

## Cabinet Report 21<sup>st</sup> February 2012

### Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector Grant Aid Funding 2011 - 2015

#### Consultation Correspondence

Additional correspondence and statements of support were received for the following organisations:

##### Business in the Community

- Richard Massey - Area Manager, Business in the Community
- Rosemarie Grantham – Chair, Business in the Community, Southern Derbyshire and Burton Business Support Group

##### Derby Women's Centre

- A service user
- Jo Brand
- Perween Warsi
- Kavita Oberoi

##### Relate Derby and Southern Derbyshire

- Bev Miller – Centre Director, Relate Derby and Southern Derbyshire
- Rt Hon Margaret Beckett, Labour MP for Derby South
- Pauline Latham, Conservative MP for Mid Derbyshire
- Peter Purnell – Chair, Relate Derby and Southern Derbyshire

##### Sinfin and Stenson Fields Asians Over 60 Social and Welfare Club

- Harminder Banwait – Chair, Sinfin and Stenson Fields Asians Over 60 Social & Welfare Club.

## **Business in the Community**

**Cath Roff**  
**Strategic Director for Adults, Health and Housing**  
**Derby City Council**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Saxon House**  
**Friary Street**  
**Derby DE1 1AN**

**30/12/2011**

Dear Cath

Re: Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector Grant Aid Funding 2011-2015

I refer to your letter of 30th September advising that funding for Business in the Community (BitC) was subject to further consultation.

Further information from Ian Chennery including a link for BitC, Service Users and Stakeholders to respond on line has been circulated and, I hope, used by those groups. The response from BitC has been submitted today.

I am disappointed that you did not feel our submission stressed the VCS outcomes from the work of BitC and its member companies because our engagement with programmes driven by Community Action and the Council to increase Private Sector participation through volunteering etc has been encouraged. BitC is a partner in the small group of organisations driving the Local Infrastructure bid.

The Employment and Skills Board which is driven by the Council and JobCentrePlus has built into its future programme an expansion of work with schools through mock interviews run by BitC using volunteers from business. That work is funded by the Council grant.

The group set up to look at volunteering across the City, led by Ian Chennery, has adopted the BitC suggestions re Private Sector volunteering including my suggestion that businesses be encouraged to be associate members of Community Action because the enlightened private sector recognises that the VCS is an important part of Derby's economy.

One area of concern in your letter which has been the subject of discussions at another group, I think run by Ian, is how do we identify VCS organisations that are not on the radar of CAD or Derby City Council or BitC. That is an issue we all have to face because they are missing out.

BitC targets engagement in areas of disadvantage. Unfortunately those areas will probably have a higher proportion of BME and emerging communities people so by definition we have a wider access to them. However, access is not the answer if we have to work with community leaders to address cultural issues. This is a bottom up not top down issue.

Can I finally address the issue of not having “a physical base in the City”. Although my office base is in our regional office in Nottingham almost all my time is working from home unless I am meeting member companies, the VCS or stakeholders in Derby and surrounding area which is no different to before. I live just outside Derby and am proud to be a part of Derby’s strong network.

My colleagues from other parts of the region and nationally are impressed by the partnership here of Private, Public/Statutory and VCS sectors and wish to emulate it elsewhere. The funding by Derby City Council is seen as an important catalyst in that relationship.

I hope the comments made by myself, service users and stakeholders will convince you to continue the funding of Business in the Community.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rich. Massey', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Richard Massey



4<sup>th</sup> November 2011

**Pennine Healthcare**

City Gate, London Road, Derby DE24 8WY United Kingdom  
Telephone +44 (0)1332 794880 Fax +44 (0)1332 794890  
email: [info@penninehealthcare.co.uk](mailto:info@penninehealthcare.co.uk) [www.penninehealthcare.co.uk](http://www.penninehealthcare.co.uk)

Mr Adrian McNaney  
Voluntary Sector Co-ordinator  
Business Intelligence and Sector Development  
Adults, Health and Housing  
Derby City Council  
Room S33, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Middleton House, 27 St Mary's Gate  
Derby, DE1 3NN

Dear Adrian

**Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector Grant Aid Funding 2011-2015**

I am writing as the Chair of the Business In The Community (BITC), Southern Derbyshire and Burton Business Support Group (The Group).

