

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL
COMMUNITIES AND HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

4th March 2014

Report of the Chief Executive

Part 1- Public

Matters for Recommendation to Cabinet - Non-Key Decision (Decision may be taken by the Cabinet Member)

1 KEY VOLUNTARY SECTOR BODIES – GRANT SUPPORT

To review the work of those voluntary sector bodies who receive grant support from the Borough Council and to determine grants for 2014/15.

1.1 Background

1.1.1 In March 2012, the former Communities Advisory Board agreed revised, three year service level agreements with the following key voluntary sector bodies:

Tonbridge and Malling CAB
Voluntary Action within Kent
Voluntary Action Maidstone
Age UK Sevenoaks and Tonbridge
Age Concern Malling/West Kent Community Care
Maidstone and West Kent Mediation Services.

1.1.2 The first year of those service level agreements is now nearing completion. Annual reviews are an integral part of these and it is therefore timely to hear from representatives of each of these organisations about progress achieved to date. A short, verbal progress report from each will be presented at the Board meeting and Members of the Board will have an opportunity to put questions to each representative.

1.2 Requirements of the Service Level Agreements

1.2.1 The services offered by each of the organisations listed above should be well known to the Board. The following, however, is a summary of any specific requirements of each service level agreement which will assist the Board in reviewing progress.

Advice Services: The key role of the Tonbridge and Malling CAB is to provide advice services on a range of specialist topics. The CAB is located at River Walk in Tonbridge and advice services are available via walk in appointments, by telephone or via on line services. Home visits can also be arranged. In order that the CAB offers effective services to the whole of the Borough, their service level agreement requires the CAB to provide outreach services in the Malling area at

the following locations: West Malling, East Malling, Snodland, Kings Hill, Aylesford, and Borough Green. The Tonbridge and Malling CAB is also encouraged to work with Bureaux in adjoining areas to provide mutual assistance and reduce operating costs. Annual grant support from the Council is £111,000.

Volunteering Services: Voluntary Action Within Kent (VAWK) provide support for volunteers looking for placements and for organisations needing volunteer assistance focused in the Tonbridge area. Voluntary Action Maidstone (VAM) provides similar services for the Malling area. Both organisations provide a volunteer driving scheme for medical appointments etc. Each organisation receives an annual grant of £5,000.

Older People's Services: Age UK Sevenoaks & Tonbridge offer a range of services to support the elderly including transport services, health and day care and information services. The organisation is affiliated to Age UK as part of a national network. Age Concern Malling/West Kent Community Care provide a similar range of services for Malling but have chosen not to be affiliated to Age UK. Each organisation receives an annual grant of £10,000.

Mediation Services: West Kent provides services in the Tonbridge area whilst Maidstone covers the Malling area. A range of mediation services are provided including neighbour and family disputes, made either by self-referral or via referrals from partner agencies. They are a key partner in the Community Safety Partnership. A single grant of £6,000 is given which is shared equally between the two schemes.

1.3 Legal Implications

1.3.1 Addressed via adopted service level agreements.

1.4 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.4.1 As set out above. The Board must assess progress achieved by each organisation receiving grant support to ensure it is achieving value for money. Sufficient budgetary provision has been made in the estimates for 2014/15 to provide grant assistance as recommended below.

1.5 Risk Assessment

1.5.1 N/A

1.6 Equality Impact Assessment

1.6.1 See 'Screening for equality impacts' table at end of report

1.7 Recommendations

1.7.1 That, subject to the Board being satisfied the services provided are of an appropriate standard, the following grants **BE CONFIRMED** for 2014/15:

Tonbridge and Malling CAB - £111,000
 Voluntary Action within Kent - £5,000
 Voluntary Action Maidstone - £5,000

Age UK Sevenoaks and Tonbridge - £10,000
 Age Concern Malling/West Kent Community Care - £10,000
 Maidstone and West Kent Mediation Services - £6,000

The Chief Executive confirms that the proposals contained in the recommendation(s), if approved, will fall within the Council's Budget and policy Framework.

Background papers:

contact: Mark Raymond

Nil

Julie Beilby
 Chief Executive

Screening for equality impacts:		
Question	Answer	Explanation of impacts
a. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have potential to cause adverse impact or discriminate against different groups in the community?	No	
b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper make a positive contribution to promoting equality?	Yes	The work of each organisation aims to focus in the need to support vulnerable residents most in need.
c. What steps are you taking to mitigate, reduce, avoid or minimise the impacts identified above?		

In submitting this report, the Chief Officer doing so is confirming that they have given due regard to the equality impacts of the decision being considered, as noted in the table above.