

London Borough of Brent
Meeting of the Executive
23 June 2003

REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES

For Action

Name of Wards Affected

ALL

Title: Grants to Voluntary Organisations

1.0 SUMMARY

1.1 Social Services has some long standing relationships with voluntary sector partners, and continues to commission some services by grant funding pending the development of contracts. The constitution requires that these grants are approved by Executive.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 Executive note that officers have awarded the grants to the voluntary groups detailed in paragraphs 7.2 and 7.13 and approve the continuation of those grants for the 2003/04 year.

2.2 Executive NOTE the review of all remaining transport grants from Social Services to voluntary organisations by the Director of Social Services.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The table in paragraph 7.2 lists the planned support to the voluntary sector from existing grants budgets. Executive is asked to approve grants totalling £739,173.

3.2 Organisations currently receiving transport grants have been notified of the review and offered interim funding for six months until the end of September 2003, pending the outcome of the review.

3.3 The expected cost of transport grants in 2003-4 is estimated at £8,770, plus the cost of any grants continuing after the review.

3.4 Details of organisations receiving grant funding are given in paragraph 7.2, table 1 and those receiving transport grant in paragraph 7.13 table 2

3.5 The total grant funding discussed in this report (£747,943) does not exceed budget provision for grant funding

4.0 STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

There are no staffing implications.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The constitution requires the executive to approve any grants in excess of £5,000 per annum.

5.2 If the services currently provided by the voluntary organisations in tables 1 and 2 are changed to contractual arrangements the Council will need to comply with the requirements of the EC Procurement Regulations (if applicable) and also its Contract Standing Orders

5.3 The Council has the power to make the grants recommended to the organisations in tables 1 and 2 of this report.

6.0 BACKGROUND

6.1 A number of voluntary organisations have been in receipt of grant funding from Social Services for a number of years. These organisations provide social care services which supplement the services provided directly by the department.

6.2 This report details the funding provided to such agencies in previous years, as well as recommendations for funding during 2003/04. Members are asked to approve the recommended funding.

6.3 Where appropriate, longer term contractual agreements are being developed with agencies, but more work is required in terms of monitoring and developing commissioning strategies for all service areas before similar arrangements can be considered for agencies listed in this report. This will assist in ensuring that resources are targeted towards agencies providing high quality, value for money services which meet identified needs and priorities locally.

7.0 DETAIL

7.1 The Social Services department has provided grant funding to a range of voluntary organisations for a number of years. These agencies provide services which supplement those provided by Social Services or through contractual arrangements with other organisations, and assist in ensuring

that specific local needs are met through a diverse range of provision within a mixed economy of care.

7.2 Details of grant funding showing allocations in previous years and recommendations for 2003/04 are given in the table below. In general, an increase of 2% has been recommended. However, in the case of Mission Dine this has been rounded up to 2.3%. The BC Transport suggested increase reflects activity levels as set out in the service agreement. Figures for Crossroads and Triangle have been suggested based on consideration of the overall funding of these organisations from various funding streams. Brief details of the agencies and the services they provide are included in Appendix 1

Table 1

Organisation	Grant	Grant	Grant	Grant	% Increase Requested		Grant	%
	paid	paid	Paid	Request	£	%	Recommended	increase
	2000/01	2001/2	2002/3	2003/4			2003/4	
	£	£		£			£	
Brent Bereavement	13,400	14,400	14,760	15,500	740	5.0	0	0.0
Brent Carers	36,100	36,100	37,000	55,362	18,362	49.6	0	-100.0
Brent Triangle	102,500			113,975	5,775	5.3	108,200	0.0
		105,600	108,200					
		0	0					
B C Transport	147,800			152,658	4,158	2.8	152,658	2.8
		147,800	148,500					
		0	0					
Elders Voice	61,400	61,400	62,950	75,867	12,917	20.5	64,209	2.0
E Voice			51,030	67,838	16,808	32.9	52,051	2.0
Handyperson								
Mission Dine	10,300	10,300	10,560	10,500	-60	-0.6	10,800	2.3
New Testament CoG	61,500	61,500	63,050	130,868	67,818		64,311	2.0
						107.6		
WISE	55,800	55,800	57,200	158,161	100,961		58,344	2.0
						176.5		
Brent Crossroads	118,000			120,000	-3,000	-2.4	120,000	-2.4
		120,000	123,000					
		0	0					
Brent Mind	138,600			154,730	48,265	45.3	108,600	2.0
		142,830	106,465					
		0	5					
TOTALS	958,100				272,744		739,173	
		968,430	782,715	1,055,459				

Notes:

Brent Bereavement – Development of Contract for services in progress which will be completed during 2003/04.

Brent Carers – is now being fully funded from Carers Grant (£101,739)

Brent Triangle – also part funded from Carers Grant. (£109,247)

Elders Voice Handyperson service – previously funded by now defunct Partnership Grant.

Brent Crossroads – also part funded from Carers Grant (£88,647).

The Carers Grant is provide by the Department of Health and administered by Social Services. Its primary purpose is to provide breaks for carers, disabled children and their families and other services to support carers.

