

# **REPORT FOR: GRANTS ADVISORY PANEL**

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**Date of Meeting:**

11 July 2013

**Subject:**

**INFORMATION REPORT** – End of Year  
Monitoring

**Responsible Officer:**

Paul Najsarek, Corporate Director of  
Community, Health and Wellbeing

**Exempt:**

No

**Enclosures:**

Appendix B: Service updates

## **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 end of 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. Organisations in receipt of funding are expected to participate in a process of annual monitoring to ensure agreed outcomes are delivered.
- 2.1.2 This process requires all organisations to provide a report to the Council on their project/service both half-way through the funding year and at the end of the funding year. This report should provide an update on the delivery of their services, a report on the expenditure of grant funding and equalities monitoring information of their beneficiaries.
- 2.1.3 37 organisations returned their completed monitoring forms. End of year monitoring information has not been received from five organisations despite several reminders. Appendix 1 provides a compilation of service updates received from organisations funded during 2012-13.

### **2.2 Grant Funding Outcomes 2012/13**

- 2.2.1 Grant funding awarded during 2012-13 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 receive services during the year was **63,374**. This figure is based on the beneficiary numbers stated by organisations in their original application form but does not reflect any renegotiated targets. Based on the monitoring information that has been received, the actual number of beneficiaries that benefited was **34,267**. This compares with **31,946** beneficiaries in 2011-12. As monitoring information has not been provided by all organisations the total number of actual beneficiaries could be higher.
- 2.2.2 Some organisations have stated that it is impractical for them to monitor their users due to the nature of the service provided. During 2013-14 funded organisations will be encouraged to consider a variety of methods for capturing information about users. This information could provide useful evidence for future funding applications on the value and impact of the work undertaken.
- 2.2.3 The following is a summary of some of the achievements and issues identified through the monitoring process:

#### Summary of achievements

Organisations in receipt of funding have successfully delivered a range of services to residents during 2012-13;

- i) **Targets met and exceeded:** A number of organisations met or exceeded the targets set for their projects and services. This includes Afghan Association Paiwand which supported 151 cases against their original target of 120; Aspergers Syndrome Autism Project (ASAP) supported 95 individuals against their original target of 30 and Srishti Yuva Culture reached more beneficiaries than they had expected.
- ii) **Successful user outcomes:** A number of organisations reported on the successful outcomes that were secured for users; Harrow Association of Disabled people (HAD) reported an 85% success rate with assisting clients to claim benefits and a 90% success rate supporting appeals; the Ignite Trust reported a reduction in gang related activity and increased emotional resilience and confidence amongst users; the Somali Cultural Education Association (SCEA) reported better engagement and improved attainment amongst children attending their supplementary school.
- iii) **Increased use of services:** Many organisations reported an increase in the use of services including; Harrow Community Transport that reported an increase in membership of 57%; Harrow Shopmobility reported an increase in demand for services including increased use of wheelchair loans; the South Harrow Christian Fellowship increased the number of youth drop-in sessions to meet demand.
- iv) **Widening participation:** Headstone Manor Ladies Cricket Club continued to work towards creating a safe environment to widen the participation of women and girls; The Herts Inclusive Theatre provided 24 weekly sessions for adults with learning disabilities to participate in drama activities. Users had the opportunity to develop and perform a radio play script and perform a song about the Olympics; the Indian Association of Harrow and London Kalibari provided opportunities for participation in physical activities such as yoga helping to alleviate loneliness amongst older people.
- v) **Service improvements:** Some organisations delivered service improvements during the year including; Harrow Community Transport that improved services through the installation of vehicle tracking and upgrades to their fleet including the purchase of a larger accessible vehicle; Harrow Shopmobility introduced a computerised booking system and are piloting an on-line registration process.
- vi) **Volunteers:** Organisations continue to make good use of volunteers; Harrow Equalities Centre created 28 volunteering opportunities; Harrow Heritage Trust arranged 73 working parties during the year to undertake rubbish clearance and were successful in attracting volunteers through the Do-It website. Harrow Heritage Trust has five new volunteers working as Assistant Wardens; the Harrow Kuwaiti Association recruited

five volunteers to support the delivery of their football training; Harrow Tamil Association involved their members as volunteers to lead activities.

- vii) **Promotion of services and partnership working:** Services were widely promoted during the year; Hesita Housing promoted their services at local forums and distributed leaflets; St Luke's promoted their services through regular talks and a roadshow; Harrow Equalities Centre provided 13 equalities training sessions; second-tier support was provided by the Harrow Law Centre and the Huntingdon's Disease Association provided training to health professionals.

#### Summary of issues identified

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

- **Increase in demand:** The demand for services continues to be high. The introduction of welfare reform legislation has had an impact on services. The Harrow Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) significantly exceeded their original target of the number of problems dealt with (the original target was 10,000 by the end of the period 18,092 problems had been dealt with).
- **Future funding** of services continues to be a concern for organisations. A recent consultation undertaken by consultants working on behalf voluntary sector organisations identified the need for organisations to understand and demonstrate the value of their services to improve their chances of securing external funding.
- **Volunteer recruitment:** Some organisations such as Harrow Shopmobility reported issues with a lack of long-term volunteers. The use of unemployed volunteers is costly both in terms of time spent training and disclosure fees. This issue has also been reported by other organisations. The Interim CVS service is able to offer support with developing volunteer programmes and organisations will be sign-posted to these.

### **Section 3 – Financial Implications**

- 3.1 The funding awarded to projects and services in 2012-13 was £594,949. Grant awards were made within the budget available. There are no other financial implications for the medium term financial strategy associated with this report.

### **Section 4 - Equalities implications**

- 4.1 All organisations are required to submit equalities monitoring information about their beneficiaries. Organisations are asked to provide a detailed breakdown of their beneficiaries by ethnicity,

disability, gender, age and faith. 35 organisations provided information in the format requested.

- 4.2 Organisations are also asked to provide information on the protected equality groups that are targeted (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.

Protected equality group	No. of projects targeting this group
Age	17
Disability	13
Gender reassignment	0
Pregnancy & maternity	1
Race	7
Religion or belief	0
Sex	4
Sexual orientation	0
Marriage & civil partnership	0
All groups	5

## 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 which corporate priority is addressed by the proposed project or service. The following table indicates the corporate priorities that have been supported 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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer
Date: 2 July 2013		

## **Section 7 - Contact Details and Background Papers**

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

**Background Papers:** None