



NOTICE OF MEETING

Cabinet Voluntary Sector Committee

MONDAY, 27TH APRIL, 2009 at 19:00 HRS – CIVIC CENTRE, HIGH ROAD, WOOD GREEN, N22 8LE.

MEMBERS: Canver, Adje and Cooke (Chair) (two vacancies)

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair will consider the admission of any late items of urgent business. (Late items will be considered under the agenda item where they appear. New items will be dealt with at item 8 below New items of exempt business will be dealt with at item 11 below).

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

A member with a personal interest in a matter who attends a meeting of the authority at which the matter is considered must disclose to that meeting the existence and nature of that interest at the commencement of that consideration, or when the interest becomes apparent.

A member with a personal interest in a matter also has a prejudicial interest in that matter if the interest is one which a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the member's judgment of the public interest **and** if this interest affects their financial position or the financial position of a person or body as described in paragraph 8 of the Code of Conduct **and/or** if it relates to the determining of any approval, consent, licence, permission or registration in relation to them or any person or body described in paragraph 8 of the Code of Conduct.

4. MINUTES (PAGES 1 - 4)

To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 2 December 2008.

5. DEPUTATIONS

To consider any deputations received in accordance with Standing Orders.

6. HARINGEY DISABILITY FIRST CONSORTIUM (HDFC) UPDATE (PAGES 5 - 12)

(Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Policy, Performance, Partnerships and Communication)). To report on progress of putting in place services by the Haringey Disability First Consortium.

7. THE LEGAL SERVICES COMMISSION (LSC) LEGAL ADVICE PROCUREMENT REFORMS (PAGES 13 - 20)

(Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Policy, Performance, Partnerships and Communication)). To report on current funding arrangements with advice agencies in Haringey, reforms to the LSC procuring process and recommendations for future funding arrangements.

8. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

To consider any items admitted at item 2.

9. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The following item is likely to be the subject of a motion to exclude the press and public as it contain exempt information relating to the business or financial affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that information).

10. AFRICAN CARIBBEAN LEADERSHIP COUNCIL (ACLC) UPDATE (PAGES 21 - 24)

(Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Policy, Performance, Partnerships and Communication)). To provide an update on the current situation with the ACLC.

11. NEW ITEMS OF EXEMPT URGENT BUSINESS

To consider any items admitted at item 2.

Yuniea Semambo
Head of Local Democracy
and Member Services
River Park House
225 High Road
Wood Green
London N22 8HQ

Maria Fletcher
Principal Committee Co-ordinator
Tel No: 020 8489 1512
Fax No: 020 8489 2660
Email: maria.fletcher@haringey.gov.uk

17 April 2009

MINUTES OF THE CABINET VOLUNTARY SECTOR COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, 2 DECEMBER 2008

Councillors *Reith (Chair), *Adje and *Canver (2 vacancies)

*Present

MINUTE NO.	SUBJECT/DECISION	ACTION BY
VSGC09.	<p>MINUTES (Agenda Item 4)</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That the minutes of the meeting held on 19 July 2008 be confirmed and signed.</p>	HLDMS
VSGC10.	<p>REVIEW OF CORE GRANT FUNDING FOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND CLIENT SPECIFIC VOLUNTARY AGENCIES (Report of the Assistant Chief Executive - Policy, Performance, Partnerships and Communications – Agenda Item 6)</p> <p>The Appendices to the interleaved report were the subject of a motion to exclude the press and public from the meeting as they contained exempt information relating to the business or financial affairs of any particular person.</p> <p>We noted that for the purpose of the eligibility criteria for core funding, Infrastructure and Client Specific voluntary organisations were defined as voluntary and community organisations that played a supporting, co-ordinating, representation, policy-making and development role for other voluntary and community organisations and/or their clients who lived in the Borough. We also noted that following our meeting on 10 July an independent review of the twenty Infrastructure and Client Specific Voluntary Organisations whose three-year core funding agreements expired on 31 March 2009 had been carried out to establish whether the Organisations were still fit for purpose and financially viable for the continuation of core funding for another three-year period from 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2012.</p> <p>We were informed that CARA Housing Association was to merge with Central and Cecil Housing Trust on the 5 January 2009 and that following the merger, CARA would cease to exist as legal entity in its own right and would not be eligible for grant funding. Confirmation was given that CARA's funding up to 31 March 2009 would continue to allow them to consolidate the merger while continuing their services in Haringey.</p> <p>Our views were sought on a proposal that the grant that would otherwise have been made to CARA from 1 April 2009 be carried over and ring fenced subject to a further report by officers following any necessary consultations. We indicated that while we supported this approach consideration should be given to the grant being made to organisations working with vulnerable groups in the community and those which would address the strategic gap that had been filled by CARA.</p>	

