

Equality Grants to Voluntary Groups 2004/05

RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 To note the grant payment of £3,500 to seven voluntary organisations.
- 1.2 To comment on the current grants criteria set out in Appendix 3.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Council sets aside £3,500 each year to assist voluntary organisations to promote equality of opportunity. The report provides details of the grants given to voluntary organisations during the last year – see Appendix 2.
- 2.2 The criteria for receiving grants are set out in Appendix 3.
- 2.3 Derby Cultural Diversity Community Group requested funding to celebrate cultural diversity at the Polish Community Centre. The event was an opportunity for community groups to share their culture in egg painting and diversity celebrations in the form of singing and dancing.
- 2.4 Amnesty East Congo Support Group is a new community to Derby where the residents are isolated. Funds were required to support the cost to publish a newsletter in French, which is the spoken language for many within this community. The newsletter provides information and updates on local community matters and on general information from the Congo.
- 2.5 Umoja Women's Group is a self-help group which was set up by refugee and asylum seeking women and their children. Funding was used to support the cost of an event to celebrate the group's second anniversary, conduct the matters of the Annual General Meeting and to raise awareness to the activities of the group.
- 2.6 Voluntary Organisation Support Effective management, works with voluntary groups across the East Midlands region. VOSE conducted a consultation event with approximately 60 African Caribbean young men from the Derby area. The event was to explore issues of discrimination and how it affects their lives. It looked at service delivery and explored the issues which prevent their access to mainstream provisions. Funding was used to support the cost for the hire of the venue, provide promotional material and meet the cost of the facilitator.

- 2.7 The Black History Group gave a group of young people the opportunity to attend two sporting events in Derby. The first event provided access to Derbyshire County Cricket Club for approximately 200 young people during the West Indies versus Derbyshire cricket match, and a presentation given by the cricket club to the West Indian team. The second event was in partnership with Derby County Football Club, and this will provide access to a group of young people to watch the Derby County versus Aston Villa football game at Pride Park Stadium. This is designed to capture role models and expose young people to the professional aspect of sports.
- 2.8 Derbyshire Association for the Blind provides a range of supportive services for visually impaired people and their carers throughout the City and Derbyshire. The organisation has opened a new Resource / Drop in Centre on Normanton Road, aimed at Black and Minority Ethnic - BME - communities. The centre is housed within Disability Direct's building. DAB will now provide a one day training course for 26 paid staff and 10 volunteers, on how best to understand and respond to BME issues, especially relating to visual impairment. Through this targeted training, a greater number of people from BME communities will feel more comfortable accessing DAB's services. BME visually impaired people will be given the opportunity to register and reap the possible benefits of registration.
- 2.9 The Ukrainian School set up an international exchange educational project for Ukrainian young people living in the United Kingdom with young people in Belgium and Western Ukraine. This was in the form of e-mails and letter exchange of information on Ukrainian life and culture. The school caters for approximately 25 – 30 young people, and aims to maintain and preserve Ukrainian language and culture amongst the third generation Ukrainians. The exchange focuses on historical information, current affairs and literature.
- 2.10 Derby Multi-Faith Centre is the first purpose built centre to be jointly designed by members of seven world religious traditions. Their vision was to create a space where people from different traditions can share and develop mutual respect and understanding through dialogue. The centre provides access to meeting space, and reading rooms with multi faith materials. There is a private area for group prayers and the opportunity to celebrate different faiths and cultural services, as well as to facilitate debates and lectures. Funds were used to support publicity of a Tabla Concert.

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Background papers:	None		
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 – Implications Appendix 2 – Equality Grant Information 1 April 2004 – 31 March 2005 Appendix 3 – Equality Grants Criteria		

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

1. The total amount for the Equalities Grants Budget was £3,500 for 2004/05 and grants of £3,500 were approved. The budget for 2005/06 is £3,500.

Legal

- 2.1 The Council has an enforceable legal obligation, under the Race Relations Amendment Act 2000, to promote equal opportunities.
- 2.2 The Director of Policy approved the grants under delegated powers.
- 2.3 The applicants are required to enter into a Funding Agreement with the Council on which they are monitored at the end of the financial year.

