

Whalley Range Community First Panel meeting

Present: Mary Watson, Carol Packham, Majid Dar, Yasmine Dar, Chris Ricard, Chris Sedman, Bill Williams, Yousef Hageg.

Agenda

The minutes from the previous meeting were unavailable - although we had the notes - so the panel discussed the issues and action points from the last meeting.

The main purpose of this meeting was to discuss and identify the 5 Panel Priorities (see below) and expenses which need to be submitted to CDF: 10% of the allocated funding can be spent on reasonable expenses by the Panel: i.e. room hire, refreshments for meetings and childcare expenses. Panel discussed purchasing a portable banner - to promote the project at events.

The Panel partner can claim 3% of the Panel Partner's 10% in any one year; again for reasonable expenses.

Although promoting the scheme may not be classed as acceptable expenses – translation of flyer could be submitted as making the scheme accessible – so the Panel will claim for the leaflet/flyer/translation production.

Panel agreed to question the allocation of expenses as guidelines confusing. Expenses claim/projected claim and priorities to be submitted by 31st March: Panels have up until 30 June 2012 to commit their Year One (2011-2012) funding allocation.

The 5 priorities need to be submitted to the CDF in line with their criteria.

Before any monies can be released to the Panel Partner to distribute to groups who apply for the funding (between £250 - £2500) through the Panel, these 5 priorities must be sent to the CDF - and must address issues in Whalley Range as determined by the Community First Plan drawn up by the Panel

The Panel discussed the local priorities that came up through discussions with their own groups and residents feedback. Emphasis of feedback for the priorities was on building self-esteem and confidence through courses, job advice e.g. CV workshops, basic Internet training and access to computing to assist job seeking - from isolated local residents including women. Young people's feedback: common theme to address general lack of facilities, to provide more activities sessions, access to training, sports equipment. Also support for young people and mental health.

The Panel discussed how this pot of funding should be used for new initiatives and ways to tackle priorities in the area, rather than addressing cuts in services from Manchester City Council.

In terms of match funding, Cash grants and U Decide MCC money cannot be used: this was clarified by MACC at their CDF meeting. Funding has to be match-funded, £1 for £1 either by in-kind resources (free venue hire, heating, lighting etc) or volunteer hours, (match funding rate is £11.05 per hour) fundraising, small donations/local grants.

The following priorities were identified, based on feedback received from the groups passed on by members of the community and existing groups

- **PROMOTING EMPLOYABILITY:** Local events in partnership with MCC for residents to meet relevant employment agencies
- **HEALTH & WELLBEING:** Work with Whalley Range Health & Sustainability, Valuing Older People etc
- **PROMOTING COMMUNITY COHESION:** Encourage Partnership working with transparent objectives and stimulate interests in resident's welfare.
- **PROMOTING CAPACITY BUILDING IN 3RD SECTOR ORGANISATION:** Including exploring new avenues for funding
- **PROMOTING COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:** Intergenerational activities involving all age groups.

Now that the panel have set the five priorities, they will be sent to the CDF and applications from the community will be submitted to the Panel and agreed projects will be recommended to CDF. Applications will need to address at least one of the priorities and match funding has to be identified by groups who apply – which can include volunteer hours. The panel emphasised the need to reach people who don't normally access services. There are a lot of groups who meet regularly across the Ward and don't necessarily tap into available funding. The leaflet produced to promote the Community First funding includes a basic Arabic translation to ensure access to the information across the wider community. We can use existing resources to advertise the funding: WRF bulletins, News & Events, Websites – and the MCC My Area: a page on the MCC website dedicated to each Ward: Community First to be advertised on W/Range page. Also promote the scheme at local events with banner and flyers.

Since the U Decide projects have been taking place, the process of groups accessing funding has increased; we need to ensure we reach isolated groups to inform them of the funding available.

The panel agreed that the terms and conditions of the application form very difficult to understand; groups will probably need help with the application: the Forum regularly assist people to fill in application forms for funding streams e.g. Cash grant U Decide etc.

Action Points: Chris R: type up & distribute minutes email priorities for final comments and send to Yasmine who as main contact needs to submit the agreed Priorities online on CDF site.

Rotate chair and minute-taking of meetings (Mary to take minutes next meeting)

NEXT MEETING: 29/03/2012