

Committee	Date	Classification	Report No.	Agenda Item No.
Cabinet	02.12.09	Unrestricted		
Report Of Corporate Director, Adults Health & Wellbeing Originating Officer (s) Barbara Disney, Commissioning Manager – Older People		Title: Mainstream Grants 2010-13 Funding Priorities Ward(s) Affected: All		

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report seeks the approval by the Cabinet for the proposed arrangements and funding priorities for the Adult Health and Wellbeing Mainstream Grants (MSG) budgets for 2010/13.
- 1.2 It also seeks Cabinet's approval to extend existing Service Level Agreements from 31st March to the end of June 2010, in order to give sufficient time for the new arrangements to be implemented
- 1.3 It also seeks Cabinet approval for new Service Agreements to be entered into for a period of 2 years and 9 months (July 2010 to March 2013) to bring them into line with the Commissioning timeframe.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

Cabinet is recommended to:

- 2.1 Extend current Service Agreements for non-lunch clubs to the end of June 2010;
- 2.2 Agree funding in principle for 2 years and 9 months, starting from July 2010 to March 2013, subject to agreement on budget settlements and delivery of agreed outputs/outcomes by the contracted organisations, and value for money;
- 2.3 Agree the proposed development of the application process and proposed support provision for applicants as detailed in paragraph 3.2;
- 2.4 Agree the priorities for mainstream grants funding for 2010/2011 as set out in paragraph 4;
- 2.5 Agree to details of Adults Health and Wellbeing MSG Draft service specification in Appendix A.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Council has established corporate arrangements for funding local third sector organisations through “mainstream grants”. The current funding model, taking a commissioning approach, was first piloted with mainstream grant funded Advice Service provision in April 2008 and rolled out to other funding streams overseen by a management steering group in April 2009. A number of issues in the process have been identified in a review of the process that this report will address. This process will address reported concerns that were raised about the timeframe, training, and available support to organisations.
- 3.2 In the Mainstream Grant process for 2009-10, Members agreed to allow a one-year process for Adult Health and Wellbeing non-lunchclub provision to allow the Directorate to consider the outcome of a review of services relating to mental health, disabilities and older peoples services and the intention to introduce a 3 year funding process for these activities from 1st April 2010. It is planned to review the operation of grant funded services to date through the Grants Panel in January 2010 and findings will feed into the next stage described below.
- 3.3 To maximise the support available to the Third Sector groups in applying for this funding, it is proposed that current arrangements remain in place until 30th June 2010 and that the new contractual arrangements begin on 1st July 2010 for a period of two years and nine months to enable maximum support to organisations in the application process.

3.4 Proposed development of the process and support to applicant groups

In order to address the issues highlighted by some third sector groups and Council assessment officers regarding the 2009/10 MSG application process, Officers propose the following:

- to implement a programme of support aimed at organisations that have limited IT capacity, which would include an online application workshop, and a drop-in IT support day;
- additionally, organisations will be able to e-mail their completed applications in word format and officers will submit the form to the electronic system;
- improved flexibility by offering an extra five day window, following the closing date for the electronic application, for the submission of all the required support documentation.

- 3.5 As well as the improvements to the MSG application process, the draft Service Specification contains clear examples of the type of outcomes that we will be monitoring the successful applicants on.
- 3.6 The applicant process, conditions of the grant, and the process to be followed when a recipient is in breach of conditions will be explained clearly at all stages in writing to applicants and successful grant recipients in the spirit of an open and transparent process.

4 FUNDING PRIORITIES

4.1 The Adults Health and Wellbeing funding priorities contribute to services that:

- respond to health and wellbeing issues experienced by the borough's adult residents;
- have flexibility to meet new and emerging needs;
- support service users to be healthy and independent;
- give service user genuine choice, control and dignity; and
- keep vulnerable adults safe from abuse, harm or neglect.

We will give consideration to funding language, gender and culturally specific services where evidence of the need for the service is demonstrated.

5 EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Many of the services outlined target specific groups most at risk of experiencing inequality and social exclusion.

6 ANTI-POVERTY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Support services for older people, people with mental health problems, people with physical or learning disabilities promote independence, wellbeing and choice within the community. As such, they are a key element in progressing the social inclusion policies of both central government (as demonstrated through the new Public Service Agreements) and the Council.

7. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

7.1 There are no specific issues arising from this report.

8. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

8.1 This report asks for Cabinet's approval to a proposed Mainstream Grants Service Specification, which includes the priorities for awarding those grants.

8.2 It also asks Cabinet to approve a proposed new application process for these grants.

8.3 In order to give sufficient time for the new arrangements to be made, it asks Cabinet for approval to extend current existing Service Level Agreements to the end of June 2009.

8.4 It also asks for Cabinet approval for new Service Agreements to be entered into for a period of 2 years and 9 months (July 2010 to March 2013), subject to resources being made available and delivery of agreed outputs/outcomes

8.5 There is a provision of £250,000 in the Adults Health & Wellbeing Directorate's Commissioning budget for these grants.

9. CONCURRENT REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (LEGAL)

- 9.1 The Council has various statutory powers, which enable it to provide grant funding to organisations to undertake a variety of activities. The current report deals with the procedures to be followed in relation to the submission and award of such grant funding.
- 9.2 It is within the Council's powers to determine the system, which it wishes to operate to manage the submission and award process. The method proposed by officers would be an acceptable method to adopt to deal with this exercise.
- 9.3 The report also considers an existing arrangement concerning the operation of lunch clubs. As indicated in the body of the report this arrangement will end in March 2010. It would appear that there is insufficient time for the Council to invite and assess bids for the continued provision of this service prior to the conclusion of the existing arrangements. In order to facilitate adequate service provision officers are seeking to continue the existing arrangements for a limited period to enable a properly managed exercise to be undertaken to continue the service.
- 9.4 Subject to the existing arrangements allowing the Council to extend the time for which the service is provided it would be permissible for the Council to follow this route. It will be necessary to check the legal documents, which exist to confirm that they allow for an extension and ascertain what formal procedures, such as service of notices, need to be followed.
- 9.5 It should be ensured that this period of time is sufficient for the conclusion of the work needed to secure future provision of the service from July 2010.

10. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS

- 9.1 The purpose of the Mainstream Grants programme is to tackle a broad range of deprivation-related issues within the borough. All commissioned projects and activities will be/agreed to ensure that services contribute to delivering the Council's agreed policies, strategies and action plans in relation to One Tower Hamlets by reducing inequalities between different sections of the community.

11. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 Detailed service specifications will be negotiated and appropriate monitoring arrangements maintained to minimise risk of underperformance of these services. Service agreements contain appropriate dispute, liability and termination clauses.

11. EFFICIENCY STATEMENT

- 11.1 Funding preventative services through Mainstream Grants with the aim of improving individual's health, well-being and independence will reduce future dependency on services. Projects will be monitored to ensure that they are delivering agreed

outputs and benefits which contribute measurably to meeting local targets including efficiency and value for money.