



**Executive**  
6 April 2009

**Report from the Director of  
Housing and Community Care**

Wards Affected:  
NONE

**Main Programme Grant Funding 2009/12 –  
Three Year Funding - Children and Young People**

Forward Plan Ref: H&CC-08/09-28

**1.0 Summary**

- 1.1 This report provides members with details of local voluntary organisations that have applied for funding from the Council's Main Programme Grant (MPG) for 2009/12.
- 1.2 The report follows on from a previous report presented to the Executive on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2008, where it was agreed to develop a new 3 year funding process based on a specific theme from the Council corporate strategy. The theme selected for this funding programme was Children and Young People's Services.
- 1.3 The report provides details of organisations and projects that have applied for the fund. It asks Members to agree the allocation to organisations based on recommendations made by officers in this report.
- 1.4 It should be noted that the decision to establish a new funding process was taken following a review of the voluntary Sector funding carried out by a Scrutiny Task Group in May 2007.

**2.0 Recommendations**

Members are asked to:

- 2.1 Note and approve the schemes and funding allocation recommended in this report (see paragraph 3.13) that will commence from April 2009 for a period of 3 years.
- 2.2 Note Officers individual assessment reports of all organisations that have applied for funding in Appendix E. A summary of all the applications received and officers' recommendations is also attached as Appendix D.

- 2.3 To note that all funding will be made subject to the Council's Grant Conditions and that each organisation approved will sign an agreement with the Council, stating the purpose of the grant before funding is released.
- 2.4 To approve the allocation of £8,774 to organisations previously funded from the MPG but who were either unsuccessful in their bid for the new fund or chose not to re-apply for funding from the MPG.

### **3.0 Detail**

#### **Background**

- 3.1 The May 2007 Overview and Scrutiny Group review of voluntary sector funding agreed by the Executive in July 2007, recommended:
- That the MPG should be made more accessible to organisations not currently funded by the Council
  - That future funding from the MPG should be linked to corporate priorities
  - That we should identify ways of funding voluntary sector organisations for periods longer than a year
- 3.2 Following this, on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2008, the Executive agreed to release £135,000 from the MPG in 2008/09 to fund organisations that previously did not have access to MPG funding. Subsequently funding was awarded to 13 new organisations providing services for children and young people. This grant commenced in October 2008 and will cease in March 2009.
- 3.3 At the same meeting, Members also agreed changes to future allocation of the MPG from 2009/10, which were to:
- Allocate a proportion of the MPG (approximately £250,000) to a specific theme from the corporate strategy, ensuring future funding is linked to council priorities.
  - This funding to be available to currently funded as well as organisations that previously did not have access to Council funding
  - That funding is awarded to successful organisations on a three year basis
- 3.4 As a consequence on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2008, Members selected Children and Young People's Services as the theme for the three- year funding commencing April 2009, and further agreed to reduce or discontinue funding from the MPG to 13 existing organisations providing services within this area.

#### **Assessment Process**

- 3.5 Organisations were invited to apply for the grant on 5 December 2008. Details appeared in the local press, Council's website, BRAIN and direct mail was sent to organisations that had previously shown an interest in the fund. All efforts to attract bids from organisations not previously benefiting from council funding programme was made.
- 3.6 Organisations that expressed an interest in the grant were sent an application form along with the criteria for the grant – Appendix A, a summary of the Council's Corporate Strategy – Appendix B and the Standard Conditions of Grant Aid –

Appendix C. The closing date for receiving completed applications was 9 January 2009.

