

Meeting:	Grants Advisory Panel
Date:	9 th June 2008
Subject:	Grant Funding 2008/09 – Grant Appeals
Responsible Officer:	Javed Khan, Director of Community and Cultural Services
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Chris Mote
Exempt:	No – Except Appendix 4 which is exempt (Part 2) under Paragraph 2, Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act in that it contains information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual, and Paragraph 3, Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act in that it contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).
Enclosures:	Appendix 1: - List of Appeals; Appendix 2a: - Summary Reports of Appeals from Currently Funded Organisations; Appendix 2b: - Summary Reports of Appeals from New Applicants; Appendix 3: - Summary Reports of Original Applications Presented to Grants Advisory Panel on 5 th March 2008; Appendix 4: - Letters of Appeals (Part 2)

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report presents the appeals received against the recommendations made on 5th March 2008 by the Grants Advisory Panel.

Recommendations:

Members are requested to consider the appeals listed in Appendix 1 of this report and make recommendations to the Portfolio Holder for Community and Cultural Services accordingly.

Reason: (For recommendation)

A number of organisations have made appeals against the decisions made by the Grants Advisory Panel at the meeting of 5th March 2008. These appeals have been made in accordance with grant funding processes and require consideration by the Grants Advisory Panel.

Section 2 – Report

2.1 Background

2.1.1 Following the meetings of the Grants Advisory Panel on 5th March 2008 and Cabinet on 13th March, letters were sent to all grant applicants on 28th March to inform them of the Panel's decisions. The letter also informed the grant applicants of their right to appeal against the recommendations and the appropriate procedure.

2.1.2 The recommended grounds for appeals are as follows:

- If the organisation feels that it did meet the grants criteria and demonstrated compliance in its application;
- If the organisation feels that the information contained in the officer report submitted to the Panel was incorrect or incomplete and had a material affect on the decision.

2.1.3 In response to the letter of 28th March, letters of appeals were received by the deadline of 24th April from 7 organisations as listed below (see also Appendix 4):

African Women Initiative 4 Nationwide Development;
Community Link Up;
Harrow Association of Somali Voluntary Organisations;
Harrow Kuwaiti Community Association;
Harrow Pensioners' Action Association
Harrow Refugee and Minorities Forum;
National Council of Vanik Associations (UK).

2.1.4 Summary reports of the above appellant organisations are listed in Appendix 2a and 2b.

2.1.5 Copies of original officer reports presented to the Grants Advisory Panel at the meeting on 5th March 2008, are listed in Appendix 3.

2.1.6 In relation to appeals, members are reminded that the Grants Advisory Panel at its meeting on 6th July 2006, agreed that they would not allow an appeal simply because an organisation felt that the grant recommended was less than what they applied for.

2.1.7 Members are requested to consider the appeals and take into account the implications and risks, before they accept or reject the appeals.

2.2 Current situation

2.2.1 It should be noted that from the total grants budget of £762,610 available for 2008/09, an amount of £748,347 was allocated, leaving a balance of £14,263.

2.2.2 A further amount of £5,729 has been held in reserve for Harrow Bengalee Association (£2,729) and Harrow Youth & Community Project (£3,000) pending further clarification of their grant requests. This would leave a balance of **£8,534**.

2.3 Why a change is needed

2.3.1 No changes are required to the current process.

2.4 Main options

2.4.1 If all the appeals from organisations listed in paragraph 2.1.1 are approved in full, the revenue funding associated with the appeals will be £20,684.

2.4.2 The unallocated grants budget of £8,534 (see paragraph 2.2.2 above) could not cover these appeals, should Members decide to accept them in full. This will result in an overspend of £12,150 in the grants budget for 2008/09.

2.5 Other options considered

2.5.1 No other options to have been considered.

Implications of the Recommendation

Resources, costs and risks

All the appellant organisations have highlighted the detrimental effect the Panel's recommendations of 5th March 2008 will have on their organisation and the services they provide to the communities of Harrow.

Some of the organisations may have to cease operations and others will have to reduce their services considerably.

Staffing/workforce

There are no staffing or workforce implications.

Equalities impact

The appeals process aims to address inequalities and disadvantage, to promote equality of opportunity and improve community cohesion. If approved, some of the funding will provide support to organisations serving black and minority ethnic communities, children and young people, women, people with disabilities and the elderly.

Legal comments

There are no legal implications.