At our last quarterly meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> September Richard Massey, who co-ordinates our work in Derby for BITC, reported that BITC had been unsuccessful in the first tranche of bodies to receive funding under the above programme.

The group were very concerned that withdrawal of this vital support to BITC would have a knock-on effect on member companies as they work to achieve a positive impact on our community.

Members are mostly in Derby eg Rolls-Royce but some outside the City work within it eg Toyota and Lubrizol.

In contrast to the large household name members e.g. Rolls-Royce and Toyota other members of the group are of a size where they do not have a Corporate Social Responsibility or Community department and BITC provides the brokerage to engage them with the Voluntary and Community Sector and with schools.

Supporting schools is often the issue that starts a company's engagement through BITC but, because education and the Third Sector are so closely aligned in our more disadvantaged wards, once aware of the issues that engagement spreads.

The private sector is a huge, free resource and Corporate Responsibility has grown in importance. As well as being "the right thing to do" the subject is increasingly part of the tender process, especially with contracts with the public sector.

We believe the cost to Derby City Council of supporting BITC through its grant is recouped many fold by the free resource that members commit. ProHelp, one of BITC's flagship programmes, delivered £60k of in-kind support last year to the Voluntary and Community Sector in Derbyshire.

A key task for our group at the moment is supporting city schools through mock interviews in secondary schools and reading volunteering in primaries. The former has been so successful that Richard is having to "ration" volunteer places. Reading is a resource issue and where companies are not big enough to run a programme on their own members of the group are looking to pool their volunteers. Again we rely on BITC to organise that team effort.

We know from visitors to our Group meetings from BITC nationwide that Derby is almost unique in the way, through The Group, that we work together. Those visitors often say they would like to replicate it elsewhere.

But it only happens because of the funding BITC receives from the City Council and we would urge you to reconsider the decision to stop the grant funding.

I am writing as the Chair of The Group but such is our concern that I have listed below those members present on the 28<sup>th</sup> and contact details if you would like to talk to them individually.

Yours sincerely



Rosemarie Grantham

Chair, Business In The Community

Southern Derbyshire and Burton Business Support Group

Cooper Parry – Olivia Parrish – 01332 295544

[oliviap@CooperParry.com](mailto:oliviap@CooperParry.com)

Derby College – Mandie Stravino – 01332 851754

[Mandie.stravino@derby-college.ac.uk](mailto:Mandie.stravino@derby-college.ac.uk)

East Midlands Airport – Hannah Borkett – 01332 852902

[Hannah.borkett@eastmidlandsairport.com](mailto:Hannah.borkett@eastmidlandsairport.com)

G F Tomlinson Group – Maria Shawyer – 01332 342202

[marketing@gftomlinson.co.uk](mailto:marketing@gftomlinson.co.uk)

Hewlett Packard – Richard Bateson – 07790 491695

[Richard.bateson@hp.com](mailto:Richard.bateson@hp.com)

Lubrizol – Christine Sewell – 01332 845311

[Christine.Sewell@Lubrizol.com](mailto:Christine.Sewell@Lubrizol.com)

Pennine Healthcare – Rosemarie Grantham – 01332 794880

[R.A.GRANTHAM@penninehealthcare.co.uk](mailto:R.A.GRANTHAM@penninehealthcare.co.uk)

Rolls-Royce – Helen Bishop – 01332 249402

[Helen.Bishop@rolls-royce.com](mailto:Helen.Bishop@rolls-royce.com)

Toyota – Mandy-Jayne Evans – 01332 283613

[Mandy-Jayne.Evans@toyotauk.com](mailto:Mandy-Jayne.Evans@toyotauk.com)