- 3.7 68 organisations applied for funding at a total of £4,021,137.24. Officers in the Voluntary Sector Team fully assessed all applications and eliminated 3 after the initial assessments. The organisations and reasons for eliminations were:
- Adanta – application form was not submitted with covering e-mail,
  - Help Somalia Foundation – application received after closing date
  - Somali Youth Sports Association – organisation established within the last 12 months.
- 3.8 Organisations were assessed against the criteria for grant aid which is attached as Appendix A. Also officers noted the aims, objectives and financial viability of the projects, the activities to be provided and the outcomes and outputs to be achieved. Requests for references were also made and responses were evaluated to further assess each organisation’s experience and performance in providing services to young people in Brent. Visits were also made to some organisations to gather further details of their proposed projects.
- 3.9 The assessment process also included detailed consultation with other officers in the Council to identify organisations receiving funding from other Council departments. This ensured local area strategies were also considered when making recommendations. Officers consulted with staff from Community Safety, Housing & Community Care, Children and Families and Environment and Culture departments. The information obtained is included in individual reports in Appendix E.
- 3.10 In addition to the above, each application was assessed by a management accountant to ascertain the financial viability of the organisation. This process was carried out in accordance with the Council’s contract standing orders guidance and included detailed financial analysis of each organisation.
- 3.11 Of the 68 groups that applied:
- 11 organisations re-applied for the grant. These organisations previously provided services in the chosen theme but had their funding reduced or withdrawn to release the funds required for the new programme.
  - 8 are from groups currently in receipt of the annual MPG,
  - 9 are from organisations that received funding from the 6 months programme last October,
  - 42 are from new organisations not previously funded from the MPG.
- 3.12 Funding has been recommended for 22 projects that meet the funding criteria, offered value for money and complement and support the Council’s priorities for young people. The total amount recommended for allocation is £258,199.
- 3.13 Details of the organisations, projects and level of funding recommended over the 3 years are as follows:

	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Annual funding (£)</b>	<b>Total funding (£)</b>	<b>Project</b>
1.	Afghan Association Paiwand	4731	14,193	Mentoring young people not in education, employment or training

				(NEET)
2.	Asian Peoples Disability Alliance	15,220	45,660	To provide access to sports facilities for young disabled people
3.	Asian Women's Resource Centre	14,640	43,920	Support services to young people at risk of abuse
4.	Bang Edutainment	15,250	45,750	To provide support and guidance to young people not in education employment or training
5.	Bethel Community Services	7,799	23,397	Educational support of children and young people
6.	Brent Adolescent Centre	15,136	45,408	To provide advice and information in schools on drugs related issues
7.	Brent Bereavement Service	13,824	41,472	Bereavement counselling sessions for children and young people
8.	Brent Homeless Users Group	15,250	45,750	Funding to support 'chance to work' programme
9.	Brent Mencap	15,250	45,750	Holiday and weekend activities for young people with learning disability and autism
10.	Brent Mind	15,250	45,750	Funding to support 'the Mind Map' project
11.	Brent Schools Football Association	4,880	14,640	To run a series of school football tournaments and leagues in Brent
12.	Centre for Peaceful Solution	12,322	36,966	Counselling sessions to support young people who are at risk of offending or already engaged in criminal activities
12.	Chameleons Amateur Dramatic Society	2,440	7,320	Funding for annual pantomimes
14.	Drama Workhouse	10,492	31,476	Drama workshops in local schools
15.	Middlesex ITEC	15,250	45,750	IT support for young people not in education, employment and training
16.	OK Club	15,250	45,750	Support for young people at risk of offending or already involved in anti-social behavior
17.	SABA UK Unsigned	14,640	43,920	Training and employment opportunity for young people to learn about digital broadcasting
18.	Salisbury World Refugee Centre	9,150	27,450	Project to enable refugees to integrate and participate in local community
19.	St Michael and All	15,250	45,750	Musical training for children

	Angels			and young people
20.	Sea Training Corps	6,100	18,300	To provide activities afterschool and during school holidays
21.	Victim Support Brent	15,250	45,750	Support for young people who are victims of crime
22.	Volunteer Reading Help	4,825	14,475	To support 'Reach out and Read' programme
		<b>258,199</b>	<b>774,597</b>	

- 3.14 Originally it was proposed that funding should be restricted to a maximum of £25,000 per organisation per year. However, due to the large number of eligible applications received, it became necessary to reduce the funding level by 39%. This enabled officers to award funding to a greater number of applicants. If this proposal is accepted officers will need to re-negotiate outputs and outcomes with individual organisations to meet the new funding levels.
- 3.15 47 groups were not recommended for funding as they either did not meet one or more of the stated criteria, the council priorities or they did not provide satisfactory information to enable officers to fully assess their application. Officers' individual assessment report of all organisations is contained in Appendix D.
- 3.16 If members agree to the funding recommendations in this report, the Voluntary Sector Team will monitor each organisation's performance against the output and outcomes set out in their original applications. The monitoring process will take the form of planned and unannounced visits to service locations, regular analysis of agreed targets and feedback from users receiving the service.
- 3.17 Of the 12 groups that had their funding withdrawn because of the select theme, 11 re-applied for the grant and of these 7 have been recommended for funding. The 4 unsuccessful groups will be given three months notice of withdrawal of funding. A total of £8,774 will be made available to these organisations to enable them to operate up to the end of June 2009. Officers will also provide assistance to these groups to enable them to access alternative funding sources.
- 3.18 It is proposed that the balance of £10,595 from the voluntary Sector budget for 2009/10 will contribute to funding initiatives that will enable effective liaison and engagement with the voluntary sector, such as the Voluntary Sector Forum, annual voluntary sector conference and Funders Fair.