Community safety

The provision of grant funding through the Main Grants Programme has the potential to support initiatives that contribute to community safety. Some of the activities of the appellant organisations contribute to preventing and tackling crime and anti-social behaviour.

Financial Implications

The Grants Advisory Panel will need to work within the total grants budget of £762,610 for 2008/09. Providing any further allocations are under £8,534, there are no financial implications.

Performance Issues

The provision of funding through the Main Grants Programme has the potential to contribute to the performance of the LAA target on community cohesion. Target performance against this indicator is 61%; current performance against this measure is 51%.

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Name: ...Sheela Thakrar	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer
Date: 28 th May 2008		
Name:Helen White.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Monitoring Officer
Date: 28 th May 2008		

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact:

Kashmir Takhar, Service Manager, Community Resources & Projects (ext. 5332);

Parveen Vasdev, Principle Grants Officer (ext. 7625);

Charlotte Clark, Senior Grants Officer (ext. 2335).

Background Papers:

Available on request. Directory of grant applications (circulated to Members prior to the Panel meeting on 5th March 2008, under Part 1 of the Agendas.

If appropriate, does the report include the following considerations?

1.	Consultation	YES - Draft report sent to Voluntary Sector Advisor for comments.
2.	Corporate Priorities	YES

Appendix 1

LIST OF APPEALS

Currently Funded Groups 2007/08	Grant 2007/08	Grant Requested 2008/09	GAP Decision 5th March 2008
Community Link Up	£4,500	£10,000	£5,650
Harrow Association of Somali Voluntary Organisations	Nil (SLA - £9,500)	£27,214	£3,000
Harrow Pensioners' Action Assoc.	£650	£750	Nil
Harrow Refugee & Minorities Forum (formerly Harrow Refugee Forum)	£5,400	£23,743	£7,000
New Applicants 2008/09			
African Women Initiative 4 Nationwide Development		£9,684	Nil
Kuwaiti Community Association		£13,567	Nil
Nation Council of Vanik Associations (UK)		£8,000	Nil

Appendix 2a

Summary Reports of Appeals from Currently Funded Groups

Community Link Up

Funding 2007/08:	£4,500
Funding Requested 2008/09:	£10,000
GAP decision 5/3/08 for 2008/09:	£5,650

Community Link Up are appealing for an additional £750, which was included in their budget towards the Volunteer Screening administration costs. The organisation have stated that they recently lost their CRB registration status, and therefore now have to get all their CRB checks done through other agencies.

Harrow Association of Somali Voluntary Organisations (HASVO)

Funding 2007/08:	£Nil (for Substance Misuse Project)
Funding Requested 2008/09:	£27,214
GAP decision 5/3/08 for 2008/09:	£3,000

HASVO have stated that they do not have any other funds or alternative funders to pay the rental expenses at St. John's Court premises. They provide regular services for clients with substance misuse, traumatic and depressive experiences, mentoring young people, meditation, and advice to other service providers in the voluntary and community sector of Harrow.

The premises at St. John's Court is the only venue for the Somali Umbrella Organisation, and without it, coordination of their services would be difficult. The funding they receive under service level agreement arrangement is to run 4 days a week community open surgeries in South Harrow. The SLA grant pays for telephone costs, council tax for St. John's Court as well as administrative expenses. This grant also pays for volunteer expenses to 7 organisations covering the rota for the open surgeries (totalling £75 a month).

Harrow Pensioners' Action Association

Funding 2007/08:	£650
Funding Requested 2008/09:	£750
GAP decision 5/3/08 for 2008/09:	£Nil

The Harrow Pensioners' Action Association are appealing against the Panel's recommendation not to award any funding to their organisation for 2008/09. In support of their application, they have stated that they meet on a monthly basis with an average attendance in excess of 20 members (higher attendance at quarterly meetings). There are approximately 80 members on their register. Their meetings are mainly to disseminate information on matters affecting older people both at national and local level. The following are some of the examples of their activities over the past year:

- 2 of their members attended National Pensioners Parliament;
- 2 active members on the Partnership with Older People;
- 1 member on Transport sub-committee;
- 1 member on HPTUA committee;
- 1 member on Harrow Police and Community Consultative Committee;
- Discussion on Harrow Council's consultation on Meals on Wheels, Home Care charges, and closure of day centres, which was followed up by a written submission to the Council;
- A Christmas lunch at Red Brick Café attended by 28 people;
- Speakers at meetings included Gareth Thomas MP on NHS and PFI, David Prowse on community policing in Harrow, Age Concern Harrow, Keith Toms as a councillor for 25 years, and Andrew Baker on recycling.

