

LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

GRANTS ADVISORY PANEL

MONDAY 28 JULY 2003

Reference from the Meeting of the Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Sub-Committee on 30 June 2003: Youth Service Plan

1. At the meeting of the Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Sub-Committee on 30 June 2003, the Sub-Committee received the findings and recommendations arising from the meeting of the Youth Service Plan Working Group, which had been constituted to consider the contents of the Youth Service Plan. The relevant minute is attached as Appendix A.
2. **The Sub-Committee resolved, inter alia, that Recommendation (i) (below) be forwarded to the Grants Advisory Panel for consideration.**
 - (i) that the Lifelong Learning and Youth Service Manager and the Education and Lifelong Learning Portfolio Holder be requested to examine ways in which the grants process could be simplified for applicants.

Reason for Reference: To enable the comments of the Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Sub-Committee to be taken into account during the Grants Advisory Panel's review of the grants process.

FOR CONSIDERATION

Background Papers: Minutes of the Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Sub-Committee on 30 June 2003.

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Extract from the Minutes of the Meeting of the Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Sub-Committee on 30 June 2003: The Youth Service Plan

12. The Sub-Committee received the findings arising from the meeting of the Youth Service Plan Working Group, which was constituted to consider the contents of the Youth Service Plan. Councillor Williams led the review of the Youth Service Plan but was unable to attend the meeting. The Lifelong Learning and Youth Service Manager informed Members that the Group discussed the key issues raised by the plan and formulated provisional recommendations, contained within the minutes, for the Sub-Committee to endorse.

In addition, the Lifelong Learning and Youth Service Manager informed Members that Cabinet agreed the Plan at its meeting on 20 May 2003 and that the Plan had been forwarded to the Government Office for London for approval; the Lifelong Learning and Youth Service Manager was currently awaiting a response from the government in relation to the contents of the Plan. The Chair discussed the process by which the plan was analysed by the Group and stated that this was an efficient and effective way of reviewing statutory plans prior to their consideration by the Committee as a whole.

A Co-opted Member requested, on behalf of Councillor Williams, that recommendation (i) be extended; that the Sub-Committee recommend that it be given financial control over grants to youths and voluntary/community organisations. The Chair advised that this was not within the Sub-Committee's remit, as the Grants Advisory Panel dealt with grant applications and that the Lifelong Learning and Youth Service Manager had been dealing with other available funds for such groups.

In response to a question from a Member, the Lifelong Learning and Youth Service Manager clarified the funding available directly through the Service, which was approximately £4,000 for funding for organisations, e.g. for equipment and £10,000 for individuals; a limit of £100 was supplied to each successful applicant.

The Chair requested that recommendation (i) therefore be amended to read: that the Lifelong Learning and Youth Service Manager and the Education and Lifelong Learning Portfolio Holder be requested to examine ways in which the grants system could be simplified for applicants. Members also agreed that the Grants Advisory Panel be informed of this recommendation in order for it to be taken into account during their review regarding the grants process.

Members requested information relating to the number of applications received by the Lifelong Learning and Youth Service Manager for funding. The Lifelong Learning and Youth Service Manager confirmed that the budget received for this type of funding was always allocated to applicants and that there was seldom surplus funds at the end of the financial year. Members were informed that applicants did not have to live in Harrow to secure funding, however, their business or activities had to take place in Harrow.

The Chair highlighted recommendation (iii); that young people with disabilities were not emphasised enough in the Plan and that it should be ensured that next year's Plan addresses this issue. The Sub-Committee agreed that the recommendation contained within the report, as amended, be forwarded to the Education and Lifelong Learning Portfolio Holder for a response.

RESOLVED: (1) That the recommendations of the Youth Service Plan, as amended, be endorsed by the Sub-Committee and forwarded to the Education and Lifelong Learning Portfolio Holder for a response: -

- (i) that the Lifelong Learning and Youth Service Manager and the Education and Lifelong Learning Portfolio Holder be requested to examine ways in which the grants process could be simplified for applicants.
 - (ii) That the Youth and Connexions Service support voluntary sector organisations in applying for grants.
 - (iii) That young people with disabilities, who did not fall within the scope of the 13-19 age category, receive adequate support from the Youth and Connexions Service and that this provision be highlighted in the Plan.
 - (iv) That Members' involvement with the work of the Corporate Parenting Group be highlighted in the Plan.
 - (v) That it be recognised that young people need access to parks and open spaces in order to carry out leisure pursuits and for this to be taken into consideration in relation to future planning applications.
 - (vi) That young people be included in the consultation process for the redevelopment of parks and open spaces.
 - (vii) That young people be consulted on facilities being developed exclusively for them and that future developments consider a range of age appropriate facilities.
 - (viii) That the Sub-Committee receive annual updates on the Plan.
- (2) that the Grants Advisory Panel be informed of recommendation (i) in order for it to be taken into account during their review regarding the grants process;
- (3) that information relating to the number of applications received by the Lifelong Learning and Youth Service Manager for funding be sent to Members of the Sub-Committee;
- (4) that the minutes of the meeting of the Youth Service Plan Working Group, held on 13 May 2003, be noted.