

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 17th March 2022

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, People

PORTFOLIO: Employment, Learning and Skills, Leisure, Community and Culture

SUBJECT: Voluntary Sector Funding – Grant Allocations 2022/23

WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 Voluntary Sector Funding – Grant Allocations 2022/23

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION: That:**

- i) **the Board approve the grant allocations as outlined in the report at Section 4.**

3.0 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 Halton Borough Council has been awarding direct grants to local voluntary and charitable organisations for a number of years. The opportunity is advertised on the Council website and applications invited. Applications are assessed against key criteria including: impact on and outcomes for local people; demonstrable wider social impact such as volunteering and training and development opportunities for local people; the impact on reducing the need for statutory services

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 People Directorate

3.2 **Monitoring arrangements**

- 1) All grants must agree a Service Level Agreement and provide quarterly monitoring reports. Grants under £5,000 provide midyear and end of year reports.
- 2) All grants must agree a Service Level Agreement and provide quarterly monitoring reports. Grants under £5,000 provide midyear and end of year reports

3) Voluntary sector grant performance monitoring information contributes to corporate assessments

4.0 APPROVAL OF GRANTS 2022/23

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 2022/23

The budget available is **£226,640 2022/23**

Amount	Organisation Name
£5,000	Cheshire Asbestos Victims Support
£143,350	Halton Citizens Advice Bureau
£3,000	Cheshire Race & Equality Council (CHAWREC)
£5,000	Halton Childrens Contact Centre
£38,700	Halton & St Helens VCA
£9,000	Relate
£2,590	Runcorn & Frodsham MENCAP
£4,500	Samaritans
£4,000	Vision Support
£11,500	Widnes & Runcorn Cancer Support Group

TOTAL £226,640 - This is commensurate with funding received in 2021/22

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, community involvement, anti-poverty and diversity issues.

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 works with local schools on suicide prevention and following a suicide, supporting school staff, students and their families

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

Halton Citizens Advice Bureau provides advice to families of young children about how to improve their living conditions and how to make better lifestyle choices

Cheshire, Halton and Warrington Race and Equality Centre (CHAWREC) provides support to children of Syrian refugee families who have resettled in Halton.

Halton Child Contact Centre aims to build healthy relationships with families in the event of family breakdown

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

Halton Citizens Advice Bureau in particular has experienced local volunteers gaining local employment as result of their 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 Group has a major impact on the health and wellbeing of our residents diagnosed and in remission from cancer through the support, advocacy and therapies

they are able to offer.

Cheshire, Halton & Warrington Race & Equality Centre (CHAWREC) will actively work with local BAME communities to maximise uptake of Covid-19 vaccination

Cheshire Asbestos Victims Support Group 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

7.4 **A Safer Halton**

Halton Citizens Advice Bureau provides a Hate Crime Reporting Centre.

Cheshire, Halton & Warrington Race & Equality Centre (CHAWREC) 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.

Cheshire Asbestos Victims Support Group generates awareness of the dangers of asbestos at home, at work and in the environment.

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 AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

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

10.0 **REASON(S) FOR DECISION**

A decision is required as the outcome will result in the local

authority incurring expenditure. The expenditure will provide valuable services to Halton residents, which may otherwise not be financially sustainable.

11.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

No alternative options are available to provide these funded services.

12.0 IMPLEMENTATION DATE

1st April 2022.

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

None under the meaning of the Act.