**MINUTES OF THE CABINET VOLUNTARY SECTOR COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, 2 DECEMBER 2008**

	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the key findings of the Infrastructure and Client Specific Organisations review be noted. 2. The approval be granted to the continuation of core funding for the three year period 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2012, for the nineteen Infrastructure and Client Specific organisations, listed below subject to the conditions set out in the Appendix to the interleaved report – <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Organisation</th> <th style="text-align: right;">2009-2012* core funding allocated (£ per year)*</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Age Concern</td><td style="text-align: right;">£82,300</td></tr> <tr><td>Haringey Play Association</td><td style="text-align: right;">£22,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Haringey Women Forum</td><td style="text-align: right;">£42,100</td></tr> <tr><td>HAVCO</td><td style="text-align: right;">£148,300(including CAP)</td></tr> <tr><td>HREC</td><td style="text-align: right;">£54,600</td></tr> <tr><td>Bangladeshi Women's Association</td><td style="text-align: right;">£75,000</td></tr> <tr><td>CARIS</td><td style="text-align: right;">£30,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Collage Arts</td><td style="text-align: right;">£45,600</td></tr> <tr><td>Exposure</td><td style="text-align: right;">£18,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Greek Cypriot Women's Organisation</td><td style="text-align: right;">£67,200</td></tr> <tr><td>HAGA</td><td style="text-align: right;">£17,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Home Start</td><td style="text-align: right;">£24,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Jan Trust</td><td style="text-align: right;">£18,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Markfield Project</td><td style="text-align: right;">£98,500</td></tr> <tr><td>MIND</td><td style="text-align: right;">£67,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Northumberland Park Women & Children Centre</td><td style="text-align: right;">£50,500</td></tr> <tr><td>Turkish Cypriot Women's Project</td><td style="text-align: right;">£36,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Wise Thoughts</td><td style="text-align: right;">£18,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Hornsey YMCA</td><td style="text-align: right;">£16,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Total Budget</td><td style="text-align: right;">£930,100</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. That approval be granted to core funding for CARA Housing Association being discontinued with effect from 31 March 2009 and that a further report be submitted with proposals for the grant that would otherwise have been made to CARA from 1 April 2009. 	Organisation	2009-2012* core funding allocated (£ per year)*	Age Concern	£82,300	Haringey Play Association	£22,000	Haringey Women Forum	£42,100	HAVCO	£148,300(including CAP)	HREC	£54,600	Bangladeshi Women's Association	£75,000	CARIS	£30,000	Collage Arts	£45,600	Exposure	£18,000	Greek Cypriot Women's Organisation	£67,200	HAGA	£17,000	Home Start	£24,000	Jan Trust	£18,000	Markfield Project	£98,500	MIND	£67,000	Northumberland Park Women & Children Centre	£50,500	Turkish Cypriot Women's Project	£36,000	Wise Thoughts	£18,000	Hornsey YMCA	£16,000	Total Budget	£930,100	<p>ACE- PPP&C</p> <p>ACE- PPP&C</p>
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<p>VSGC11.</p>	<p>DISABLED PEOPLE REPRESENTATION AND ADVICE: THREE YEAR CORE COST FUNDING FOR 2009-2012 (Report of the Assistant Chief Executive - Policy, Performance, Partnerships and Communications – Agenda Item 7)</p> <p>The Appendices to the interleaved report were the subject of a motion to exclude the press and public from the meeting as they contained exempt information relating to the business or financial affairs of any particular person.</p>																																											

**MINUTES OF THE CABINET VOLUNTARY SECTOR COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, 2 DECEMBER 2008**

We noted that in September 2008 the availability of three year core cost funding for disabled people representation and advice to commence from 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2012 had been advertised. All applications received had been assessed by an officer assessment panel against set criteria relevant to the needs of disabled people, the strategic aims of the Council and the quality of the applications. Based on the assessment criteria the assessment panel were proposing that the full requested funding of £77,000 per annum over 3 years 2009-2012 be awarded to the Haringey Disability First Consortium for both Disability Advice and Representation. The Disability First Consortium's appointed lead and accountable body would be the Haringey Racial Equality Council.