- 7.3 A limited amount of funds is available to provide grant funding, and for a number of years there has been consistency in the agencies receiving such funding and the amount allocated to each agency (see table 1 above). However, there are a number of voluntary organisations which are no longer funded by grants but are directly commissioned to provide services under contract agreement.
- 7.4 It is the intention of Social Services to transfer services to contractual arrangements where appropriate. However, in order to ensure that services commissioned in this way are providing good value for money, performing to high standards and meeting locally agreed priorities more work is needed in terms of developing robust monitoring arrangements and commissioning strategies to inform future allocation of resources. The Joint Commissioning strategies are due to be completed by April 2004, and the revised monitoring processes will be implemented during 2003/04.
- 7.5 During recent years the availability of grant funding has not been advertised, but agencies have been invited to submit applications requesting renewal or increases to their existing funding. Following receipt of applications, senior Social Services officers consider the funding requests against the amount of resources available, the grant conditions and any available information on performance. For 2003/04 Grant conditions are those used by the Voluntary Sector Unit (attached at Appendix 2).
- 7.6 Based on such considerations, officers recommend that grant funding allocated for 2003/04 as set out in table 1 above is approved.
- 7.7 During the coming year more robust monitoring arrangements will be put in place which will provide more accurate and consistent information to inform the allocation of grants in the future. Joint commissioning strategies agreed between Social Services and the Primary Care Trust will also be developed during 2003/04 which will provide a strategic framework for the provision of services for each service area which will also be important in ensuring resources are targeted to meet priority needs. They will also assist in identifying which services could be transferred to contractual funding arrangements.

- 7.8 Grant funding for 2003/04 at the levels recommended in this report is already being paid to agencies to ensure continuation of services.
- 7.9 Every agency in receipt of grant funding during 2003/04 will be required to provide regular, detailed monitoring information and service specifications and service agreements will also be put in place. These will clearly set out what the funding is provided for, the conditions of payment, monitoring information required and various standards expected of funded agencies.

7.10 Transport Grants to Voluntary Organisations

In addition to the grants detailed above, Social Services has, for many years, provided transport grants to a number of local agencies to provide transport to enable vulnerable people to engage with social care services. Agencies receive a cash limited amount each year provided they submit invoices proving they have incurred the expenditure. The basis for the grant allocation is largely historical with allocations having been rolled forward for a number of years.

- 7.11 In order to ensure cost effectiveness and appropriate use of resources, a review of all transport grant funding will be undertaken during 2003/04. The review will consider why groups get the transport grant, what they provide, who for, where and how often. This will ensure that resources are providing essential transport services to support social care provision for residents of Brent.
- 7.12 Letters have been sent to organisations in receipt of the transport grant during 2002/03 asking them to provide information needed for the review, and to make a case for continuation of the funding. It is intended that the review will be completed by the end of July 2003.
- 7.13 Table 2 below sets out the expenditure for the transport grant during 2002/03 and a suggested six month allocation for 2003/04 to allow the review to be completed. As part of the review, it is proposed that continued grant funding for 2003-4 should be dependent upon organisations submitting details of actual expenditure incurred in 2002-3. The recommended grants for 2003/04 are based on these expenditure details. Organisations that have not yet done this are being reminded of their outstanding returns and have not therefore yet received a grant allocation in 2003-4. Organisations submitting outstanding returns will be allocated some funding in 2003-4. This is represented as a nil allocation on Table 2. However these organisations will still receive an allocation if they submit this information.

Table 2

VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS	2003-4 Grant (six months) £	2002-3 Expenditure (twelve months) £
B'Nai B'rith Friendship	180.00	476.20
Breakthrough (London)	500.00	500.00
Brent Assoc. for Disabled People	0	270.00
British Red Cross	0	0
Brondesbury & Willesden	0	0
Elders Voice	0	0
Harrow Friendship Club	1,515.00	1,016.20
Kenton Social Club	1,515.00	2,266.00
Kingsbury Friendship Club	610.00	1,277.94
Multiple Sclerosis Society	0	0
Neasden Gateway Club	0	0
North Kensington Stroke Club	0	0
PHAB Central	2,275.00	4,757.50
Pisces Swimming Club	0	272.60
Salvation Army	0	4,409.10*
Starfish Swimming Club	0	3,210.55
Wembley TOCH Blind S. Club	0	2,490.00*
Wembley Care Society	0	0
Wembley Friendship Club	0	1,452.55
Wembley Glad Club	2,175.00	4,189.00
WISE	0	1,983.10
TOTAL	£8,770	£28,570.74

* Nine month claim.

7.13 A follow-up report will be made to the Executive to agree any further grants once the review has been completed.

8.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- Grants to voluntary organisations files – Social Services Department
- Grant Application forms, supporting documents, and accounts.
- Transport Grant questionnaire returns.
- Social Services Development Plan 2003-4.
- Grant Conditions
- Carers Grant Guidance – Department of Health, June 2003

Mike Bibby, Strategy, Planning & Performance Manager
6th Floor, Mahatma Gandhi House, 34 Wembley Hill Road
Wembley, Middlesex HA9 8AD
Email: mike.bibby@brent.gov.uk

Jenny Goodall, Director of Social Services
6th Floor, Mahatma Gandhi House, 34 Wembley Hill Road
Wembley, Middlesex HA9 8AD

Telephone No: 020 8937 4048, Fax: 020 8937 4067
Email: jenny.goodall@brent.gov.uk