



Oldham
Partnership

Area Based Grant (ABG)

Fact Sheet

A Message from Nick Brown, Chair of the Oldham Partnership Executive

9th December 2010

If you have any questions about the review of Area Based Grant, please contact the Oldham Partnership Support Team on 0161 770 3199 or info@oldhampartnership.org.uk

Background:

The Area Based Grant is a three-year programme of commissioned activities with funding for the period 2008-11. In line with best practise, the Oldham Partnership has managed the individual funding streams within the Area Based Grant as a single pot that has been allocated against a combination of strategic priorities and statutory duties.

You will be aware that contracts for Area Based Grant funded activities cease at the end of March 2011¹. Implications for funding beyond this period are still not fully understood but we do know that some grants have ceased (Working Neighbourhoods Fund and 2008/11 LAA Reward Grant) and others are being moved into Oldham Council's Formula Grant or other grant arrangements. Details on other funding streams within the Area Based Grant are still awaited. Therefore, it is currently not known if ABG will continue and at what level.

This fact sheet informs you of the steps being taken by the Oldham Partnership and advises your organisational response to the situation.

Next Steps:

The Local Government Finance Settlement in mid December will provide further details of grant funding available for 2011/12 and beyond. Activities funded by Area Based Grant will cease unless alternative funding becomes available through the Local Government Finance Settlement or it is considered to be an essential priority by the Oldham Partnership and alternative funding is secured locally.

¹ With the exception of Positive Steps, Regional Science Centre and YouthZone.

In the meantime, it is therefore advised that where you have staff specifically funded by Area Based Grant, you should inform them of the funding situation and explain to them if they are at risk of redundancy. As well as commencing this early dialogue with affected staff, where you think that it is likely that you will make more than 20 staff redundant, then you will have a statutory obligation to issue a Section 188 notice to your recognised trades unions. Should you not have any recognised trades unions, then this notice will need to be issued to staff representatives. The notice will mark the start of a period of collective consultation, the purpose of which will be to explore whether there is anything that can be done to mitigate the redundancies. There are specific requirements and timescales linked to collective consultation and it is suggested that you seek further advice if you have any queries about your statutory obligations. Your actions should also be in compliance with the Oldham Compact². Support is available for all organisations through the Oldham Partnership Support Team, Thematic Partnership leads and through Voluntary Action Oldham (VAO) for Voluntary, Community and Faith organisations.

The Oldham Partnership Executive in January will consider the current position and Equality Impact Assessments are being conducted to inform our decision making. You will be aware that reductions to the Area Based Grant are mirrored by other reductions across the public sector. We will also be writing to all delivery agents on an individual basis to confirm the cessation of Area Based Grant funded contracts on 31st March 2011.

Contact us:

We appreciate that this is a challenging period and will continue to keep you informed throughout the process. Information is also available on the Partnership website:
www.oldhampartnership.org.uk/reviewing-abg

If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to call Alison Vaughan on 0161 770 3199 or John Eley on 0161 770 5254.

Thank you for your support.

² See <http://www.oldhampartnership.org.uk/key-documents/oldham-compact.htm>