We also noted that the total funding available was £80,000 per annum and that it was also proposed that the remaining £3,000 per annum be set aside to support Shop Mobility based at the Wood Green Shopping City. With regard to the disability budget under spend for 2007-08 and 2008/09 it was intended that this be awarded to the Haringey Disability First Consortium for recruitment start-up costs and any Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1995 premises adaptation costs and that any remaining under spend be awarded to Council funded voluntary and community organisations that had to make adaptations to premises to ensure compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.

Whilst the proposals contained in the report were supported, concern was expressed that there was not sufficient detail of how the Consortium would operate and we asked that officers provide Members of our Committee with a briefing paper on how the Consortium would develop effective representation and advice services for disabled people including details of defined outcomes and outputs.

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PPP&C

RESOLVED:

1. That approval be granted to three year core cost funding of £77,000 per annum to Haringey Disability First Consortium for Disabled People Representation and Advice for the financial period 2009 – 2012.
2. That approval be granted to three year core cost funding of £3,000 per annum to Shop Mobility for Disabled People Representation and Advice for the financial period 2009 – 2012.
3. The approval be granted to recruitment start-up costs from the Disabled People Representation and Advice ring fenced money from the 2007/8 under spend and the current year (2008/9) budget together with any premises adaptation costs in line with the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1995.
4. The any remaining DPRA ring fenced under spend from the 2007/8 budget and current year (2008/9) budget be awarded to Council funded voluntary and community organisations who

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**MINUTES OF THE CABINET VOLUNTARY SECTOR COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, 2 DECEMBER 2008**

	<p>needed to make adaptations to premises in line with the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1995.</p>	
<p>VSGC12.</p>	<p>AFRICAN CARIBBEAN LEADERSHIP COUNCIL (Report of the Assistant Chief Executive - Policy, Performance, Partnerships and Communications – Agenda Item 11)</p> <p>The interleaved report was the subject of a motion to exclude the press and public from the meeting as it contained exempt information relating to the business or financial affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that information).</p> <p>We noted that an officer seconded from the Council had been working with the African Caribbean Leadership Council (ACLC) as Centre Manager. At the request of ACLC this arrangement had been terminated and funding for the direct employment of a Centre Manager by ACLC had been released to the organisation. Initially this arrangement would cover a 3 month period from 3 November while further information was sought from ACLC. Provided that the information provided was satisfactory it was proposed that the funding arrangement would continue until the 31 March 2010 under the Terms and Conditions of Grants Aid.</p> <p>Having been advised that a letter had recently been sent to all Council Members on the Boards of voluntary organisations about the potential for individual financial liability, we asked that a further letter be sent to all Councillors serving on ACLC Board whether appointed by the Council or not notifying them of the proposals now under consideration and reminding them of their responsibilities as Board members.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the decision to withdraw the seconded officer from the African Caribbean Leadership Council be endorsed. 2. That the seconded officer be returned to his substantive post within Partnerships. 3. That, subject to a positive financial assessment of the African Caribbean Leadership Council financial stability by the Chief Financial Officer, approval be granted to the reinstatement of the funding to ACLC for the direct employment of a Centre Manager, with associated costs to the end of the funding period, 31 March 2010 and that the organisation be monitored on a quarterly basis in terms of their financial performance as well as the quality of the services provided. 	<p>ACE- PPP&C</p> <p>ACE- PPP&C</p> <p>ACE- PPP&C</p>

LORNA REITH
Chair



Agenda item:

[No.]**VOLUNTARY SECTOR COMMITTEE****On 27TH APRIL 2009**

Report Title. Haringey Disability First Consortium (HDFC) Update

Report of **Sharon Kemp – Assistant Chief Executive PPP&C**

Signed :

Contact Officer : Susan Humphries

Telephone 0208 489 6902 email: susan.humphries@haringey.gov.ukWards(s) affected: **ALL**Report for: **Non Key****1. Purpose of the report (That is, the decision required)**

- 1.1. To provide additional information as requested by the Voluntary Sector Committee held on 2nd December 2008 and update the Committee on the progress in putting in place services by the Haringey Disability First Consortium

2. Introduction by Cabinet Member (if necessary)

- 2.1. It is testament to the strength of the voluntary sector in Haringey that a consortium of some of our strongest VS organisations – HDAF - has been formed to address the identified gap in provision which resulted in the termination of the Council's contract with Disability Action.
- 2.2. Having a newly dedicated space for the service will be beneficial and will help the visibility of the service.
- 2.3. It will be important to establish early on how success is to be measured alongside the expected incomes.
- 2.4. I am pleased that that Governance of the new service will include a majority of service users as I expect that this will focus on the quality of the service which is to be delivered and put the service user at its centre.

3. State link(s) with Council Plan Priorities and actions and /or other Strategies:

Council Priorities-

- 3.1 Encouraging lifetime well-being, at home, work, play and learning
- 3.2 Promoting independent living while supporting adults and child when in need
- 3.3 Delivering excellent, customer focused, cost effective services.

Council Strategies

- 3.4 Haringey Local Area agreement/Haringey Community Strategy

4. Recommendations

- 4.1. That the report be noted

5. Reason for recommendation(s)

- 5.1. That the information in Appendix 1 of this report provides greater detail to the Voluntary Sector Committee on the rationale for awarding HDFC core grant funding to provide advice and representation on disability issues in Haringey.

6. Other options considered

- 6.1. N/A

7. Summary

- 7.1 The Voluntary Sector Committee held on the 2nd December requested additional information how HDFC proposed to manage and deliver representation and advice services for disabled people in Haringey. A summary of the governance, management and work programme is set out in Appendix 1.
- 7.2 HDFC anticipates being able to start delivering the advice service in April 2009 and is preparing to launch the Forum in May/June 2009. However the requirement of planning adaptations to facilitate disabled people access at the HREC building, where the majority of the services will be delivered, it is taking longer than anticipated, although it is hoped by the HDFC this will not delay the start of the project.
- 7.3 Through the monitoring process CVST Officers will be working closely with HDFC to assist in the establishment of the project and ensure agreed targets are delivered.

8. Chief Financial Officer Comments

- 8.1. The Chief Financial Officer notes the contents of this report and confirms that there are no specific financial implications arising.
- 8.2. The HDFC along with all other grant funded bodies will be subject to an annual review of their accounts to assess their on-going financial viability.

9. Head of Legal Services Comments

- 9.1. The Head of Legal Services notes the contents of the report, and advises that there are no specific legal comments.

10. Head of Procurement Comments – [Required for Procurement Committee]

- 10.1. N/A

11. Equalities &Community Cohesion Comments

- 11.1. In 2007/8, the Council withdrew a three year core funding awarded in 2006/7 to Haringey Disability Action (DA) for breach of their Terms and Conditions of Grant Aid.
- 11.2. The withdrawal of the award created a substantial gap in provision for disabled community in Haringey, especially in regard to advice and representation.
- 11.3. Anxious to plug this gap, On 2nd December 2008, this Committee received a report of the Assistant Chief Executive titled "Disabled People Representation and Advice: Three Year Core Cost Funding 2009 – 2012".
- 11.4. Amongst other things, paragraph 4 - 4.3 of that report restored three year core funding of £77,000 per annum to be awarded to Haringey Disability First Consortium to provide advice service and representation for disabled people for the financial period 2009-2012. which has formed to much welcomed funding to voluntary sector provision for disabled people in Haringey. It also made specific an award for premises adaptation which would help the Council fulfil its access duty under the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1995.
- 11.5. The restoration of funding will enable effective representation and advice services to be developed for disabled people and help sustain an umbrella body with the capacity to input into Council and local decisions on behalf of disabled

people.

