



Haringey Council

Agenda item:

Voluntary Sector Committee

On 10th July 2008

Report Title: REVIEW OF CLIENT SPECIFIC AND INFRASTRUCTURE ORGANISATIONS.

Forward Plan reference number (if applicable): **[add reference]**

Report of: Sharon Kemp, Assistant Chief Executive, Policy, Performance, Partnerships and communications

Wards(s) affected: **All**

Report for: Information

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To inform the Voluntary Sector Committee (VSC) of the Review of the twenty (20) Client Specific and Infrastructure organisations whose Core Funding comes to an end in March 2009.
- 1.2 To report on the process to be used to make informed decisions on the continuation of the Council's financial support through core funding to these organisations who, through the assessment and evaluation process are considered 'fit for purpose ' and financially viable.

2. Introduction by Cabinet Member (if necessary)

- 2.1 Voluntary organisations in Haringey play a key role in providing services, especially to our most disadvantaged and vulnerable groups. They provide a voice for community representation and consultation and add value through the use of volunteers and building social capital. They are an essential partner in assisting the Council meet its strategic priorities.
- 2.1 The Council makes a substantial investment via grant aid to the voluntary sector each year. We need to ensure the money is well spent. Many organisations approach us for help with funding but we are only able to assist a limited number of them. In fairness to those organisations we cannot help it is important we monitor and evaluate those we do to ensure they are adding value though their work in our communities.

3 Recommendations

3.1 That the VSC note the process being used to assess and evaluate the organisations whose Core Funding comes to an end in March 2009.

3.2 To note that organisations that have proven through the assessment and evaluation process to be 'fit for purpose and financially viable' will be recommended to the VSC to be considered for continued financial support through Core Funding.

Report Authorised by: Sharon Kemp Assistant Chief Executive PPP&C

Contact Officer: Karlene Akindede – Manager Grants Programme Corporate Voluntary Sector Team

4 Chief Financial Officer Comments

4.1 The Chief Financial Officer has been consulted on this report and has no additional comments to make.

5 Head of Legal Services Comments

5.1 As stated in paragraph 1 above the purpose of this report is to inform the VSGC of the review of the 20 Client Specific and Infrastructure organisations whose core funding comes to an end in March 2009; and to report on the process to be used to make an informed decision on the continuation of the Council's financial support through core funding to these organisations.

The Head of Legal Services notes the contents of the report and advises that there are no legal implications for the Council at this stage.

6 Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

7 Strategic Implications

Core Funding has been awarded to cover core costs which are intended to contribute to the cost of running an organisation and to support and invest in the organisation's strategic activities. Should funding be withdrawn from any of these organisations there could be serious implications with regards to sustainability.

8 Financial Implications

8.1 Core Funding for organisations is within the allocated budget approvals for the mainstream grants programme within Corporate Voluntary Sector Team.

8.2 The cost for the independent assessor's post will be maintained within the CVST existing budget which will be met from the savings made by the reduction of the Managers hours from 36 to 18 hours.

Legal Implications

9. There is no legal implications

9 Equalities Implications

There is no equalities implications

10 Consultation

10.1 Ongoing discussions with organisations subject to this process take place through regular monitoring visits and ongoing informal contacts.

11 Background

12.1 The Council's mainstream grants programme of £2.5 million is administered through Policy, Performance Partnership and Communication via the Corporate Voluntary Sector Team (CVST).

12.2 The CVST provides core funding as an overall contribution towards organisational salaries and running costs to meet its strategic objectives. This core cost is provided to approximately 40 organisations through three year grant aid funding agreements. The distribution of this funding is divided into the following streams:

- Legal & Advice
- Community Centres and
- Client Specific & Infrastructure Organisations

The CVST's grant programme for each of the above funding streams is operated on a rolling basis. The existing 3 years Core Funding to Client Specific & Infrastructure Organisations comes to an end in March 2009 Therefore they need to be assessed and reviewed for recommending future funding from 2009-2012.

13. Client Specific and Infrastructure Organisations.

13.1 The definition of an Infrastructure/Client Specific organisation in order to be eligible for this funding is:

Voluntary and community organisations that play a supporting, coordinating, representation, policy-making and development role for other voluntary and community organisations and/or their clients who live in Haringey.

Many of these organisations, particularly the client specific organisations, will also deliver services to their client group, funded through other income streams.

