

Appendix 3: Monitoring report for Third Sector Support services: February – September 2014

Introduction

Harrow Community Action (HCA) is a consortium founded by Harrow Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector (VCFS) organisations. The organisation was established to strengthen collaborative working and funding bids for the local sector. HCA was awarded the contract to deliver Third Sector Support services in February 2014.

Services Delivered

Service	Delivery Organisation	Lead Contact
Capacity Building	Capable Communities	Steve Porter
Fundraising advice	Capable Communities	Steve Porter
Fundraising Consultancy	Big Society Funding	James Braddeley
Co-ordination and representation	Voluntary Action Harrow	Rachel Wright

SLA Expected Outcomes:

1. A robust and resilient Third Sector that supports the needs of communities and people in Harrow.
2. Third Sector organisations able to improve their circumstances and those of the people and communities they work with.
3. Improved standards, knowledge, skills and resources amongst local organisations that equips them to support the local community.
4. The identification and filling of gaps in existing provision through innovation and partnership delivery.
5. Support services delivered within the framework of the Third Sector strategy and other local, regional and national policies.

Update on progress against outcomes:

Since February 2014 34 organisations have been supported by attending one or more of the following activities:

- Capacity building / mentoring Sessions (6 sessions delivered)
- Funding Cafe's offering one to one support (6 sessions delivered)
- Group Fundraising Training sessions (6 sessions delivered)
- One to One advice sessions (15 sessions delivered)
- Telephone Support Sessions (26 sessions delivered)

As a result initial 'health checks' have been undertaken with 20 groups and 12 action plans have been drawn up.

Other activity delivered includes:

- Distribution of five funding newsletters in the monitoring period.
- Organisations have been supported and encouraged to apply for the Council's Hardship fund grant programme.

- Ten funding applications have been supported three of which have been successful.
- Three Forum meetings have been held: Attendance at these meetings was as follows; March - 13; June - 19; July – 15
- The mailing list has been increased from 244 to 449 contacts.
- A monthly newsletter has been sent out at the beginning of each month (March, April, May, June, July, August) with supplementary bulletins sent out as and when needed.
- 88 volunteer opportunities have been uploaded on to the Do-It Website and 56 volunteer placements completed.

A draft funding application has been prepared for a volunteer centre. This is focused on 300 marginalised people experiencing social exclusion, health issues, low levels of skills & unemployment being supported to take on volunteer roles in local charities that are currently struggling to meet the needs of their service users due to lack of capacity.

A survey has been undertaken on the hardship needs of the Somalian Community; A survey was undertaken of seven schools regarding healthy living needs; Two surveys were undertaken (organisations and individuals) looking at the need for providing specialist support for individuals who need additional support to access volunteer opportunities.