

## HARROW PARTNERSHIP BOARD

22<sup>nd</sup> March 2010

### LAA Reward Grant

#### Introduction

The Partnership Board considered recommendations for the use of LAA Reward Grant at their meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> March but did not agree them as proposed. Instead, the Board decided that there needed to be further work undertaken to produce business cases leading to another meeting in late April to agree how these funds should be used. However, the rules relating to decisions in the run up to elections and the process for appointing Councillors to bodies such as the Partnership Board after the election preclude holding a meeting for this purpose between now and the meeting already scheduled for 15<sup>th</sup> June.

#### Key Elements

For most of the intended uses of Reward funding, a delay to mid June for approval will not be problematic and the delay in determining the uses to which Reward Grant should be put will give an opportunity for the business case template which has been developed to be completed and for more detailed consideration to be given to the overall shape of the programme. The Business Case Template will be circulated to Management Group Chairs this week and should be completed by 23<sup>rd</sup> April. The Board will consider the business cases at their next meeting which will be 15<sup>th</sup> June 2010.

However, there are three areas where more urgent decisions need to be reached. First, Safer Harrow recommended a one year allocation of £165,000 to fund posts in the voluntary and community sector supporting Domestic Violence work which had previously been funded from specific but expired government grants. The hope is to mainstream the costs of these posts in the future between the Council, the PCT and the Police. There is no provision for meeting salary costs from April unless the first quarter's proposed grant is approved now in the sum of £41,250.

Secondly, Harrow in Business had been recommended to receive reward grant of £264,000 which was linked to a work programme to be delivered over two years. The organisation has a cash flow issue which threatens its future and it is therefore proposed that an initial payment of £40,000 is agreed now in advance of the detailed business case in June.

Finally, the Board agreed that the proposal arising from Harrow Chief Executives for work to progress their priorities, and especially the Transformation Programme, should also be subject to the Board's agreement of business cases. The urgency for making progress with transformation, including having the

greatest possible time for proposals to yield savings for 2011/12, suggests that it would not be advantageous to wait until June 2010 for approval for these invest to save proposals. The Board will however receive a report on progress and decisions taken at their meeting in June and future meetings.

**Recommendations**

The Board is recommended to agree urgent payments of £41,250 in respect of the costs of workers concerned with Domestic Violence, £40,000 in respect of Harrow in Business and to confirm that the delegation agreed at the Partnership Board on 11<sup>th</sup> March in relation to the funds for Partnership purposes can be implemented without prior consideration of detailed business cases by the Board.