

**REPORT FOR: GRANTS ADVISORY
PANEL**

Date of Meeting: 15th January 2012

Subject: **INFORMATION REPORT – Mid-Year Grant Monitoring 2012-13**

Responsible Officer: Paul Najsarek, Corporate Director
Community Health and Well-Being

Exempt: No, except Appendix 2a, 2b and 3. This is exempt from publication under paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) as it contains information relating to any individual

Enclosures: Appendix 1: Mid Year monitoring form
Appendix 2a: Extracts from monitoring reports (Large Grants) – Part II
Appendix 2b: Extracts from monitoring reports (Small Grants) – Part II
Appendix 3: Equalities information – Part II

Section 1 – Summary

This report sets out information on the monitoring of grants awarded under the Main Grants Programme 2012-13. The report presents information provided by organisations on their projects or services as part of the mid-year monitoring process.

FOR INFORMATION

Section 2 – Report

2.1 Background

- 2.1.1 In March 2012 Harrow Council awarded funding to 42 projects/activities from the Main Grants Programme. To ensure that organisations in receipt of grant funding are delivering agreed outcomes in accordance with the requirements of the Council's funding agreement, they are expected to participate in a process of annual monitoring.
- 2.1.2 This process requires all organisations to complete a self-assessment monitoring form to provide an update on the delivery of their services, report on the expenditure of grant funding and supply equalities monitoring information about their beneficiaries. This year forms were sent out on the 22nd October with a return date of 12th November 2012. The monitoring forms were developed jointly with colleagues in Community Health and Well-Being and the Childrens' Services Directorates. Each funded organisation was asked to complete one set of forms and separate appendices for each project/activity funded by Harrow Council. The forms that were sent to organisations are attached for information in Appendix 1.
- 2.1.3 33 organisations returned their completed monitoring forms by the deadline. Nine organisations did not return their completed forms by the deadline and at the time of preparing this report information was still awaited from four organisations; Afghan Association of London (Harrow), Barnet FC Community Trust, East African Welfare and Development and Harrow Bereavement Care.
- 2.1.4 Appendix 2a (Large Grants) and 2b (Small Grants) provides extracts taken from the monitoring forms returned by organisations. The information includes a comparison of beneficiary numbers stated at the beginning of the year (taken from the grant application form) and the numbers achieved at the mid-year point (although this has not been stated in all cases). The appendix also includes information extracted directly from the service update provided by funded organisations.

2.2 Grant Funding Outcomes 2012/13

- 2.2.1 Grant funding awarded during 2012-13 has supported the development of both existing and new services. The funding has enabled the delivery of a range of activity to a diverse cross-section of people from across the borough. The number of beneficiaries expected to benefit from grant funded services during the year is **63,374**. This figure is based on the beneficiary numbers stated by organisations in their original application form. Based on the monitoring information that has been received so far, the actual number of beneficiaries that have benefited this year is **15,154**. The large discrepancy in these figures is explained by (1) not all monitoring forms had this section completed so we do not have an accurate number of actual beneficiaries (2) some

organisations state a large number of intended beneficiaries on their original application eg. Harrow Heritage Trust who stated 28,000 (3) the number of beneficiaries stated in the original application form may have been renegotiated as a result of final grant awards being less than the organisation's original grant request.

Where beneficiary numbers have not been provided and/or where these are low compared to the original figure an explanation will be requested.

2.2.2 (1) some organisations have not included an actual beneficiary number in their mid-year monitoring return which means this figure is not accurate (2) there is also the possibility that some organisations over-state beneficiary numbers in their application for grant funding. Where this information has not been provided it will be requested, furthermore the end of year monitoring will also request an update on beneficiary numbers.

2.2.3 The following is a summary of some of the achievements and issues identified through the monitoring process:

2.2.4 Summary of achievements

Organisations have reported a number of achievements during the first six months of the funding period;

i) **Sporting achievements:** Sports projects have reported that the London Olympics have had a positive impact on their activity. Harrow Athletics Club reported an increase in membership and increase in demand for coaching. In the monitoring period they have reported an increase in membership of 47%.

Headstone Manor Ladies Cricket Club also reported a successful year with two of their children's teams coming second in the league and the ladies team making the finals. Harrow St Mary's Cricket Club moved to their new grounds. Three out of four of their adults' teams were league champions and they received two championship winners' trophies at the Middlesex County Championships.

ii) **Partnership working:** Many organisations continue to develop their partnership working examples include; the 9th Kenton Scout Group which has been working in partnership with the Priestmead Parents Association and local Baptist Church; Mind in Harrow has developed a Joint Working Protocol that establishes referral arrangements with five other information providers and Harrow Law Centre has been providing specialist second tier support to other voluntary organisations including Harrow CAB, The Women's Centre, Age UK, Harrow Equalities Centre and Harrow Association of Somali Voluntary Organisations.

iii) **Increased volunteering opportunities.** Many of the funded projects and services are delivered by both paid staff and volunteers. Some of these projects have created additional volunteering opportunities during the year, such as;

- Asperger's Syndrome Access to Provision (ASAP) which has trained 10 volunteers to assist in the delivery of sessions for adults with High Functioning Autism (HFA) or Asperger's Syndrome (AS).
- Carramea recruited extra volunteers to assist with the provision of additional IT classes to meet growing demand.
- Harrow Anti-Racist Alliance (HARA) recruited additional volunteers and reported that four volunteers had found paid employment in the monitoring period.
- Harrow Equalities Centre (HEC) reported that 28 volunteering opportunities had been created.
- Harrow Heritage Trust reported that volunteer recruitment has gone well with 43 volunteers involved in their working parties and three new volunteers working as assistant wardens.
- Harrow Shopmobility recruited four new volunteers and introduced IT training for volunteers.

