

Meeting:	Grants Advisory Panel
Date:	4 th March 2009
Subject:	Welldon Activity Group (Additional Funding)
Key Decision: (Executive side only)	No
Responsible Officer:	Javed Khan – Director of Community & Cultural Services
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Chris Mote – Community and Cultural Services
Exempt:	Appendices 1, 2 and 3: <i>Exempt under (Part 2) under Paragraph 1, Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act in that it contains information relating to individuals.</i>
Enclosures:	<p>Appendix 1 – Letter from Trinity Church Harrow dated 20th January 2009;</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Response letter from Welldon Activity Group to Trinity Church Harrow dated 29th January 2009;</p> <p>Appendix 3 – Letter from Welldon Activity Group to Harrow Council dated 4th February 2009.</p>

SECTION 1 – SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This report presents a request from Welldon Activity Group for additional funding in 2008-09 of £10,000 to enable them to pay rent for their new premises in Hindes Road, which has recently been imposed on them by their landlord Trinity Church Harrow.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Members are requested to consider and recommend to the Portfolio Holder for Community and Cultural Services a decision on the request made by Welldon Activity Group for additional funding.

REASON:

1. To utilise unspent grant budget from 2008-09, which according to Council guidelines can not be carried forward in to the 2009-10 grants budget if it remains unspent.
2. To enable Welldon Activity Group to continue providing their service and care to the 8 service users with learning disabilities that are referred through Harrow Council.

SECTION 2 - REPORT

2.1 Introductory Paragraph

2.1.1 The recommendation highlighted in Section 1 above will help the Council to meet its objectives in building stronger, safer and sustainable communities in Harrow through provision of funding, and will help fulfil their statutory duty to care for a vulnerable client group.

2.2 Brief Background

2.2.1 The Welldon Activity Group provides a day care service to meet the needs of the local community by providing a safe and happy environment to adults with a learning disability.

2.3 Current Situation

2.3.1 The organisation is currently based at the Welldon Centre in Welldon Crescent. The landlords Trinity Church Harrow have supported this charity over the past 9 years with rent free accommodation.

2.3.2 The organisation is currently in receipt of funding of £22,593 in the form of a service level agreement. This agreement provides for a day care service for 8 clients referred by Harrow Council for 4 days per week for 48 weeks of the year for each client. Overall, there are currently 40 clients using the service, which is open 5 days a week. Some of these clients are from residential care homes and private clients, for which fees are paid directly from the individual/carer. The organisation also has clients from other Boroughs such as Brent, Hillingdon, and Barnet, as there are no other services of its kind in their particular area.

2.4 Options Considered

2.4.1 Welldon Activity Group are due to move into their new premises in Hindes Road before the end of February 2009. These premises are owned by Trinity Church Harrow and has cost £2m in its construction. The facilities at the new hall complex are superior to their current accommodation, and includes features that specifically reflect the needs of the clients of Welldon Activity Group.

2.4.2 Therefore, in view of the facts outlined above in paragraph 2.4.1, Welldon Activity Group have received notification from Trinity Church Harrow (see appendix 1) to pay an annual rental fee of £30,000 for the new premises, to enable them to repay the loans they have taken out.

2.4.2 Welldon Activity Group have stated that even if they stayed in their current premises at the Welldon Centre, they would still be required to pay a rental fee in line with the £30,000 now indicated.

2.4.3 In order to meet this rental demand, the organisation will use £10,000 from their reserves, and will need to increase their daily attendance fees from £16 per day to £20, which will increase their revenue by £7,000. They have notified all their residential care homes of the increase effective from 1st April 2009.

2.5 Why a change is needed

2.5.1 No change is being proposed in this report.

Implications of the Recommendation

2.6 Staffing/workforce

2.6.1 There are no staffing/workforce implications for the Council related to this report.

2.7 Equalities Impact

2.7.1 The proposed recommendation contained in this report will enable this organisation to continue providing a valuable service to a vulnerable adult client group in Harrow, many of whom will be from the black and minority ethnic communities, women, people with other associated disabilities, and carers. Evidence of this was provided during the annual monitoring meeting in August 2008.

2.8 Legal Implications

2.8.1 There are no legal implications for the Council related to this report.

2.9 Community Safety

2.9.1 People with learning disabilities are vulnerable to abuse, victimisation and/or bullying within the wider community. The Welldon Activity Group provides a safe, supported environment in which adults with learning disabilities can participate in activities that would not otherwise be available to them, thereby contributing to their feelings of safety..

2.10 Financial Implications

2.10.1 There is an outstanding balance of £9,534 in the grants budget for 2008/09 which was not allocated at the Grants Advisory Panel meeting on the 5th March 2008.

2.10.2 In addition, Harrow Youth and Community Project have returned their grant of £1,500 for 2008/09, as they have now ceased operating.

2.10.3 Therefore, the total amount unallocated in this current year 2008/09 is £11,034. If this budget remains unallocated in this financial year it can not be carried forward in to the next financial year 2009-10. This is in line with the Council's financial guidelines carry forward policy.

2.10.4 The Panel are asked to consider allocating £10,000 to Welldon Activity Group as a one-off contribution towards the payment of their rent for their new premises in Hindes Road.

2.11 Performance Issues

2.11.1 National Indicator number 7, which relates to creating an environment in which the voluntary and community sector can thrive, has been included within Harrow's Local Area Agreement. Results from the first national Third Sector Survey indicate that Harrow's performance against this indicator is 10.4%. Although a target has not yet been agreed, Harrow will be aiming to improve performance by a statistically significant amount, likely to be around 4%. The proposed recommendation set out in this report has the potential to contribute to creating such an environment.

2.12 Environmental Impact

2.12.1 There are no environmental implications associated with the proposed recommendation set out in this report.

2.13 Risk Management Implications

2.13.1 The potential risk associated with this decision is that the Welldon Activity Group may have to cease operation if the residential care homes do not agree to the 50% increase to the fees for their clients, or are unable to attract additional funding from other sources in the future. To mitigate this risk, Welldon Activity Group will be asked to provide evidence that the additional funding has been secured. If the additional funding is not secured, Welldon Activity Group will be asked to repay the grant funding.

Risk included on Directorate risk register? **No**

Separate risk register in place? **No**

SECTION 3 - STATUTORY OFFICER CLEARANCE

Name: Sheela Thakrar	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer
Date: 19 th February 2009		
Name: Helen White	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Monitoring Officer
Date: 20 th February 2009		

Section 4 – Performance Officer Clearance

Name: Tom Whiting



Divisional Director
(Strategy and Improvement)

Date: 23rd February 2009

Section 5 – Environmental Impact Officer Clearance

Name: Finlay Flett



on behalf of the*
Divisional Director
(Environmental Services)

Date: 18th February 2009

SECTION 6 - CONTACT DETAILS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

Contact:

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

Background Papers: (circulated separately to Members ONLY as Part 2).

Appendix 1: Letter from Trinity Church Harrow dated 20th January 2009;

Appendix 2: Response letter from Welldon Activity Group to Trinity Church Harrow dated 29th January 2009;

Appendix 3: Letter from Welldon Activity Group to Harrow Council dated 4th February 2009.