Harrow Refugee and Minorities Forum (formerly Harrow Refugee Forum)

Funding 2007/08:	£5,400
Funding Requested 2008/09:	£23,743
GAP decision 5/3/08 for 2008/09:	£7,000

The Harrow Refugee and Minorities Forum are appealing against the Panel's decision to award insufficient funding to their organisation. The Forum's application reflects basic running costs, i.e. rent, utilities, and volunteer expenses. The amount of £7,000 awarded to them falls short of meeting their rent requirements, and the security needed to provide basic support service to their member groups, which they feel, may seriously affect their ability in keeping the organisation viable. The organisation have submitted various grant applications to appropriate funders, however there is no guarantee that there will be a satisfactory outcome to any of their applications.

In light of the facts stated above, Harrow Refugee and Minorities Forum are therefore requesting an additional £5,000 to enable them to meet the cost of the office accommodation and running expenses.

Appendix 2b

Summaries of Appeals from New Grant Applicants

African Women Initiative 4 Nationwide Development

Funding Requested 2008/09: £9,684
GAP decision 5/3/08 for 2008/09: £Nil

The African Women Initiative 4 Nationwide Development is appealing on the grounds that the report presented to the Panel on 5th March 2008 was misleading, contradictory and did not provide the Panel with the information needed to make an informed decision. They have stated that the report did not capture the following:

- Encouraging participation from the African community in management and service delivery and encouraging direct expression of needs by the community it serves;
- African Dance and Theatre is a means of empowering 22 young people from Harrow by educating them in the history and values of 3 West African dances. Their project also aims to teach young people from different ethnic backgrounds, enhancing community cohesion. The project was presented merely as a dance project;
- Referring their application to the Arts and Events Unit was considered prejudicial, as they do not know the organisation;
- They expect 98% of the users will be from Harrow.

Kuwaiti Community Association

Funding Requested 2008/09: £13,567
GAP decision 5/3/08 for 2008/09: £Nil

Kuwaiti Community Association are appealing on the grounds that their funding circumstances have changed since their original application, on which the officer's report was based upon. They have now secured the following funding:

Scarman Trust:- £1,500 (for Youth Club activities);
Edward Harvist Trust:- £1,500 (IT equipment).

Due to the success of the above funding, they now feel confident that they will be able to secure external funding for their elderly club and other projects.

They have therefore, revised their original proposal and are now requesting £1,500 for the following:

Insurance	£200.00
Telecommunication & Postage	£700.00
Volunteer expenses	£400.00
Stationery	£200.00
TOTAL:	£1,500.00

National Council of Vanik Associations (UK)

Funding Requested 2008/09:	£8,000
GAP decision 5/3/08 for 2008/09:	£Nil

The National Council of Vanik Associations (UK) are appealing on the grounds that they are now able to provide more detailed information regarding their survey and membership (this was not available at the time of drafting the officers' report for the GAP meeting on 5th March 2008).

The organisation has now provided supporting evidence of the need of the Vanik community in raising awareness of health issues. In March 2005, around 90 community members met to discuss the need for health programme. In March 2006, the organisation posted 1,800 letters to the Vanik community members in Harrow to identify the various needs of their particular community. In June 2006, approximately 75 people attended a meeting to draw up a 5 year plan for Community Health. They are hoping to hire a hall to accommodate around 400 members in June 2008, and to offer the attendees health checks. Topics for discussion delivered by a group of consultants will include mental health, diabetes and gastro-intestinal problems.

They have now revised their budget, and are requesting funding of **£2,000** (for hire of hall, publicity materials, consultants fees, etc). The organisation have stated that they will guarantee that this funding will be used purely for the Harrow based members.

Appendix 3

Summary Reports of Original Applications Presented to Grants Advisory Panel on 5th March 2008

COMMUNITY LINK UP

Grant requested:	£10,000
Current grant:	£4,500
Grant recommended:	£5,650

Background:

Community Link Up is a local charity, set up in 1981, which supports adults and children with learning disabilities in the borough through several different projects. The projects include:

- The Transitions Project for High School leavers.
- The Inclusions project for education/vocational placements
- Senior 1:1 Club – for people aged 18 and above;
- Individual and group friendships
- Volunteer Training
- Children's activities/ Junior 1-1 club.

