

Bolton Vision

Report to: Executive Member Strategy and
External Relationships

Date: 10th June 2008

Report of: Chief Executive

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Report Title: Area Based Grant and interim allocations of flexible funding

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to set out for the Executive Member:

- 1.1 Details of the funding arrangements through the Area Based Grant and how this provides the opportunity to align resources to deliver the outcomes set out in the Community Strategy 3 year plan;
- 1.2 Following the consideration by the Executive regarding the overall allocations per theme, details on proposals for the deployment of funding from the 2008/09 Area Based Grant allocation; and future decision making arrangements.

Summary:

The report provides details of the Area Based Grant Programme and in particular the flexible funding element; and the proposals for the potential allocation of funding from the programme.

Recommendations:

The Executive Member is requested to:

- a) Note the details regarding the Area Based grant programme and the future funding arrangements;

- b) Approve the indicative allocation of funding from the Area based grant (flexible element) and LPSA2 reward grant for each proposal within each thematic area, as outlined in the report;
- c) Following challenge /appraisal arrangements on each individual project, arrangements be delegated to the Chief Executive to approve individual projects within the framework of the details of this report.
- d) Approve the allocation of interim full funding to support the activities outlined in sections 2.3, 2.4, and 2.5.
- e) Approve the allocation of funding for the Area Forums as set out in paragraph 3.2 of the report.

1. Background Information

- 1.1 Details were provided to the Executive at its meeting on the 2nd June, concerning the arrangements for the Area Based Grant (ABG) Programme and in particular the allocation of resources to thematic areas (Community Strategy) from the flexible element of the ABG.
- 1.2 Further details on the individual proposals within thematic areas were due to be submitted to the Executive Member Strategy and External Relationships for consideration and approval, in order for the challenge/appraisal process on individual proposal to commence.
- 1.3 A copy of the Executive report is enclosed at **Appendix 1**.

2. Details of Proposals

- 2.1 Outline information is provided on individual proposals which make up the thematic areas which were considered at the Executive on 2nd June. These are set out in **Appendix 2** to this report. These include a number of projects which are continuing from previous funding streams (e.g. Neighbourhood Renewal Fund), others are new interventions which are anticipated will support the achievement of targets within the Community Strategy 3 year plan. Whilst consideration has been given to schemes (generally revenue) whereby there may be recurring amounts required in the following 2 years, in order to ensure that there is sufficient resource within the area based grant (flexible element) to cover this should this be necessary, approvals are only being sought for the 2008/9 year. Monitoring and performance management will be ongoing, but towards the end of the first year each scheme will be reviewed, in terms of success/likelihood of achieving targets, following which recommendation can be made regarding funding requirements for future one /two years.
- 2.2 A process is being put in place to challenge/appraise all the proposals put forward as part of this programme, which will help to determine what they plan to achieve, how robust they are, expenditure details, and to ensure that any cross cutting issues are identified early to support the implementation of all projects. This will be undertaken during the next few weeks. It is recommended that the decision making for the individual proposals be delegated to the Chief Executive, within the context of the overall in principle approval agreed by the Executive Member.
- 2.3 In addition, there are three schemes which were submitted through the LAA Agencies group (now known as the Bolton Lead Agencies Group) for full approval at this stage; two of these were schemes for which previous funding was expiring, and another where it would be helpful for the first six months funding to be approved, in order for the scheme to continue. Details of these are provided below. Other projects which needed to continue were approved by the Council in January and February.

2.4 NEETs intervention scheme

- 2.4.1 This scheme focuses on the number of young people in Bolton who are **not in education, employment or training** – NEET – after leaving school at 16. The Children's Services department continues to target 5 schools to reduce the proportions of their students who are NEET beyond 16. Each school has a key worker, and there is also a NEETs Reduction Co-ordinator overseeing the development and implementation of the NEETs reduction strategy.
- 2.4.2 Four of the key workers are funded via Bolton's Positive Activities for Young People grant – now part of our ABG. The fifth key worker and the co-ordinator were funded during 2006-08 using our Neighbourhood Renewal Fund allocation. But there is now no dedicated funding available for these two posts.
- 2.4.3 Given the importance of these issues both nationally and locally, it is recommended that full funding of £31,850 is approved until 30 September 2008. The project's objectives and delivery will be reviewed during this time to assess whether, and how, a longer term project should be commissioned.

