

## **REVIEW OF GRANT AID SCHEME FOR VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS – PART 2 – SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS/LONGER TERM FUNDING - POTENTIAL SCOPE OF REVIEW**

### **Criteria/SLAs**

A brief history/development of the two two-tier grant aid scheme and criteria for three year funding – groups have to be the main or one of the main providers of a service in the District, working in partnership with the District Council etc.

Development of SLAs – Agreements run consecutively for three year periods – They are reviewed on an ongoing basis but more extensively in the last of the three years – coincidentally 2015/16 is the last of the current three year period so it is timely that the review by the Panel is being carried out at the same time. The SLAs have stood the test of time – but are they suitable for 2015?

Look at how arrangements at other local authorities/public bodies operate.

SLAs are an agreement of principles – not legally binding as such – but can be effective if applied correctly. Commissioning might not be suitable for the majority of groups apart perhaps from the CAB and VAEF – but what are the other options to consider?

### **The Groups themselves (other than VAEF, CAB)**

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Alzheimer's Society	1,772
British Red Cross	3,982
Carers' Trust	4,529
Epping Forest District Swimming Club	3,764
Lambourne End Centre	2,765
Loughton Voluntary Care Assn	2,990
North Weald Airfield Museum	2,265
Ongar and Villages Voluntary Care	1,772
Rural Community Council for Essex	1,272
Samaritans	2,765
VAEF Gardening	1,772
VAEF Home Safety	4,529
Victim Support	3,982
Waltham Abbey Youth 2000	4,529
Zinc Arts	4,529

Review of day-to-day operations/activities of the various groups

Visits/presentations. A list of the groups concerned and the amounts they receive per annum is set out above. Members might like to arrange visits and/or receive presentations

from some of the groups concerned. Some are more suitable for visits in that witnessing them involved in their day-to-day activities would be more meaningful (Alzheimer's Society for example) whilst in other instances presentations might be more appropriate (e.g. the various other care organisations).

An assessment of the ability of the groups' ability to meet the principles of the SLA/value for money

A more in depth look at groups where there have been recent significant changes/periods of flux.

Should agreements be maintained with all existing groups?

Are there any 'emerging' groups where SLAs or similar might be appropriate?

### **Funding Arrangements/Structure**

Currently there is a tiered structure with the level of funding based on the size of organisation/level of activity/type of service/partnership working with Council. However, some groups have been added to the list whilst others have gone from it over the years. In addition the range/type/level of activity/service provided by the groups concerned will inevitably have changed – a new, rationalised funding structure might be appropriate.

The Council's own financial situation will inform the process and decisions regarding funding – we will have a clearer indication of the 2016/17 budget in the Autumn when this part of the review is likely to take place.

### **CAB/VAEF:**

Suggest separate reviews for each. Look at current arrangements and SLAs. Funding – comparison between Districts. Visits/presentations – VAEF is more suitable for the former, CAB the latter.

Is commissioning a way forward? Perhaps a hybrid between grants/SLAs/commissioning?

Again recommendations regarding funding will be better informed once draft budgets for 2016/17 begin to take shape.