iv) **Ability to attract additional funding.** Some organisations report that having Harrow Council funding in place helps them secure funding from other sources. Two projects that have been successful in securing additional funding are the Harrow Law Centre which has secured £80,000 and St Luke's Hospice which secured £40,000 to train volunteers to work alongside Hospice at Home nurses.

v) **Development of new services.** New services supported this year include;

The Transition Pathway project from Harrow Mencap which supports young people with a learning disability at the stage in their lives where their support moves from being provided by children's services to adults services;

The Fourth Age Artfully project from Srishti Yuva Culture provides opportunities for older people with disabilities to participate in arts and cultural activities;

'Who is responsible for me – Think Safe, Be Safe' project from Barnet FC delivering workshops on personal safety and community responsibility;

'Harrow Safer Children and Families' project from Hestia Housing and Support that provides a Children's Hour and summer play scheme for children made homeless by domestic violence living at the Harrow Women's Refuge.

vi) **Positive feedback from users:** Some organisations have undertaken surveys of users and reported positive feedback:

- Relate London North West surveyed their users and reported that 65% rated their service as very good.

- Mind in Harrow have been recognised as the best local Mind for service user involvement.
- Harrow Association of Disabled People (HAD) assisted users with completing forms and report a 90% success rate for this service. HAD also report a 90% success rate of cases that have been taken assisted at tribunal.

Other developments:

Organisations were able to take advantage of some of this year's big events including the **London Olympics**: Harrow Community Transport supported the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games (LOCOG) with the provision of an accessible shuttle service and Hestia Housing and Support's summer play group included a trip to see the Olympic Torch as it visited Harrow. Other organisations were able to respond to opportunities presented by the **Queen's Diamond Jubilee**: Harrow African Caribbean Association (HACAS) participated in celebrations to commemorate the Queen's visit to Harrow and Connaught Opera included a Jubilee themed concert in their programme of events which received positive feedback and thanks from the Activities Co-ordinator. A number of organisations received **awards and accreditations** including the Somali Cultural Education Association (SCEA) which achieved the bronze award for supplementary schools from Continyou and HEC achieved a level three award for their immigration advice from the Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC).

2.2.5 Summary of issues identified

As well as the achievements reported by organisations, a number of issues were also identified, these included;

- Many projects reported an **increase in demand** for their services with many linking this increase to changes in the provision of welfare benefits, this includes organisations such as the Afghan Association Paiwand, HARA, HAD, Harrow CAB and the Harrow Law Centre.
- Some of the sports clubs were affected by the **bad weather** such as Harrow St Mary's Cricket Club which reported they were unable to train or provide coaching at times when grounds were affected by the heavy rain seen this year.
- There was some negative impact of the **Olympics** for Harrow Community Transport who reported a drop in the number of bookings during the summer period as users were concerned that travel would be difficult during the Olympic period, however overall the service saw an increase in use of 6%.
- **Future funding** of services continues to be a concern for organisations however some organisations have started to look at alternative ways of funding their services including for example the introduction of charges

by Harrow Shopmobility and the development of a social enterprise model by HAD.

Section 3 – Financial Implications

- 3.1 There are no financial implications for the medium term financial strategy associated with this report.
- 3.2 The monitoring information that has been gathered from organisations has not identified any major concerns regarding under or over spends on projects.

Section 4 - Equalities implications

- 4.1 All organisations were required to submit equalities monitoring information about their beneficiaries. This year organisations were asked to provide a detailed breakdown of their beneficiaries by ethnicity, disability, gender, age and faith. 29 organisations were able to provide this information in the format requested. An analysis of this information is provided in Appendix 3.
- 4.2 Organisations were also asked to provide information on the protected equality groups that were being targeted (in response to this question organisations are asked to select up to two characteristics). Analysis of responses to this question shows that the age and disability groups are the most targeted for services. There are some groups that have not been targeted by services funded this year namely gender reassignment, sexual orientation and marriage and civil partnership:

Protected equality group	No. of projects targeting this group
Age	14
Disability	11
Gender reassignment	0
Pregnancy & maternity	1
Race	6
Religion or belief	5
Sex	4
Sexual orientation	0
Marriage & civil partnership	0
All groups	9

Section 5 – Corporate Priorities

- 5.1 The distribution of grant funding to the Third Sector supports the delivery of the Council's corporate priorities. Each applicant is required to indicate on their application form which corporate priority is addressed by the proposed project. The following table indicates the corporate priorities that have been supported through funded projects during 2012-13:

Corporate priority	Number of applications
Keeping neighbourhoods clean, green and safe	2
Supporting and protecting people who are most in need	31
United and involved communities: a Council that listens and leads	9
Supporting our town centre, our local shopping centres and businesses	0

Name: Roger Hampson..... on behalf of the
Chief Financial Officer

Date: ...20th December 2012..

Section 7 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Kashmir Takhar, Service Manager Community Sector Services,
020 8420 9331

Background Papers:

Cabinet report: Grant recommendations 2012-13, 8th March 2012

<http://modern.gov:8080/documents/b14075/%20Supplemental%20Agenda%2001,%20Thursday%2008-Mar-2012%2019.30,%20Cabinet.pdf?T=9>