



Executive
9th September 2008

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

For Action

Wards Affected:
ALL

Main Programme Grant 2008/09 – New Applications

Forward Plan Ref: H&CC – 08/09 - 011

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report follows on from a previous report presented to the Executive on 18 March 2008 on Voluntary Sector Funding where it was agreed to release resources from the Main Programme Grant (MPG) to fund new initiatives and new organisations in 08/09.
- 1.2 Members agreed to make funding available to new organisations that previously did not receive funding from the MPG and further agreed to allocate the funding identified to organisations providing services for young people as outlined in the Council's Corporate Strategy
- 1.3 This report provides details of the funding that was made available and also provides information on the organisations and projects that have applied for funding. It asks Members to agree the allocations to the organisations based on the recommendations made by officers in this report.
- 1.4 It should be noted that the decisions to release funding to new organisations and develop a new funding programme were taken following a review of 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 allocations recommended in this report (paragraph 3.11) that will commence from 1 October 2008 for a period

of 6 months. Organisations approved for funding will have the opportunity to apply for the proposed new MPG 3 year funding programme that will be introduced in April 2009. Consideration of these applications will be subject to their performance during this fund and future funding is not guaranteed.

2.2 Note officers' individual assessment report of all organisations that have applied for funding in Appendix C. A summary of all the applications received is also attached as Appendix A.

2.3 Note that 1 organisation (Churchend and Roundwood Youth and Community Association) was approved for funding from the annual MPG for the 2008/09 but has not claimed their grant and therefore the amount available for allocation has increased to £135,859.

3.0 Detail

3.1 A Scrutiny Task Group review was undertaken during 2007 which included widespread consultation with local voluntary sector organisations and council officers, as well as examination of good practice from other authorities.

3.2 The Task Group review was reported to Executive in July 2007 which noted its recommendations. These included:

- 'consideration should be given to phasing the introduction of the proposed changes to the funding process over a period of up to three years and that no organisation that is currently funded has all of their funding withdrawn immediately, unless there are issues relating to performance.'
- 'the council should be more specific about what services it wants to fund from the Main Programme Grant and identify the outcomes and outputs it expects from the funding it provides. The council should allocate specific amounts of money for each priority'
- 'That funding provided under the new funding process should be awarded for a period of three years, with service level agreements that are monitored annually prior to funding being released'

3.3 Officers were asked to report again to Executive on proposals for allocation of the MPG, taking into account the Scrutiny Task Group recommendations, and in particular identifying ways in which resources could be 'freed up' from MPG funds to enable new projects and new organisations to be funded from this source.

3.4 Officers explored a number of options to release funding from the MPG and the proposals were reported to the Executive on 18 March 2008. Members agreed the recommendation that a total of £123,877 from the MPG would be made available for new organisations in 08/09 and this would be allocated to service provision for young people. Since that decision the amount to be allocated has changed due to 1 organisation (Churchend and Roundwood Youth and Community Association) not claiming their grant.

3.5 Organisations were invited to apply for the grant on 5th June 2008. Details appeared in the local press, Council's website and 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, standard conditions of grant aid and a summary of the Council's Corporate Strategy. The closing date for receiving completed applications was 26th June 2008.
- 3.7 39 organisations applied for funding at a total of £754,021. Officers in the Voluntary Sector Team assessed all applications received.
- 3.8 Organisations were assessed against the criteria for the grant which is attached as Appendix B. 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 organisations experience and performance in providing services to young people. Visits were also made to some organisations to gather further details of their proposed projects.
- 3.9 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.
- 3.10 Of the 39 groups, 13 applications have been recommended. Funding has been recommended for projects that meet the funding criteria, offered value for money and complement and support the Councils priorities for young people.
- 3.11 Details of the organisations and projects recommended for funding for 6 months commencing 1 October 2008 are as follows:

	Organisation	Funding (£)	Project
1.	Addaction	12,500	To joint fund a Substance Misuse Advisor to work with young people in schools, hostels and community organisations
2.	Brent Homeless Users Group	8,045	To provide pre-employment training for homeless young people
3.	BAPS – Care's for Children	10,250	To run a series of Anti-bullying media awareness and substance misuse seminars for parents and young people
4.	Brent Adolescent Centre	10,000	To employ a worker to provide advice and information in schools on drug related issues
5.	Brent Bereavement Services	10,896	To provide bereavement and support service for young people.

6.	Brent Mind	10,625	To training young people with mental health problems to develop skills in volunteering
7.	Coram	11,450	To support young people to write and produce a brochure on the effect of homelessness
8.	Daysprings	10,000	To train and provide work experience for unemployed young people
9.	Kilburn Youth centre	10,400	To provide sessions in music technology for young people
10.	PLIAS Resettlement	10,400	To provide sessions in crime prevention and awareness to young people and their parents
11.	Sexual Health on Call	10,440	To employ peer health educators to promote sexual health to young people in schools and community groups
12.	Society of the Advancement of Black Arts	10,000	To provide training for young people in multi media broadcasting
13.	Wembley International Christian Centre	8,000	Funding to set up a supplementary school for young people
	Total	133,06	

3.12 The total amount recommended for allocation is £133,006. It should be noted that because funding available is limited, officers have not recommended the full requested amount from all organisations, and in most cases the funding levels proposed in this report have had to be re-negotiated to meet the resources available.

3.13 26 groups were not recommended for funding as they either did not meet one or more of the stated criteria, the delivery of the project was not feasible within the timescale, or they did not provide satisfactory information in order for officers to fully assess their application. Officers' individual assessment report of all organisations is contained in Appendix C.

3.14 If members agree to the funding recommendations in this report, the Voluntary Sector Team will monitor each organisations performance against the output and outcomes set out in their original applications. The monitoring process will take in the form of planned and unannounced visits to service locations, regular analysis of agreed targets and feedback from users receiving the service.

3.15 Members have agreed that from 2008/09 a themed approach to funding will be adopted fund which will include a 3 year funding programme based on a specific theme that supports the Council's priorities. The organisations recommended for funding in this report will have the opportunity to apply for funding from the MPG, including the themed funding where appropriate, in future years. Funding considerations will be subject to performance during the

6 month period of this fund. There is however no guarantee that funding would be approved.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 A budget of £1,967,401 (including £951,932 to the London Councils Grant Programme) was allocated for the Main Programme Grants in 2008/9. The budget included an allocation of £883,465 to fund 42 organisations previously funded by the MPG and £123,877 to fund new organisations for a period of 6 months commencing 1st October 2008

4.2 The table below show the current resources available for distribution:

Main Programme Grant Budget 08/09	1,967,401
• Less London Council allocation for 08/09	951,932
• Less Main Programme Grant Allocations to 42 existing organisations in 08/09	883,465
• Less 3 months funding paid to organisations that had funding s withdrawn 08/09	1,347
Sub total	130,657
• Plus unclaimed grant for 08/09 by Cricklewood and Roundwood	5,202
Total available for allocation	135,859

4.3 The amount of £133,006 recommended for allocation to new groups falls within the total budget available for the MPG.

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's 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 its 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.

The core general duties are similar for race and gender i.e.:

- To promote equality of opportunity; and
- To eliminate harassment and unlawful discrimination.

5.7 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

5.8 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 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 -18th
March 2008

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