

SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK FROM INITIAL CONSULTATION WITH FUNDED ORGANISATIONS AND ALL TOWN & PARISH COUNCILS

Organisations were invited to answer specific questions on the SIG's initial key proposals and to provide their general comments on Waverley's funding process.

52 consultation letters were posted and 15 responses were received by the deadline = 28.8% return.

Views on link officers

- Minimal contact throughout the year – unable to comment.
- Useful for day centres – provided legislation, H&S information etc.
- Provide a useful link in dealings with other service areas in Waverley/officers.
- Important/essential role.
- They keep our organisation informed of Waverley's activities and developments.
- Would expect them to attend meetings and events.
- Good links with other providers is helpful.
- Someone with vision, energy and time.
- Officer should have time to attend our meetings
- They should attend monthly board meetings – regularly.
- They can help with arranging meetings with other day centres and partnership working. Fiona Cameron's loss has left a gaping hole.
- We are delighted with the support of our link officer, however, we are disappointed no Waverley Councillor attends our meetings.
- They could identify other areas of funding that organisations could tap into and offer ideas to maximise existing funding, perhaps with advice about investments.

Views on reduced application documentation

- Very welcome
- Avoid repetitive questions
- Current forms are too cumbersome and repetitive.
- Would like to provide objectives and programme for 2012/13 plus accounts.
- Any reduction in paperwork would be helpful
- Yes please!
- Ask why we need the grant, changes in provision, mission statement, contact details.
- Would expect to provide a budget forecast.
- Good idea.
- We would welcome a reduction in paperwork although we need Councillors to understand what we do and why.
- Organisations should have the opportunity to demonstrate their value to the community and show their additional efforts to gain funding.
- We welcome a simplified application form.

Views on SLAs

- Might change our relationship with Waverley and our ethos and independence. Could have a negative impact on staff and volunteers.
- Day centres do not have the ability to control the number of people who use their service – older people do pass away as well. Our users are becoming older, less in numbers but require more support.
- Management may not have time to record numbers etc.
- It is for the Executive Committee and Trustees to run the organisation in a way that they deem appropriate, not the Council – potential for conflict.
- Good idea.
- We have campaigned for this for many years. I do not expect that we shall need a great deal of support.
- SLAs would be of great value.
- The parish council would welcome the opportunity to be involved in setting outcomes to promote more partnership working and community engagement.

General comments provided

- Applying for grants is time-consuming for volunteers and small organisations – the Council's proposals should reduce that issue
- We try to provide best possible value for money with Waverley's grant – volunteers/staff work extra hours for no cost.
- A new grant structure is one thing, but the amount of grant available is key.
- Would like to bid for more than one year at a time even though our grant is less than £10,000. 3 year funding would pump prime further applications.
- Concerned about diminishing level of grant.
- It is difficult to plan with annual funding.
- Despite running the organisation effectively and efficiently our resources are still diminishing.
- Consistent, adequate finance is required.
- No problems with the current grant process.
- The voluntary sector must have a level of certainty to make service planning possible.
- We actively seek funding all the time: it is a never ending task.
- Having reserves/funds should be welcomed by Waverley and should not look at them as a negative. We should be congratulated on keeping the organisation solvent.
- We constantly examine our services, income and expenditure at our regular management meetings. We can only move to be self-sufficient in small steps, particularly in a recession with astronomical energy costs.
- Organisations are finding it difficult to find additional funding and there is a decline in voluntary sector support.
- We need more pooling of resources and partnership working, not only to reduce costs, but for community benefit.
- If Waverley were to cut its grant to organisations, they may request higher amounts from the Town Council, which we would not be able to allocate.