

Agenda item

CEMB
Haringey Strategic Partnership

13/03/2007
22/03/2007

Subject: Community Empowerment in Haringey, next steps

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To formally consider the de-recognition of existing arrangements for community empowerment (CE) in Haringey.
- 1.2 To consider next steps in relation to the development and management of new arrangements for community empowerment in Haringey.

2. Summary

- 2.1 The Council took the decision to withdraw funding from the existing Community Empowerment Network from the 15th January 2007.
- 2.2 As a consequence it is necessary to formally de-recognise the old arrangements and develop new structures for community empowerment in the Borough.
- 2.3 The HSP Chair and Vice Chair agreed that the Council commission a community development advisor to develop a new model for a CE structure in collaboration with HAVCO. It is suggested that this new model is considered at the next HSP meeting.
- 2.4 All future community representatives on the HSP and Theme Boards would be nominated and elected through the new community empowerment (CE) structure.
- 2.5 It is envisaged that the new structure will be in place by September 2007. This leaves a period when interim arrangements for community representation will need to be agreed and these are currently being developed.

3 Recommendations

- 3.1 Note the Councils decision to withdraw grant funding from HarCEN from the 22nd of January. This was owing to significant weaknesses relating to the governance and management of the organisation, which indicated that HarCEN were unfit for purpose as a vehicle to deliver community empowerment in Haringey. Note the appeal panel's verdict on the 12th of January to uphold the Councils decision to withdraw grant funding to HarCEN.
- 3.2 In light of recommendation 1.1 for the HSP to agree, to de-recognise HarCEN from the HSP Board and from each Theme Board.
- 3.3 To agree that all future community representatives on the HSP and Theme Boards are nominated and elected through the new CE structure.
- 3.4 To note that discussions on the development of a new CE model with HAVCO are underway and to receive a proposal at the next meeting.
- 3.5 To agree that proposed arrangements for selecting interim community representatives are delegated to the HSP Chair and Vice Chair for approval.

4. Background Information

- 4.1 The ultimate aim of CENs is to enable and support community representatives to be involved on how decisions on local services should be planned and delivered through their Local Strategic Partnerships. Representation should genuinely be from the local community rather than from the voluntary sector and this distinction is important.
- 4.2 Most CENs were placed within the local CVS but at the time of the CEN being introduced, Haringey did not have a functioning CVS. For this reason GOL took the decision to put in place an alternative provider (HarCEN) under the administration of the Scarman Trust as the accountable body.
- 4.3 Since April 2006 the Councils Corporate Voluntary Sector Team (CVST) has been administering the funding to HarCEN.

5 Current position

- 5.1 Following the transfer of funding for HarCEN from the 1st April 2006, to the SSCF, HarCEN were awarded £169k for the year 2006/07. As the accountable body, the Council undertook an evaluation of the organisation, in particular the ability of HarCEN to ensure effective and representative community engagement to the HSP. The evaluation initially uncovered weaknesses relating to the governance and management of HarCEN which led to concerns on the impact this would have on their

ability to consistently engage and deliver an effective Community Empowerment Network or Structure.

- 5.2 Under the Terms and Conditions of Revenue Grant Aid upon which arrangement this funding was awarded these concerns would have initiated a default notice with a time frame for improvement. However before the Council could take this action HarCEN made an inappropriate decision relating to a small commissioning programme which has left the organisation open to challenge and drew into question their financial probity. This decision constituted a major breach of Terms and Conditions of Revenue Grant Aid and because of this the Council as the accountable body took the decision to withdraw funding from HarCEN with effect from the 15th January 2007.
- 5.3 The Terms and Conditions of Grant Revenue Aid provide opportunity for organisations to lodge an appeal against the Council's decision within 10 working days from the date of notification. HarCEN appealed against the Council's decision to withdraw funding and the appeal was heard by a Panel made of 3 Members of the HSP with an observer from an independent voluntary agency from outside the Borough. The panel agreed to uphold the Council's decision to withdraw funding.

6 Way forward

Continued community representation

- 6.1 As HarCEN has been considered unfit for purpose as a vehicle to deliver community empowerment in Haringey, and funding has been withdrawn on this basis, existing community representation put forward by HarCEN can no longer be considered as legitimate.
- 6.2 It would be inappropriate for HarCEN to continue, to be represented on the HSP. It would therefore be necessary to formally de-recognise HarCEN from the HSP and Theme Boards, and implement the appropriate process for the de-selection of these representatives.
- 6.3 The role of a CEN is to ensure the views of small, often marginalised groups within the community are heard. It is vital that this continues to be supported especially in a borough as ethnically diverse as Haringey. Therefore, it is critical that Haringey continues to resource and support community empowerment to ensure key partners and the community are fully involved and have influence at HSP level.
- 6.4 The table in Appendix 1 sets out the current voluntary and community sector representation HSP and Theme Boards. There are 4 representatives that have been selected through HarCEN to cover 6 positions. 10 community representatives have been independently selected. It is proposed that community representation from hereon be managed in 3 phases:

- De-recognition of HarCEN from the HSP and Theme Boards and de-selection of the 4 current representatives that cover 6 positions
- Selection of 6 interim representatives to fill vacancies left by HarCEN representatives
- Nomination and election of all community representatives through the new CE structure

Management of the new CE Structure

- 6.5 The Council commissioned a small scoping exercise in order to identify best practice in CE structure development. This scoping exercise has shown that the vast majority of CE structures are linked or contracted to local Council for Voluntary Services. It is therefore proposed that HAVCO manage the new CE structure.
- 6.6 The HSP Chair and Vice Chair agreed that the Council commission a community development advisor to develop a new model for a CE structure in collaboration with HAVCO. The aims of the advisors brief were to:
- Develop a model for a CE structure which will bring together local groups and community networks so they may be involved as equal partners on how decisions on local services should be planned and delivered through their Local Strategic Partnerships.
 - Develop a proposal for interim arrangements.

