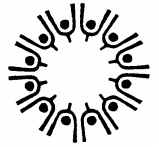


## **HARROW ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY SERVICE**



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Harrow Strategic Partner 2008

### **Up-date on Harrow's Voluntary and Community Sector Consortium**

#### 1. Purpose of the Report.

The purpose of this report is to up-date the HSP Board on the progress of the Harrow Voluntary and Community Sector Consortium (HVCSC) and to highlight members' concerns to the HSP.

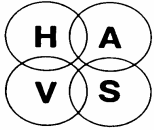
The Harrow Voluntary and Community Sector Consortium is continuing to develop, it now has 18 members, all of whom are Voluntary and Community Sector organisations operating in Harrow. These range from very large organisations such as CAB and Harrow Mencap to smaller organisations such as African SANG and Rayners Lane Tenants Association. We have a good representation from BMER groups and continue to publicise the Forum through our networks to increase membership.

The Consortium has developed terms of reference and membership criteria and will be working on a bidding protocol.

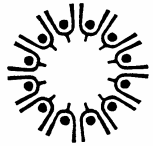
However the Consortium was very concerned about the issues around the awarding of the contract for Links recently. We have taken this to the Overview and Scrutiny Committees, both the Committee looking at the review of Voluntary and Community Sector support and the Overview and Scrutiny committee held on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July.

Members continue to be concerned about the general issue of whether the criteria for tendering for public service contracts will preclude the voluntary sector. For example HAVS on behalf of the Consortium put in a bid and was found to be poor in terms of organisational standards. This is despite the fact that HAVS have IIP, IIV and PQASSO.

Members of HVCSC have asked that this be referred to the HSP so that individual organisations of the HSP can look at their commissioning process and ensure that voluntary and community sector is not disadvantaged by the inclusion of industry standards that are not needed for the specific contract and are not applicable to the voluntary sector



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Members also wanted to ask whether training will be given by the HSP and its partners in commissioning issues tailored to the voluntary sector.

Such training is undertaken in Brent and would be very beneficial in Harrow. It would also contribute to the NI7 part of the NAA.