Community Link-Up has 250 volunteers currently supporting 480 people in Harrow who have a learning disability. Although the organisation is local it has been recognised nationally for the quality of the work it has undertaken with people with learning disabilities. Community Link –Up is involved with the healthy living centre in Wealdstone as well as partnership arrangements with other local organisations and provides services to people in residential care and day services. Changes Night Club is now run and managed by a group of people with learning disabilities with support from Community Link Up.

Grant Request:

Community Link- Up is requesting a grant of £10,000 as a contribution towards salaries, administrative and running costs in respect of the projects listed below. A full breakdown of the grant request is outlined below:

<u>Transitions Project:</u>	*Staffing costs - £1,250;
<u>Inclusions Project:</u>	*Staffing costs - £2,750; Fees & charges payable to other providers for activities - £1,250
<u>Volunteer Training:</u>	*Training for 50 volunteers over 12 months - £750 Volunteer screening administration costs - £750 *Volunteer expenses - £150;
<u>DOSTI Project:</u>	Production of literature & specialist information - £475 *Staffing costs - £750;
<u>Junior 1:1: children)</u>	Cost of outings (3 per year @ £25 per person x 25 children) - £1,875
TOTAL:	£10,000

The total cost of all projects is £180,821 and to date the organisation has secured £66,743 however applications to a number of funding bodies have been submitted (decisions pending).

Comments and Recommendations:

Community Link Up continues to provide much valued services to adults and children with learning disabilities in the Borough through their varied activities. Despite the difficult financial climate, they have been able to maintain their prominence in the media and the quality of their work has been recognised by beneficiaries, carers and partner organisations. Funding of £5,650 is recommended as a contribution towards all expenditure listed above marked by an (*), i.e staffing costs. Volunteer training, and volunteer expenses.

Funding received from other sources in 2007/08:

£4,500 – BBC Children in Need (Junior Club);
£48,959 – Big Lottery (Transitions & Inclusions);
£20,000 – City Bridge Trust (Inclusions);
£1,500 – David Solomans Charitable Trust (Core costs);
£19,404 – Harrow Council, People First (volunteers and spending on service users);
£2,000 – Mrs Smith & Mount Trust (volunteers);
£1,000 – The Steel Charitable Trust (Adult Club);
£2,000 – The Peter De Haan Charitable Trust (Adult Club).

Report produced by the Grants Unit in consultation with Adults & Housing Contracts & Brokerage.

HARROW ASSOCIATION OF SOMALI VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS (HASVO)

('Community Intervention Against Substance Misuse for Enhanced Development and Integration')

Grant requested: £27,214 (in addition to SLA)
Current grant: £10,200 (continuation of SLA for 2008/09)
Grant recommended: £6,000 (in addition to SLA funding)

Background:

HASVO was set up in January 2004 to provide a united voice for the Somali community in Harrow; to help Somali groups to form a network and to improve the social and economic conditions of the Somali community. HASVO is the umbrella group of 8 Somali groups. In its role of providing community leadership and strategic planning, HASVO co-ordinates and allocates responsibility to member organisations for a specific service area or client group, i.e., disabled, women and mental health.

HASVO provides an open access and surgery to all members of the Somali community in Harrow from 2 venues: the Community Premises and its office in St. John's Road. Advice and guidance is given on a variety of issues including social and welfare benefits, housing, education and health. Practical assistance is also provided with interpreting, translation, completing forms and letter writing. Often, volunteers accompany clients to the relevant services to interpret for them and liaise on the client's behalf. Volunteers also visit some clients in their own homes and provide outreach work.

Grant Request:

Part of the grant is requested for the 'Community Intervention Against Substance Misuse for Enhanced Development and Integration' Project and will be used to continue funding the post of part-time Co-ordinator for this project (currently funded by Harrow Drug Action Team until April 2008). The services provided will address the wider issue of Khat Use and substance misuse among adult and young Somali people in relation to housing problems, family conflict, low educational achievement, unemployment and social isolation. The education and peer training programme will target at young Somali people up to the age of 25 who are involved in, or at risk of developing mental health problems, becoming involved in substance misuse and/or crime and disorder.