#### **4.0 Financial Implications**

- 4.1 The estimated MPG budget available for 2009/10 is £1,976,749. We estimate that a payment of £940,930 will be made from this budget to the London Councils Grant Programme.
- 4.2 Based on the proposals in this report the table below shows how the current resources will be allocated.

<b>Main Programme Grant Budget 09/10</b>	<b>1,976,749</b>
• Less London Council allocation for 09/10	940,930
• Less Main Programme Grant to new funding theme 09/12 for three year programme	258,199
• Less allocation to currently funded groups not within the theme (at the same level as 2008/09) and including capacity building fund.	758,251
• Three month's notice to fund 4 groups up to June 2009.	8,774
<b>Balance</b>	<b>10,595</b>

4.3 The recommendations made in this report can be implemented within the available budget.

## 5.0 Legal Implications

5.1 The Council has powers under s137 Local Government Act 1972 and s2 Local Government Act 2000 to make grants to voluntary organisations.

5.2 The decision to award a grant is discretionary. The Council discretion must not be fettered by previous commitments they may have given and it should make its decision in the light of present circumstances.

5.3 The Council is bound to act reasonably and must take into account relevant considerations and to ignore irrelevant considerations and should consider it's fiduciary duty towards local taxpayers.

5.4 As a public authority the Council has general duties to promote equal opportunities relating to race, disability and gender and to remove discrimination. These duties are set out in the:

- Disability Discrimination Act 2005 (DDA 2005);
- Equality Act 2006;
- Equal Pay Act 1970;
- Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 (RRAA 2000);and
- Sex Discrimination Act 1975.

5.5 The DDA 2005 requires public authorities, when considering disabled people, to promote positive attitudes towards disabled people and take positive steps, even if that involves treating disabled people more favourably than others.

- 5.6 To provide guidance on the duty there is a Statutory Code of Practice. The general duty is not absolute but it does require authorities in respect of all their functions to give due regard to disability equality.
- 5.7 The core general duties are similar for race and gender i.e.:
- To promote equality of opportunity; and
  - To eliminate harassment and unlawful discrimination.
- 5.8 The Race Relations Act 1976 (as amended) places a statutory duty on public authorities to work to eliminate unlawful discrimination, and to promote race equality in all its functions. There are three complementary parts to the general duty:
- Eliminating unlawful racial discrimination
  - Promoting equal opportunities
  - Promoting good relations between people from different racial groups
- 5.9 The Code of Practice issued under s71C Race Relations Act 1976 (as amended) is relevant and the council must have regard to it.

## **6.0 Diversity Implications**

- 6.1 The current grant arrangements mean that a wider range of voluntary sector organisations, including those that work with under-represented or hard-to-reach groups, were encouraged to apply for funding.
- 6.2 Due consideration has been given to ensure that the projects recommended for funding reflect the diverse needs of young people within the borough. This fund will ensure a wider range of voluntary sector organisations to receive Council funding and in particular organisations that work with under-represented or hard to reach groups.
- 6.3 All organisations receiving MPG funding are required to provide copies of their Equal Opportunities Policy. These have been evaluated by officers to identify how each organisation will promote equality and eliminate discrimination. Also as part of the assessment process each project was evaluated by an officer to ensure they promote equality and provide services that meet the diverse needs of communities within the borough.
- 6.3 Equality and diversity issues will also be examined through the monitoring process for this grant.

## **7.0 Staffing/Accommodation Implications (if appropriate)**

- 7.1 There are no staffing or accommodation implications for the local authority

### **Background Papers**

Voluntary Sector Funding – A report of the Overview and Scrutiny Task Group – May 2007

Voluntary Sector Funding – Allocation of Main Programme Grant 2008/09 - 18<sup>th</sup>  
March 2008

Process for Allocating Main Programme Grant 2009 – 17<sup>th</sup> November 2008

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