

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR/ FUNDING FOR VOLUNTARY SECTOR TASK AND FINISH GROUP

1. Purpose/Objectives of the Review

To make recommendations arising from the review to Cabinet to assist in the budget process and medium term financial strategy for 2008-2011.

To review the organisations currently being funded to establish:-

- a. Contribution of the organisations to the corporate aims and objectives of Northampton Borough Council.
- b. To review and assess the service provision required to be commissioned and therefore to be mainstream funded to meet the aims and corporate objectives of the Northampton Borough Council.
- c. To review the applications of currently funded organisations and organisations currently not receiving funding to establish the degree of duplication of services being provided or being offered by the voluntary sector organisations.
- d. To review the local service providers currently receiving funding and those local applicants who do not currently receive funding to assess their contribution to neighbourhood community cohesion in accordance with the NBC corporate objectives.

To review the overall VCS partnership strategy against the national situation of funding.

2. Outcomes Required

- To identify resources available to provide support to organisations awarded grants, including the monitoring and evaluation process.
- To identify a process of distributing funding to the Voluntary Sector in a fair and equitable way that contributes to the Council's priorities.
- To identify how the Council supports the Voluntary Sector infrastructure so that the organisations become fit for purpose.

3. Information Required

- Details of the funding round mechanisms currently used
- List of the Groups currently funded
- Verbal evidence from employees, Portfolio Holder, Chair of CEFAP
- Written evidence from users.

- Best practice Councils
- Sources of funding/match funding

4. Format of Information

- Officer reports/presentations
- Baseline data
- Best practice external to Northampton
- Witness interviews/evidence
- Portfolio Holder evidence
- Chair of CEFAP evidence
- Evidence from S Gooding, NCC
- Employee Evidence

5. Methods Used to Gather Information

- Minutes of the meetings
- Desktop research
- Examples of best practice
- Witness Interviews/evidence: -
 - Users of the service
 - Portfolio Holder
 - Chair of CEFAP
 - S Gooding, NCC
 - R Golbourne, Senior Accountant, NBC

6. Co-Options to the Review Committee

Suggested co-optee – Ann Gilbert – to represent the Voluntary Sector.

7. Evidence gathering Timetable

July – September 2007

30 July	Scoping the review
August	Evidence gathering
September	Finalise Chair's report

8. Responsible Officers

Lead Officer	Simone Wade
Co-ordinator	Tracy Tiff

9. Resources and Budget

Simone Wade, Policy and Governance Manager, to provide support and advice.

10 Final report presented by:

Completed by September 2007. Presented by the Chair of the Task and Finish Group to Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 and then to Cabinet.

11 Monitoring procedure:

To review the impact of the report after six months (March 2008).