The other part of the grant is requested to fund a part-time Community Development Officer for the organisation, the expenses of five volunteers, the rent of the organisation's premises at St. John's Road and a contribution to administrative costs. The Officer will be based at the Community Premises to fill the current gaps arising from the organisation's total dependency on volunteers from member organisations to cover the current rota in operation.

A breakdown of the grant request is detailed below:

A. Substance Misuse Project

Project Officer (17.5 hours p.w.)

£10,627

Office rent (St. John's Road)	£6,000
Total	£16,627

B. Community Development

Community Development Officer (21 hours p.w.)	£9,087
Running costs (incl. Volunteers)	£1,500
Total	£10,587

Total A+B: £27,214

Comments and Recommendations:

Over the past two years, the Council's Drug Action Team and Harrow Stronger and Safer Community Fund have supported HASVO to run this pilot project on drug education and awareness for substance misuse among Somalis and other BME groups in Harrow. The project has made significant contributions in the provision of a range of services for this community particularly in the areas of drug education and awareness of substance misuse and increased awareness among the frontline staff and borough leadership of the BME substance misuse.

In 2007/08, HASVO does not receive any funding from the Safer and Stronger Communities due to the competitive crime and disorder agendas. The HASVO Drug Education Service has been picked up by the DAT's Adult Pooled Treatment Budget (PTB) for the delivery of advocacy, volunteer training, and user/carer involvement. However, there are specific terms and conditions of the PTB funding, which should prioritise the Class A drug clients and specialist treatment service provision. In view of the zero budget allocation for 08/09, there will be only a small amount (less than £5000) allocated to the advocacy and volunteer training service provided by HASVO.

Against this background, HASVO puts in a bid to the community grant to enable HASVO to provide a free and independent advice service over a range of social and integration issues which are beneficial to the community cohesion and social inclusion.

During 2006/07, HASVO assisted 822 people with the services mentioned. The project co-ordinator and his team of volunteers through out the borough conducted numerous workshops, conferences and debates. HASVO worked closely with Harrow Voluntary Service (HAVS) and co-facilitated the youth training project with their small group's development specialist. HASVO is a member of the Harrow Policing and neighbourhood safety committee to promote crime prevention. HASVO also provides ongoing support and partnership with the schools and Harrow Council Education Department and plans to develop a lesson plan on BME substance misuse for PCHE teachers in the secondary schools.

HASVO is also a key member of the BME Community Engagement (Substance Misuse) Steering group, which provides overall management of the BME substance misuse projects. The Steering Group champions and promotes the aims and the ethos of the BME project and provide it with co-ordinated leadership. HASVO has conducted a series of meetings with the Harrow Council Teams and voluntary sector leaders in order to highlight the plight and special needs of the Somali family and the impact of substance misuse on them.

A major achievement for HASVO last year was working in partnership with the Council's Community and Cultural Services on a report entitled 'Harrow Somali Community Needs Assessment'. HASVO enlisted the help of volunteers from the Somali community who helped with undertaking door-to-door surveys and facilitating discussion groups to ensure that the views of all sections of the community were reflected including children, young people, older residents and those with disabilities.

HASVO currently operates a volunteer casework service on a rota basis at the Community Premises. 4 of the Somali community groups based at the premises volunteer for one day each as part of the rota. When these volunteer caseworkers accompany clients to external agencies to advocate on their behalf there is no HASVO presence at the premises to attend to other clients. The service would benefit from part-time casework officer support based exclusively at the premises during casework service hours so that all clients who visit the premises during these hours can have a caseworker to assist them.

Officers from the Drug Action Team are supportive of this application and have stated that DAT funding will not be able to support this project beyond March 2008, which is likely to have a negative impact on both the Somali community and the DAT outcomes.

Although positive reports have been received about the Substance Misuse project, the limited amount of funding available means that this project can not be fully funded. £6,000 is recommended to HASVO for 2008/09 to cover the rental costs of the office in St. John's Road to assist the organisation in maintaining some stability whilst alternative funding is sought.

Funding received from other sources in 2007/08:

£8,000 from LAA for Volunteering/Breast Feeding project;
£30,560 from Harrow Drug Action Team for the Community Engagement Against Substance Misuse project (comes to an end in March 2008).

Report produced by the Grants Unit in consultation with Drug Action Team

HARROW PENSIONERS ACTION GROUP

Grant Requested:	£750
Current Grant:	£650
Grant Recommended:	£750

Background:

The group was established in 1975. It aims to facilitate people who are over 60 years of age to meet, discuss any difficulties they may have and to jointly seek possible solutions. The group meets on a monthly basis at the Baptist Hall in Wealdstone. They also arrange outings to places of interest and social activities.

