



Haringey Council

Agenda item:

[No.]

**VOLUNTARY SECTOR COMMITTEE**

**On 27<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2009**

Report Title. Haringey Disability First Consortium (HDFC) Update

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

Signed :

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Wards(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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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)