2.5. Bolton WISE 'Working with Fathers'

- 2.5.1 For the past six months Bolton WISE have been delivering a pilot project to support fathers of young children and teenagers. Although this was intended as a pilot, that intention was not communicated clearly to the group. Rather than terminate the activities abruptly, a further six months of funding is now requested. This is to enable a forward plan to be developed in conjunction with the Council's Children's Services department.
- 2.5.2 The project's objectives are:
- To arrange and facilitate a range of activities that engage different target groups of fathers and their children – particularly those who lack motivation or self esteem, and those that are affected by poor family cohesion, under-developed parenting skills, family breakdown, low wages, economic inactivity, or low educational attainment.
 - To provide one to one mentoring support, information, advice and guidance, and to signpost beneficiaries to other specialist support services as appropriate.
 - To embed parenting and assertiveness skills, role modelling and peer support within each discrete activity.
 - To enable dads to provide more effective support for their children's educational, social and emotional development.
 - To establish a 'social network' for dads and their children as a local and accessible 'one stop shop' for advice and support. (This could be developed as a web based resource in time.)
 - To trial new outcome monitoring and evaluating tools and methodologies drawing particularly on 3 P's Parenting Programme, Webster Stratton, the National Childcare

Trust and Parenting UK, and the Race Equality Unit's Strengthening Communities Programme.

- To achieve measurably improved outcomes in the father and child relationship, quality contact time, family cohesion and development.

2.5.3 To date, the project has worked with 56 fathers. They have been involved in a range of different activities both regular and one-off. The regular activities include homework clubs and sports sessions that promote parenting skills and healthy living. The one-off events include trips and family social activities that promote father-child bonding and help to develop the fathers' social networks.

2.5.4 It is recommended that an allocation of £20,000 is allocated from the Area Based Grant to support the Bolton WISE Working with Fathers project until 30 September 2008. In the interim, the Council's Children's Services department will review the activity and may seek to re-commission it under a broader parenting programme.

2.6. Looked after children - mentoring

2.6.1 The Council has a statutory role as 'corporate parent' of all children in its care. On average, a significant deficit in the level of educational attainment achieved by looked after children, as compared with others, and in their relative life chances. A new pilot scheme has been developed by the Council, working in association with the Bolton Lads and Girls Club (as experienced in mentoring schemes), and funded for a year by the Rainer Trust. This involves the coordination of the project through the Bolton Lads and Girls Club, whereby looked after children aged 10 – 15 years are referred to the project; council staff are trained through the Club, matched with the young people, and provide mentoring support on a volunteer basis on a weekly basis for a year to the young people, which it is hoped will improve various aspects of their life. Staff will act as potential role models; it is hoped that the scheme may be extended in future to include additional staff and staff from partner agencies.

2.6.2 Until recently, the mentoring scheme was funded by the Rainer Trust and fund raising. Funding of £35,000 is now requested in order to continue the pilot scheme until the end of March 2009. This would enable the scheme to be assessed in terms of improved school attendance and attainment, as well as softer measures such as improved confidence, building relationships, and achieving action plans.

2.6.3 Should the project continue to be successful, it is likely that further funding will be requested at a future date to cover activity beyond March 2009.

3 Area Forums allocation

- 3.1 £125,000 was approved for use by the Area Forums for the first 6 months of 2008/9 earlier in the year. A further £125,000) is included within the stronger communities theme as part of this report.
- 3.2 In order for these resources to commence as part of new Area Forum arrangements as soon as possible, it is proposed that this be allocated by ward according to each wards levels of deprivation (75% of the total) and according to its population (25%) , as follows:-

	Populatio n	Deprivatio n	Total
Astley Bridge	3119	1863	4980
Bradshaw	2791	3104	5900
Brightmet	3198	15211	18410
Bromley Cross	3106	0	3110
Crompton	3233	17384	20620
Farnworth	3586	23748	27330
Great Lever	3249	22817	26070
Halliwel	2905	23438	26340
Harper Green	3275	13504	16780
Heaton and Lostock	3108	310	3420
Horwich and Blackrod	2941	1242	4180
Horwich North East	2956	1863	4820
Hulton	3058	4967	8020
Kearsley	3147	5122	8270
Little Lever and Darcy Lever	2892	2173	5060
Rumworth	3548	26231	29780
Smithills	3209	4967	8180
Tonge with the Haulgh	3073	15987	19060
Westhoughton North and Chew Moor	3014	621	3640
Westhoughton South	3092	2949	6040
	62500	187500	250010

- 3.3 The Executive Member will be aware that as part of the budget discussions, consideration was given to the possibility of additional resources being made available to Area Forums. Although this was not possible at that time, it was agreed that should additional resources become available, further funds may be allocated to area forums – if this does develop, these resources would be allocated on a per ward basis.

5. Recommendations

The Executive Member is requested to:

- (a) Note the details regarding the Area Based grant programme and the future funding arrangements;
- (b) Approve the indicative allocation of funding from the Area based grant (flexible element) and LPSA2 reward grant for each proposal within each thematic area, as outlined in the report;
- (c) Following challenge /appraisal arrangements on each individual project, arrangements be delegated to the Chief Executive to approve individual projects within the framework of the details of this report.
- (d) Approve the allocation of interim full funding to support the activities outlined in sections 2.3, 2.4, and 2.5.
- (e) Approve in full the allocation to Area Forums (£250,000 for 2008/9) on the basis as set out in paragraph 3.2