Grant Request:

The organisation is requesting funding of £750 towards the cost of hiring the hall, delegate's fees and expenses, journals (printing and postage), catering and affiliation fees.

Comments and Recommendations:

Harrow Pensioners Action Group has a current membership of approximately 100 Harrow residents. The Group has representatives on the Partnership with Older People Panel.

The organisation continues to provide a focal point for all pensioners in Harrow. Funding of £750 is recommended to Harrow Pensioners Action Group for 2008/09.

Funding received from other sources 2007/08:

No other funding received.

Report produced by the Grants Unit in consultation with Adults & Housing Contracts & Brokerage.

HARROW REFUGEE FORUM

Grant requested:	£23,743
Current grant:	£5,400
Grant recommended:	£7,000

Background:

The Harrow Refugee Forum is the umbrella organisation for the Refugee and minority ethnic community organisations in the Borough of Harrow, comprising of 60 affiliated members of which 50 are based in Harrow. The Forum assists local refugee community organisations with capacity building to enhance the quality of services provided and increase their ability to access resources. The Forum represents refugee groups on various partnerships, it also develops joint-working initiatives and articulates the views of refugee communities to statutory and voluntary bodies.

Grant Request:

The Forum has provided a breakdown of their request for funding of £23,743 for 2008/09 as outlined below :

Rent, premises, venue/hall hire, etc.	-	£7,000
Running costs (telephone, internet, stationery, etc.	-	£3,156
Salary (p/t Admin & Information Officer)	-	£9,828
Needs Analysis (BMER Consultancy Needs)	-	£3,759

The funding will also enable the Forum to continue providing capacity building initiatives to RCOs and member organisations.

Comments and Recommendations:

The Forum has reconstituted itself to be in future called Harrow Refugee and Minority Forum. Also, after losing its 3-year core funding, the Forum continues to be viable and sustainable as recognised by London Councils (a major donor) over the past 3 years. During 2006/07 they had 152 users (direct service provision). The Forum runs 5 yearly events. They organised several seminars, workshops and training sessions for Refugee Community Organisations and Minority Ethnic Community Organisations. These were specifically for raising awareness of refugee issues, capacity building, finance, fundraising, quality assurance, etc. They make referrals to other organisations providing capacity building (i.e. HAVS Small Groups Project, TIDE), and sometimes they receive referrals from others. Groups from other Boroughs often attend training as they have members in Harrow. Officers are aware of the important role of the Harrow Refugee Forum and recognise that their services are directed at some of the most disadvantaged members of the communities in Harrow. The Harrow Refugee Forum is active within the Harrow Strategic Partnership and the Voluntary Sector.

To enable the organisation to maintain some stability, funding of £7,000 is recommended to Harrow Refugee Forum for 2008/09 to be used for rental/premises costs as outlined in the grant request.

Funding received from other sources in 2007/08:

£23,845 from London Councils (ends 31.3.08) – transition funding;

£9,600 from Home Office (ends 31.3.08) – refugee activities.

The organisation has recently submitted an application for Change Up funding and will also be applying to the Big Lottery Fund and the Human Rights and Equality Council.

Report produced by the Grants Unit

AFRICAN WOMEN INITIATIVE 4 NATIONWIDE DEVELOPMENT (AWIND)

Grant requested: £9,684
Current grant: Not currently funded
Grant recommended: Nil

Background:

The aims and objectives of this new organisation are 'to improve the quality of life in the African community in London by providing assistance and research to identify their basic needs particularly in the field of career enhancement training and continuous development and in the provision of information in order to empower and enable informed choices in areas of education, health, law, employment, parenting and any culturally sensitive issues'.

The organisation is currently operating from an office in Marlborough House, Wealdstone, and is relying on donations from management committee members to operate at present.

Grant Request:

The organisation is requesting £9,684 to run a traditional dance project designed for young people between the ages of 13-18 years. It aims to teach three types of dance from different countries in West Africa as well as drumming sessions associated with the dance. It plans to focus on training a range of young people from different ethnic backgrounds to learn the dances and the values attached to them. The organisation has identified approximately 22 potential users of the project. The breakdown of the grant request is as follows:

Trainers x 2 x £50 per session x 48 sessions	£4,800
Project Co-ordinator – 12 hours per week @ £7 p.h. x 48 wks	£4,032
Volunteers expenses (2 volunteers x 2 days per week x £3.50 per day)	£672
Training materials	£180
Total	£9,684

Comments and Recommendations:

The Arts and Events Unit do not know the organisation and there are a number of similar dance-based organisations offering similar activity for the same target group.

