

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMISSIONING GROUP

WEDNESDAY 6th JUNE 2007

Attendees:

Bill Edwards BE
Liz Wilson LW
Mark Powell MP
Yvonne Burtonwood YB
Councillor Jean Stretton JS
Natalie Downs ND
Harji Patel HP
Richard Browning RB
Jo Charlan JC
Denis Durnian DD

Apologies:

Jane Hughes, Jo Farrington, Moira Blood, Mary Murphy

Minutes and matters arising

MP requested that a colleague attend the meetings with him in future as an observer in relation to partnership working. The group agreed to this.

It was requested that the minutes of the CECG be published on the Oldham partnership website.

Action point: JC to send all CECG minutes to the Oldham Partnership.

Community Engagement Activity – use of unallocated funding

Option 1 - JC gave an overview of Global Grants and requested that the group consider using unallocated community engagement funding to match the ESF funding committed to Oldham. This would allow provision of 100% grants to voluntary and community groups to build capacity within their groups and provide skills to volunteers. It was agreed that this would be an ideal opportunity to provide money to groups who would not otherwise be able to access such funding. It was reported that Global Grants is Boroughwide funding, with no ties and would fulfil LAA indicators on volunteers.

Option 2 - MP gave an overview of Beatsweep, stating that work has been done to identify priority wards and it has been agreed that the first Beatsweeps would take place in Alexandra and Coldhurst. Some of the money will be in addition to Police funding and will work towards community engagement activities in those areas. Cllr Stretton questioned whether funding was already in place, was the additional £60,000 to support the

initiative really required, as the work would happen anyway. The group was also made aware that should this be the chosen option, the other LAA blocks would need to be informed that funding is available and that the CECG would then face the difficult position of deciding which block could use the funding.

Option 3 – It was agreed that splitting the remainder of the funding would not be viable as it would not make the best use of the funding, thus diluting any positive impact on community groups.

The group agreed that the preferred option would be to support Global Grants. However, it was requested that JC provide further information on Global Grants in order for the group to understand who would be able to benefit and what the process would be to distribute grants. It was requested that as this has been commissioned by the CECG, this group should therefore carry out the evaluation too.

Action point: JC to provide the group with:

An overview of the funding guidelines

Examples of how global grants have been used innovatively in other areas

LAA targets that Global Grants will work towards

A list of partners who can signpost groups to Global Grants.

Commissioning specifications – response and scoring

The group was informed that seven expressions of interest had been received; three for the database and four for the volunteering development brief. The group were informed of which organisations had submitted an expression of interest and expressed concerns that Renewal Associates had submitted one, as Paul Fitzpatrick from Renewal, had been involved in writing the specification. It was agreed that whilst Paul had been involved in the writing of the specification, he would not be involved in scoring, nor would he be in possession of advantageous documents. It was requested that RB check the legal position on this issue.

Action point: RB to consult with the OMBC legal team to see if the expression of interest from Renewal Associates can be included.

It was decided that two panels should assess the expressions of interest and JC asked the group for 3-4 volunteers to sit on each panel. YB declared a conflict of interest in the volunteering development brief as she sits on the Voluntary Action Oldham panel. The scoring panels were agreed as:

Database, Tuesday 12th June – Cllr Stretton, Yvonne Burtonwood and Moira Blood.

Volunteering Development project Thursday 21st June – Liz Wilson, Mark Powell and Bill Edwards.

Community Infrastructure Development Programme

The group agreed that the redrafted Community Infrastructure Development brief was now ready and needed no further amendments.

Action point: DD to draw up the documents for publication on the Oldham Partnership website

Any Other Business

JC reported that a business case, approved by the Housing block had been brought to the CECG for information. As there was insufficient time to discuss this fully, it was agreed that the paper should go out via e-mail so that members could bring questions to the next meeting

Action point: JC to e-mail the business case to CECG members.

Date and Time of Next Meeting Date of next meeting

The next meeting will take place on 27th June 2007 at the Link Centre, union Street.