A model for a new CE structure

- 6.7 The community development advisor has held preliminary meetings with HAVCO and it is envisaged that the model will be finalised by the end of the current financial year.
- 6.8 Any proposed model for a new CE structure would need to be appraised to ensure that it provides robust arrangements for community empowerment and representation. The model will need to:
1. Be cost effective and efficient in the use of resources
 2. Build on existing networks and develop new forums and networks where there are gaps
 3. Give a voice to a range of communities
 4. Provide clear lines of accountability
 5. Have clear processes for selecting representatives
 6. Offer effective representation training
- 6.9 It would therefore seem appropriate for the HSP to agree recommendations on any proposed CE structure. It is suggested that the new model is considered at the next HSP meeting.

- 6.10 The Council would need to work collaboratively with HAVCO in order to set up arrangements for a new structure. It is proposed that professional expertise is sought in order to undertake this work, to be resourced within existing budgets. HAVCO would subsequently be responsible for managing the new CE structure with support from the Council.
- 6.11 The community development advisor has indicated that a realistic time-scale for setting up arrangements for a new CE structure will be approximately 6 months. A new model would be operational by the end of September 2007. This leaves a period of time where no community representation will be in place.

Interim arrangements

- 6.12 It is proposed that the Council work with HAVCO to ensure that interim arrangements for community representation on the HSP are put in place until September 2007. Furthermore as the community development advisor is tasked with the development of interim arrangements it is proposed that the mechanism for selecting these interim community representatives is agreed by the HSP Chair and Vice Chair.

Monitoring and support

- 6.13 Monitoring and supporting the ongoing management of any new arrangements could be undertaken through the Councils CVST. The CVST has the staffing resources and established monitoring framework in place.

7. Finance and Legal Comments

7.1 Comments of the Director of Finance

- 7.1.1 The Director of Finance has been consulted on the preparation of this report and notes that the full costs of the independent consultant will be met from grant funding this financial year. The on-going costs for HAVCO managing the CEN on behalf of the HSP will be met from central government grant (SSCF/LAA) managed by Haringey as the accountable body.

7.2 Comments of the Head of Legal Services

- 7.2.1 The Head of Legal Services notes the contents of the report and confirms its previous advice in relation to recommendations for de-selection of HarCEN being made in accordance with the HSP's governance arrangements i.e. by way of decision of the HSP.

7.2.2 The Head of Legal Services notes the interim and future arrangements for community sector representation on the HSP and advises that these are backed up with robust contractual and monitoring arrangements.

Report of: Justin Holliday ACE (PPPC)

Appendix 1

BOARD	Name	Position	Name of Organisation	
			Community Sector	Voluntary Sector
Main HSP Board	Faiza Rizvi	Chair	HarCEN	
	Mohammed Elmi	MC Member		
	Lauritz Hansen-Bay	Secretary		
	Markos Chrysostomou	MC member		HAVCO
	Dixie-Ann Joseph	MC member		
	John Egbo	MC member		
	Pastor Nims Obunge	Chief Executive		Peace Alliance
	Shayan Mofitzadeh	Youth Councillor	Haringey Youth Council	
	Adam Jogee	Youth Councillor		
HWBPB – Haringey Well-Being Partnership Board	Stanley Hui	Director		HAVCO
	Robert Edmonds	Director		Age Concern
	Faiza Rizvi	Chair	HarCEN	
	Steve Hill	Employee		
SCEB – Safer Communities Executive Board-	Pastor Nims Obunge	Chief Executive		Haringey Peace Alliance
	Stanley Hui	Director		HAVCO

BOARD	Name	Position	Name of Organisation	
			Community Sector	Voluntary Sector
CYPSPB – Children and Young People’s Strategic Partnership Board	Jim Shepley	Chair		HAVCO
	Stanley Hui	Director		
	Shayan Mofitzedeh	Youth Councillor	Haringey Youth Council	
	Adam Jogee	Youth Councillor		
BPP – Better Places Partnership	Dave Morris	Community reps.	Haringey Federation of Residents Association	
	Ibilola Campbell			
	Bob Maltz			
	Catherine Stenzl	Community reps.	Friends of Parks	
	Cheri Williams			
	Pamela Moffat	Chair	Mobility Forum	
Enterprise Board	Alex Joseph	Director		Selby Trust
	Stanley Hui	Director		HAVCO
	Manoj Ambasna	Programme Director		Collage Arts
	Faiza Rizvi	Chair	HarCEN	