11.6. There are about 33, 590 people in Haringey who have limiting long-term illnesses for whom the restoration of this provision would be most welcomed.

12. Consultation

12.1. Through a series of meetings with known disability organisations based in Haringey the Council was able to identify the areas of work required from a new project for disabled people. The open application process reflected the areas identified through this consultation process.

13. Service Financial Comments

13.1. Funding awarded to HDFC is contained within the corporate grants budget.

14. Use of appendices /Tables and photographs

N/A

15. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

15.1. [List background documents]

15.2. [Also list reasons for exemption or confidentiality (if applicable)]

APPENDIX 1

Haringey Disability First Consortium (HDFC)

1. HDFC consists of four partners:
 - Haringey Racial Equality Council (HREC)
 - Haringey Citizen's Advice Bureau (HCAB)
 - Age Concern Haringey
 - Haringey Women's Forum
2. The aim of HDFC is to make a tangible difference to the way disabled people in Haringey receive advice and are represented on disability issues.
3. HDFC will establish an advice and representation service for clients who are living and/or working in Haringey. Haringey Racial Equality Council and Haringey CAB will extend their services to include two part-time dedicated caseworkers to deliver the advice service. In addition 2 part time officer will be based at HREC to co-ordinate and facilitate the representation role of HDFC.
4. The HDFC will also establish appropriate networks to develop full participation from all sections of the local disabled community to improve local service delivery and the planning of future services and policies.

How the Consortium will be managed

5. Project Steering Group: The four Consortium organisations will each recruit members so that the governance consists of at least 60% user representatives who will play a key role in steering the project and delivering the outcomes.
6. Initially, the HDFC Management Committee will consist of 2 representatives from each partner organisation (one staff and one MC Member), one of which will be a representative of disabled people. The remaining places on the management committee will be reserved for co-options from user groups/clients representing disabled people. The Management Committee will work to a Terms of Reference and a Business Plan – both of which are currently being developed.
7. The Consortium members have already indicated the need for further training and discussion on the future governance of the HDFC. Therefore the HDFC will be appointing an external consultant to look at any current models of good practice and will advise the members on the best model to adopt for Haringey. The Consortium is also seeking governance guidance from national agencies such as the Equalities and Human Rights Commission and the Charity Commission.

8. During the lead in period, initially the Management Committee will meet once a week. Once the HDFC Management Committee is fully established it aims to meet at least once a month during the first six months.

PROJECT DELIVERY

9. Representation

The HDFC will establish and facilitate a HDFC Forum for individuals and organisations to be held at least three times a year providing central coordinating support to its members. Two part-time workers will be employed to implement the work of the Forum. They will also arrange the Forum meetings; user group meetings; training and seminars as well as regular information updates via a newsletter, website and briefings.

The HDFC forum will also:

- Actively raise awareness of disability issues within the wider community
- Provide a strategic representation service on behalf of clients and/or their advocates
- Compile a database of local agencies who provide specialist advice/services on disability issues, for use in signposting and networking
- Be proactive in promoting effective partnerships with the statutory sector and other relevant bodies
- Broker a means to deliver disability service improvements locally

PROJECTS OUTCOMES

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| Outcome 1 | An effective Forum preceded by user groups informing the Forum on the strategic direction of the Consortium – 3 Forums per year |
| Outcome 2 | Minimum 6 briefings/seminars per year selected by the Forum on relevant subjects such as the Personalisation Agenda |
| Outcome 3 | 15 people within the Consortium per year will receive training specific to disability provision. |

15 service providers/users per year to also receive training

10. Advice provision

HRECs offices will operate a drop-in service (two days a week) and an appointment service (two days a week). There will also be a telephone, email, SMS and correspondence service during the week. HCAB will undertake advice needs assessments and casework and, where necessary, assist clients with benefits applications. HCAB will also provide quality assured advice on debt, employment, immigration and housing etc. It is expected that this seamless service will enable more efficient referrals on to specialists – both internally and externally. Advice may also be delivered at outreach points from Age Concern Haringey and Haringey Women's Forum.

