services Contract.

**4.2** It is recommended these grants be awarded for one year, 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009.

## **5.0 POLICY AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 None.

## **6.0 OTHER 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 receiving core funding grants impacts greatly on health improvements, 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.

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.