The budget looks reasonable for the work they are trying to do, but it is unclear if they plan to link into Harrow's cultural programme and if so how, also if this is being targeted at Harrow residents.

There is a need for the work that this organisation proposes, however there is currently no information concerning their ability to deliver, artistic merit or community benefit and they would be working in competition with several other providers that do not receive funding though have committed themselves to cultural development in the area. Funding is not recommended for this group for 2008/09 but The Arts and Events Unit will work to integrate them into the Council's cultural programme through the Dance Forum.

Funding received from other sources 2007/08:

This is a new organisation and they have not yet applied for any other funding.

Report produced by the Grants Unit in consultation with the Arts and Events Unit

KUWAITI COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Grant requested: £13,567
Current grant: Nil
Grant recommended: Nil

Background:

The aims and objectives of the Kuwaiti Community Association are to relieve need, hardship and distress in the Kuwaiti Bidoon community and Arabic speaking communities, particularly newly arrived refugees, especially by the provision of translation services and advice regarding matters such as social and welfare rights, housing, community integration, education, training and employment.

The organisation is based at the Community Premises, as a casual user. It's main services include offering advice on benefits, housing, education and employment and accompanying clients to meetings with the Council, benefits agencies and health agencies and act as interpreters and assist them with completing paperwork and forms and writing supporting letters. They currently assist around 10-15 people per week. They have recently set up a football team, which currently has 14 members and meets every Saturday.

Grant Request:

The organisation would like to employ a part-time Co-ordinator to enable it to expand the services to include an elderly club and a youth club and computer classes. A detailed breakdown of these costs has been provided and is summarised as follows:

Co-ordinator's salary	£5,901
Elderly Club	£1,192
Youth Club	£1,496
Computer classes	£144
Running costs	£4,300
Website costs	£534

Comments and Recommendations:

This organisation has been a user of the Community Premises for a number of years and officers have met with them on several occasions to offer help and advice in terms of developing activities and keeping records, both financial and on services provided. The organisation is proposing several new activities, including an elderly club, a youth club and computer classes. It has failed to provide sufficient evidence that these services are required by the Kuwaiti community in Harrow and also the estimated costs of these activities are unrealistic.

Funding to Harrow Kuwaiti Community Association is therefore not recommended for 2008/09, however the organisation would be encouraged to take up the offers of support from officers to enable them to research and plan their activities, produce more accurate budgets and ultimately make applications to other funding bodies.

Funding received from other sources in 2007/08:

None. Harrow Kuwaiti Community Association currently have use of a designated desk provided rent-free at the Community Premises in Northolt Road.

Report produced by the Grants Unit

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF VANIK ASSOCIATIONS (UK)

Grant requested: £8,000
Current grant: Nil
Grant recommended: Nil

Background:

The organisation was established in 1978 with the aim of promoting, in both the Vanik and wider communities, programmes that:

- Target the relief of poverty, sickness and family distress;
- Raise awareness of the importance of education and good citizenship;
- Aid the understanding of, and respect for, the cultural and religious heritage of members of all communities.

National Council of Vanik Associations aim to raise awareness of, and provide expert information/guidance about the key health issues facing members of their community. They hope to organise talks/seminars on various health issues such as obesity, cancer, diabetes, coronary disease, etc.

Grant Request:

The organisation is requesting funding of £8,000 to hire suitable venues in Harrow to hold health seminars about 6 times a year for approximately 250 Vanik members of the Harrow Community. The funding is also for publicity costs, volunteer expenses, and payment of fees to consultants/specialist doctors delivering the seminars.

Comments and recommendations:

The organisation has stated that it conducted a survey in 2005/06 that identified 1,200 households (nearly 4,000 members) of the Vanik community within the Borough. It stated that their own survey identified health issues as one of the primary concerns of the community. A copy of the survey has been provided however it provides only basic information and does not demonstrate sufficient evidence of need. Funding is therefore not recommended for 2008/09.

Funding received from other sources in 2006/07:

None.

Report produced by the Grants Unit