At the end of the first year an impact analysis review will be undertaken to provide the basis for informing key policy decision makers of potential gaps in service provision and to make recommendations for service improvement. Relevant information will also be shared with other agencies via the Forum and local networks.

PROJECT OUTCOMES

- Outcome 1 Better access to quality information and advice through a central office, referrals and outreach sessions

- Outcome 2 Better advocacy
(Work to be undertaken to assess the implications of developments in the individual budgets proposals. This is to be done in consultation with the representation side of the project)

- Outcome 3 Increased understanding – Group sessions to provide general information on welfare benefits etc

(The frequency of sessions and numbers of people expected to attend per year will be determined after initial research has been carried out)

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Agenda item:

[No.]**VOLUNTARY SECTOR COMMITTEE****On 27TH APRIL 2009**

Report Title. **The Legal Services Commission (LSC) Legal Advice Procurement Reforms**

Report of **Sharon Kemp - Assistant Chief Executive – PPP&C**

Signed :

Contact Officer : Susan Humphries - Corporate Voluntary Sector Team Manager

Telephone 0208 489 6902 susan.humphries@haringey.gov.uk

Wards(s) affected: **ALL**

Report for: **Non Key**

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1. To provide a background to the current funding arrangement with the advice agencies in Haringey
- 1.2. To set out the reforms in the LSC procuring process (Appendix 1)
- 1.3. To make recommendations to explore future funding arrangements in partnership with the LSC, Haringey's Community Legal Services Partnership (HCLSP) and legal advice agencies in Haringey.

2. Introduction by Cabinet Member (if necessary)

- 2.1. It's right to look at how future funding arrangements, different from those in place today, could improve the provision of legal services for local people, especially if this is likely to provide a higher quality service at this time of economic difficulty (or legacy of same) and represent better value for money for the Authority.
- 2.2. The option of pooling resources is, I believe, the right one to take as it gives us

the opportunity to ensure that the service really meets the demands of local people; the commissioning of the new service would be unilaterally made by the LSC if we do not take the opportunity to form it ourselves without knowing local need and demand.

- 2.3. As Haringey does is not deemed to have the capacity for creating a legal services centre, a lot of thought will need to be given as to how residents are made aware of the existence of Community Local Advice Networks and how accessible they are given that they will not have the dedicated physical presence of a CLAC.

3. State link(s) with Council Plan Priorities and actions and /or other Strategies:

Council Priorities-

- 3.1 Encouraging lifetime well-being, at home, work, play and learning
- 3.2 Promoting independent living while supporting adults and child when in need
- 3.3 Delivering excellent, customer focused, cost effective services.

Council Strategies

- 3|4 Haringey Local Area Agreement/Haringey Community Strategy

4. Recommendations

That the Voluntary Sector Committee is recommended to agree:

- 4.1 That officers explore with the LSC the possibility of pooling a portion of the grant aid resources with LSC and once agreement is reached negotiate, within the rules of procurement, a service specification which is heavily weighted towards addressing the specific local and cultural needs of the communities of Haringey.
- 4.2 That Council agree that officers explore with the LSC establishing a CLAN in Haringey and report back on progress with further recommendations to the VSC in November 2009 as currently there is no capacity for a centrally based Community Legal Advice Centre (CLAC) in Haringey.
- 4.3 That in exploring putting in place a CLAN in Haringey it is agreed that this should only be established if it does not present a threat to the continuity to the current main local providers of legal advice services.

5. Reason for recommendation(s)

- 5.1 It is important that Haringey works positively with the LSC, while at the same time working with well established and respected services that are delivered locally to ensure that they are engaged in the process. By pooling an element of the grant aid funding with the LSC contract funding through a tightly drawn service specification, weighted heavily towards delivering advice services to meet local needs, the Council will seek to support, prior to a tender process, those advice agencies who are best placed through local knowledge to address the specific needs of Haringey's community.

