

**Meeting:** Well-Being Strategic Partnership Board

**Date:** 24 September 2009

**Report Title:** Area Based Grant Projects: 2008/9 End of Year Review

**Report of:** Margaret Allen, Assistant Director, Safeguarding & Strategic Services

### **Purpose**

To provide the Well-being Partnership Board with an overview of the 2008/09 end of year review of Area Based Grant (ABG) funded projects, including the an outline of the process and summary of results.

### **Summary**

#### ***1.0 Background:***

1.1 The theme board allocations of the ABG for 2009/10 and 2010/11 were approved by Cabinet on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2009. The Well Being Partnership Board was allocated £5.143 million for 2009/10 and £5.143 million for 2010/11. Of this amount, £230k relates to 20% of the total Carers Grant allocation which is passported to Children and Young People Services for their subsequent allocation.

1.2 In 2009/10, this money funds 52 projects, 80% of which support statutory services.

#### ***2.0 The review process:***

2.1 The Governance and Partnerships team, in conjunction with colleagues from Corporate Finance and on behalf of the Well Being Partnership Board, undertook an end of year review (2008/09) of all ABG funded projects, during the first quarter of 2009/10. This involved a self assessment followed by call-overs, where Project Managers were given the opportunity to provide clarification or additional information by way of evidence and benefits/outcomes to our service users and/or carers. Evidence submitted included case studies, surveys and feedback from service users, and monitoring and assessment forms.

2.2 The focus of the end of year review was to get a greater understanding of how the ABG is being utilised across the Partnership; informing whether projects in receipt of funding

demonstrate value for money and are delivering against the priority outcomes and Local Area Agreement/National Indicators as well as the Sustainable Community Strategy outcomes.

2.3 The end of year review findings and recommendations were ratified by the Well-being Chairs Executive in June 2009 on behalf of the Well-being Partnership Board.

2.4 In June 2009, Project Managers were informed of the panel's recommendations for funding post-September 2009.

### **3.0 Results of the review:**

3.1 It was recommended that all 52 projects receive continuation funding until the end of March 2010 (see Appendix 1). The panel worked closely with all Project Managers to ensure the projects were working to SMART targets and achieving maximum outcomes for service users and their carers.

3.2 34 projects will receive continuation funding until the end of March 2011, subject to confirmation from 'Communities and Local Government' (CLG) in April 2010 and the 2009/10 end of year review.

3.3 The remaining 18 projects are required to undergo further reviews, in conjunction with the Council's contracts team, in order to ensure they are delivering effectively towards the LAA targets, prior to confirming 2010/11 funding.

3.4 All of the projects will be subject to the Council's budget, performance and, where applicable, contract monitoring and end of year reviews.

### **Financial Implications**

The ABG allocation of £5.143m includes £230k Carers Grant allocated to Children's Services. This report recommends allocation of the balance.

Whilst ABG funding has been agreed for 2010/11 and 2011/12 it is possible that allocations will reduce given the current economic climate.

Funding has been agreed for 52 projects, allocating all available funding for the current financial year. No allowance has been made for inflation and projects will be required to make efficiency savings in order to remain within their funding allocation.

For 2010/11, 34 projects have been agreed and the remaining 18 will undergo further review. Again, no allowance will be made for inflationary increases and further efficiencies within the projects must be found.

**Recommendations**

That the Board notes the information within this report.

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