13.2 Following an open bidding process, the Voluntary Sector Committee (formerly the Voluntary Sector Grants Committee) held on the 6th September 2005 agreed core funding for 3 years to the Client Specific & Infrastructure Organisations for the financial years 2006-.2009.

13.3 The organisations listed below, which are funded under this funding stream, will need to be evaluated and assessed to enable an informed decision on whether these organisations are still fit for purpose and financially viable for the continuation of core funding from 2009 -2012.

13.4 Infrastructure Organisations

- Age Concern
- Haringey Voluntary and Community Organisation (HAVCO)
- Haringey Play Association
- Haringey Racial Equality Council
- Haringey Womens Forum

Client Specific Organisations

- Bangladeshi Womens Association
- Cara
- Caris
- Collage Art
- Exposure
- Greek Cypriot Organisation
- Haringey (HAGA)
- Home Start
- Jan Trust
- Markfield Project
- MIND in Haringey
- Northumberland Park Women and Children
- Wise Thoughts
- Turkish Cypriot Women Project
- YMCA

14 Budget Allocation

- 14.1 £1,062,900 is the annual budget allocated to this funding stream for the new 3 year grant aid funding period from 2009-2012.
- 14.2 In order to implement the new 2009-2012 grant aid funding agreements for Client Specific & Infrastructure Organisations, an evaluation and assessment of their service provision needs to be undertaken. For an equitable and unbiased review to be undertaken, it would be prudent that the evaluation and assessment be carried out independently of the existing staff based in the Corporate Voluntary Sector Team. Therefore, a specialist in the field of evaluation and assessment has been appointed on a fixed term contract to undertake the review and assessment of these organisations.

15 Evaluator/Assessors Remit

- 15.1 The appointed officer will aim to:
- Identify any difference in the performance of the organisations over the current three year funding period (2006-2009) and to ascertain whether or not they still meet the strategic objectives of the Council as set out in their 3 year Business Plan which was attached to their application form
 - Identify whether or not the organisations still represent value for money and are fit for purpose in terms of the quality and impact of service delivery both as a funded organisation and in how their services meet the needs of the local community and contribute to community cohesion
 - Identify any added value of continuing funding to the organisation taking into account their historic ability to comply with their service level agreement and all governing policies relating to the organisation
 - Make recommendations that will inform decisions on whether to award new three year funding agreements for these organisations.
 - Identify any risk associated with the withdrawal of grant aid to any organisation
 - Review work done by the organisations over the past three years 06/07, 07/08 and 08/09

15.2 Projected Time line

PHASE 1 - APPOINTMENT OF CONSULTANT/ PROJECT OFFICER - May 2008

Contact appropriate recruitment agencies with JD and Project Briefing

Assess CV's presented

Interview prospective candidates

Appoint independent consultant/ project officer

Put in place temporary contract agreement

PHASE 2 PROJECT SCOPE & METHODOLOGY - June 2008

Develop Project Scope & Plan based on Project Brief

Review previous review outcomes to set benchmarks & project outcomes

To establish and undertake evaluation criteria

Letters to be sent to organisations informing them of forthcoming evaluation, timeline and who will be conducting the review

Self Assessment Form and request for organisation to submit information

PHASE 3: ANALYSIS OF PROVIDER INFORMATION & PROVIDER INTERVIEWS July – August 2008

Receipt of Self Assessment & Information from Providers

Follow up any outstanding Self Assessments and Provider Information

Collate information for the Project Officer/ Consultant

Analysis of information

Interviews with client specific and infrastructure organisations

PHASE 4: RESULT OF ASSESSMENT & EVALUATION August – September 2008

Present individual organisation assessment

Present overall assessment of performance of client specific and infrastructure organisations

Feedback to key stakeholders and providers

Provider information to inform recommendations to establish outcomes for new SLA's for providers

Establish recommendations and next steps for poor performing providers

Report to CEMB & CAB presenting project outcome and recommendations

PHASE 5: ANNOUNCEMENT OF FUNDING DECISION

October – December 2008
Inform providers of Funding Decision and Outcomes
Providers to agree revised outcomes/ opportunity for feedback
Give 3 months notice and grant conditions for new funding agreement
Share decision of funding with stakeholders

16. Conclusion

- 16.1 Following the evaluation and assessment set out in point 15 a report will be presented to the VSC with recommendations on future funding proposals.