- 5.2 As Haringey does not have the capacity for a physical Centre (CLAC) officers will work in partnership with local advice providers through the Community Legal Services Partnership (CLSP) to exploring the establishment of a CLAN. The aim of the CLAN will be to make sure that clients are able to get help with their civil legal problems through services which are easily accessible and identifiable.
- 5.3 Key to the success of the Network concept is the intention to design services around peoples needs and officers from the Council and the LSC will work with the HCLSP, the Advice Providers Network and local service providers to make sure that they are able to contribute their views and comments before any final decision is made by the Council to pool resources.
- 5.4 Haringey would continue to contribute to core funding services that are not covered by legal aid such as general help services and specialist work that falls outside of the LSC's eligibility criteria.
- 5.5 The recommendations do present a risk to current providers as, with any procurement process, tendering would be open to bids from other agencies inside and outside of the borough.

6. Other options considered

- 6.1 Haringey chooses not to pool funding with the LSC. The LSC would then undertake an open bidding process based on a service specification that does not have the influence or input of Haringey in the awarding of advice contracts. This could potentially result in a disinvestment of Haringey's historic funding support by the LSC of its voluntary legal advice sector – namely the HCAB and Haringey Law Centre as the LSC could establish a separate service for delivering their specialist legal services which may not be a Haringey based agency. This would result in a loss of funding to the HCAB and the Haringey Law Centre and could lead to fragmented services leading to a reduction of essential services for the residents of Haringey.
- 6.2 Subject to a satisfactory advice funding review being undertaken in 2009/2010, Haringey would continue with current advice funding arrangements of contributing to funding core advice services that are not covered by legal aid, such as general help services and some specialist level work that falls outside of the LSC's eligibility criteria.

7. Summary

- 7.1. The core grant aid programme currently has a 3 year funding agreements (2007-10) with 2 main advice providers: Haringey Citizen's Advice Bureau (HCAB) and Haringey Law Centre (HLC).

HCAB - Core grant funding in 2009/10 is £689,700pa (including inflation). This funding supports the core services of HCAB provided from 3 locations in the borough with telephone advice and additional outreach work. Annual turnover is approx 1.1million. Casework undertaken over the year according to the latest annual report was 13,212 in 15 category areas.

HLC – Core grant funding in 2009/10 is £117,900 pa (including inflation). This funding supports the core services from 1 location in the borough. Annual turnover is approx £210k. Casework undertaken over the year according to the last annual report was 660 in 6 category areas.

- 7.2 A funding review of these organisations will take place during 2009 with recommendation on future funding arrangement presented to the Voluntary Sector Committee in December 2009. This review presents the ideal opportunity to explore with Haringey's Community Legal Partnership (CLSP) the LSC proposals and if considered beneficial change how funding is distributed.
- 7.3 **LSC funding 2007/8** - HCAB were awarded approx £64,215 from the LSC which represented approx 6% of their total funding for the financial year. The Haringey Law Centre were awarded approx £69,732 from the LSC which represented approx 32% of their total funding for the financial year.
- 7.4 The financial value of the recommendation in 4.1 will not need to be the whole of the advice budget currently administrated by the Corporate Voluntary Sector Team but will be determined in negotiation with the LSC in consultation with voluntary sector advice provider.

8. Chief Financial Officer Comments

- 8.1. The Chief Financial Officer notes that the recommendation is to explore the potential to create a CLAN funded via a pooling of part of the Council's grant aid resource with some from the Legal Services Commission. This is being driven by recent reviews of legal aid procurement.
- 8.2. At this stage any discussions would only be exploratory and would not commit Haringey to any procurement activity however, it is sensible to explore as there should be positive outcomes for Haringey residents. Also, as stated in paragraph 7.2 there is a planned review of the allocation of these grants in 2009/10, which provides the opportunity to build any proposals into the recommendation report to the Committee in December.
- 8.3. Issues that officers will need to address when negotiating and compiling their recommendations include the impact on organisations currently receiving grant funding particularly around their on going financial viability; any additional burdens or resource implications for the CVSU on entering into a joint procurement and to ensure that any proposed accounting arrangements surrounding pooled budgets can be agreed as satisfactory by the Section 151 officer.

9. Head of Legal Services Comments

9.1. The Head of Legal Services notes the contents of the report.

9.2. Subject to the Chief Financial Officer confirming that pooling of resources with the LSC, is compliant with the Council's Financial Regulations, the Head of Legal Services confirms that there is nothing preventing Members from approving the recommendations in this report.