Personnel

3. None.

Equalities impact

- 4.1 These grants provide financial support to equality target groups who have priority in our equality policy.
- 4.2 The initiatives that the Equality Grant is used for is to promote good race relations and equality of opportunity for all groups within the organisation, within the community or for individuals using the services of projects.

Corporate objectives and priorities

5. The use of this grant links directly to:
 - the Council's objective of healthy, safe and independent communities
 - the Council's priority of working in partnership to achieve socially cohesive communities.

Equality Grant Information 1 April 2004 – 31 March 2005

Name of Organisation	Activity	Amount requested	Outcome	Amount approved	Cumulative expenditure	Monitoring
Derby Cultural Diversity Community Group – Polish Centre	Egg painting event	500	Approved	500	3,500	March 05
Amnesty East Congo Support Group	Provide a focal point of contact for this new emerging community	500	Approved	500	3,000	May 05
Umoja Women's Group	A self-help group which was set up by Refugee and Asylum seeking women and their children	500	Approved	300	2,500	July 04
Voluntary Organisation Support Effective management - VOSE	Works with small voluntary organisation across the East Midlands	494	Approved	494	2,200	still awaited
The Black History Group	The Black History Group offers a group of young people the opportunity to attend two sporting events in Derby	700	Approved	500	1,706	May 05
Derbyshire Association for the Blind	DAB will provide a one day training course for staff and volunteers	500	Approved	500	1,206	April 05
Ukrainian School	to set up an international exchange educational project for Ukrainian young	500	Approved	500	706	May 05
Derby Multi Faith Centre	Funding is required to support the cost of promoting a Tabla Concert	300	Approved	206	206	April 05

Equality grants criteria

Derby City Council is committed to equality of opportunity. We realise that some initiatives promoting good race relations and equality can cost money. To help voluntary organisations carry out equality initiatives, the Council has introduced an Equality grant. Groups can only apply once for an Equality grant in any one financial year. The grant can be up to £500.

To qualify for an Equality grant, you will need to follow all our general rules for grants from the Council. Your equality initiative should promote good race relations and equality of opportunity for **minority ethnic communities, women, disabled people facing discrimination, lesbians and gay men, people facing age discrimination or because of living with HIV/AIDS.**

You can apply for an Equality grant to pay for or help towards the cost of:

equipment - your group might want to buy a minicom so Deaf people can reach your service. You might want to hire some equipment, such as display boards to promote your equality initiative. Software computer packages are now available that can translate English into other languages. You might need help in paying for this.

a service - providing leaflets in large print, on audio tape and in languages other than English enables more people to access services and groups more easily. You may need an interpreter at one of your meetings, but cannot afford one, an Equality grant would help with the cost. Providing crèche facilities for your event cost money, so you might need a grant for this.

an event - you might want to put on some equality training courses to create more awareness about a particular equality issue, such as racism, sexism or disability. Putting on an 'Open Day' to promote your group might involve providing transport for some people. You can apply for an Equality grant towards these transport costs. You might want to put on an activity to promote understanding of the different cultures in Derby. An Equality grant could help with the cost.

You do not have to be from a minority ethnic, women's or a disabled group to apply for a grant. Any voluntary group can apply so long as the money is to promote equalities within the organisation or in the community.

You can apply for an Equality grant if...

- the project has not received an equality grant during this financial year
- the funding is not for an individual or if it is that it will benefit the organisation as a whole
- the grant will benefit a wider audience
- the grant does not include the provision of refreshments and food.

We want to offer groups the opportunity to access an Equality Grant, so groups that have not previously received an Equality grant will be given priority. Smaller grant applications of £50, £100, £200, and £300 will be encouraged. New organisations with projects requiring the maximum £500 may be supported with 100% of the grant.

Please feel free to contact the Area and Neighbourhood Unit on 258528 or textphone 258522, if you want to discuss your application before submitting it.