9.3. Any subsequent procurement process must be compliant with European Procurement Regulations (where applicable) and the Council's Contract Standing Orders.

10. Head of Procurement Comments – [Required for Procurement Committee]

10.1. The Head of Procurement notes the content of this report

10.2. Any procurement process undertaken must be compliant with EU Regulations and as such must be opened up to fair and transparent competition. This will mean that bids from organisations both inside and outside the borough must be evaluated on an equal basis.

11. Equalities & Community Cohesion Comments

11.1. The Equalities Team agrees that potentially, arrangements with the Legal Services Commission (LSC) would enhance the scope of community legal services to residents of Haringey.

11.2. Any arrangements agreed with LSC will be subject to an equalities impact assessment following which a considered equalities comment will be provided along with the report presenting those arrangements and any recommendations to Members.

12. Consultation

12.1 The changes in LSC funding arrangements have been discussed with the voluntary sector through the Community Legal Services Partnership. Membership of the HCLSP includes Haringey Citizen's Advice Bureau, Haringey Law Centre and HAVCO.

12. Service Financial Comments

- a. The current funding allocation for advice agencies in the core grants programme is £828,100 per annum.
- b. All negotiation with the LSC and new funding arrangements with the advice agencies will be contained within this funding allocation.

13. Use of appendices /Tables and photographs

- a. N/A

14. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- a. [List background documents]
- b. [Also list reasons for exemption or confidentiality (if applicable)]

APPENDIX 1

BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT

CLACs and CLANs

1. The Legal Services Commission (LSC) wants to move towards the provision of integrated social welfare law services provided at a local level through either a local Community Legal Advice Centre (CLAC) or if a physical centre is not an option Community Legal Advice Networks (CLAN) with a lead agency being responsible for being accountable for meeting the contract requirements and ensuring well managed services are delivered to meet the needs of the local community
2. The aim of these integrated services is to enable clients to access a full range of publicly funded legal services, minimising the need for referral. These services will cover general and specialist advice – from initial advice to representation at court – together with the core bundle of social welfare law categories plus – in Centres only – family law.
3. The procurement of integrated social welfare law services through CLACs and CLANs is a key part of the LSCs five-year strategy for the Community Legal Service entitled Making Legal Rights a Reality.

Why does the LSC want to procure services in this way?

4. The Making Legal Rights a Reality strategy was published in 2006 and was subsequently accepted by Lord Carter of Coles in his review of legal aid procurement and forms the basis for his recommendations for the LSCs future procurement of advice and representation across the whole of non-family civil legal aid.
5. The Government and the LSC have now accepted these recommendations and are working in developing new procurement mechanism to take forward as part of the LSCs reform programme.
6. Research by the Legal Services Research Centre shows that clients often experience clusters of problems: one problem can trigger further problems and the more times a person is referred on, the less likely they will get the advice they need. Additionally research by Cardiff University and Matrix Research and Consultancy showed that clients frequently present with problems that cut across category boundaries.

7. The LSC vision is to procure services that offer seamless legal advice provision reflecting a range of client problems, making it easier for people to access the advice they need.
8. Current LSC funding provision across England and Wales tends to be fragmented and the Commission has found that over 80% of providers deliver advice in only one or two social welfare law categories.
9. The LSC believes that the decision to develop CLACs or CLANs is essential if advice services are to meet advice seekers needs as effectively and efficiently as possible over the next five years.

The LSC also believes that Centres or Networks will allow both the LSC and local authorities to maximise the value of their resources, pooling funds where they share common objectives. The rationale is that more joined up working will lead to less duplication in effort and better-linked services.

What is the LSCs proposal for Haringey?

10. The LSC would like to jointly commission a CLAC or CLAN in Haringey from 2010 and would expect Haringey to put a realistic level of funding into the service. This would not need to be the whole of the advice budget currently administered by the Corporate Voluntary Sector Team.
11. A joint service specification for the procurement of a CLAC or CLAN service would need to be drawn up and advertised. The tender would then be open to local organisations/consortia within Haringey and outer-borough agencies.

Document is exempt

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