January 25-2012

Dear Ruth Skelton,  
I am writing to ask you not to cut the funding to Derby Women's Centre. I am a Regular Service User and have been attending since January 2009. I had a Breakdown in Oct 2008, and my Doctors Surgery sent me to join a Confidence Course. This was the start to Rebuilding my Life, the Services they give are so Valuable Counselling, Dramatherapy, Various Craft Classes, Health & Wellbeing, Aromatherapy & Reflexology, which are just the tip of the Ice-burg. They only ask for Donations Women can Afford. £5 a Session, not £50+ like Relate. I wouldn't be at the place in my Life, I am at today if it wasn't for them. I'm a Stronger person since I walked through their door, and they never judge just Offer Support. I helped Organise a Fashion Show in Oct 2011, to raise Awareness of Derby Women's Centre. It was a huge Success and raised £2,300. Please help us to stay Open.

**Jo Brand**  
**PO Box 26980 London SE21 7WW**

11<sup>th</sup> January 2012

Rose Williams  
Derby Women's Centre  
4 Leopold Street  
Derby DE21 2HE

Dear Rose

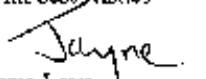
My most sincere apologies for the length of time its taken us to get back to you. Jo has been really busy as you might expect with the run up to Christmas, and then a slight pause in the proceedings for a little R&R over the holiday. Also I am sorry for the misunderstanding with the Fashion Show but as you will see I am now able to return a quote from Jo which hopefully might be of some use with the 'Save the Derby Women's Centre' Campaign. Not sure where you are with Derby City Council at the moment but we have no doubt you're working on every possible route to secure funding from that source.

Jo writes -

**Its been my privilege to support the Derby Women's Centre since 1994 and I'm not going away!**  
**What I most admire and feel most proud about the DWC is that women really do use it. In any year the Centre helps around 3000 women through any number of personal difficulties and that includes domestic violence, sexual abuse - yes, things we don't always want to talk about.**  
**The assurance of a women-only environment, the confidentiality and non judgemental welcome all women receive needs to continue in Derby. Any suggestion of a reduced service or closure amounts to women at real risk having nowhere else to go or denied of the choice of where to go.**  
**Please let the skilled and dedicated workers at the Derby Women's Centre carry on with their essential work with women who want to regain their confidence, happiness and ability to care for their children.**  
**Please support the 'Save the Derby Women's Centre' and ensure this is a service guaranteed to continue in Derby City.**

I hope this is something of purpose for the job - again sorry for the delay.  
Keep in touch.

With best wishes

  
Jayne Love  
For Jo Brand



Statement for Kavita Oberoi about the Derby Women's Centre's funding crisis.

"I became a patron of Derby Women's Centre in 2010 because its work compliments my own desire to see more women challenge barriers in the workplace and break the "glass ceiling". The women's centre does an excellent job helping women overcome personal difficulties, socio-economic inequalities and improve employment skills and confidence, which all contribute toward enabling women to fulfil their potential. It is a vital service for women in Derby and it would be a great loss to them if it were to close.

What I really admire about the centre is the variety of services they offer and their integrated delivery. The importance to these women of being able to access a number of services in the same place – a women-only environment where they feel welcome and safe – cannot be underestimated.

Moreover, cutting the funding of the women's centre is not good business sense. The centre reduces the pressure on other publically-funded bodies. Many NHS GPs, for example, refer patients to the centre for counselling, which it provides at a much cheaper cost.

I am proud to support the women's centre and hope that it is around for some time to come."

Statement in support of Derby Women's Centre by Perween Warsi,  
CBE

"I am deeply saddened to hear that Derby City Council has proposed to cut the funding of Derby Women's Centre, which plays a vital role in supporting vulnerable women in Derby.

I became a patron of the centre in March 2011 after learning more about its work at an International Women's Day event in Derby. I was impressed by the centre's commitment to helping all women, regardless of their situation and background.

I worked extremely hard to build a successful business, but it is thanks to help from family and friends that I was able to do so. We all need support and stability, and for many women in Derby it's the women's centre that they turn to for help and guidance.

The women's centre has been a Derby institution since 1978 and it would be a tragedy not just for women, but for the whole city if it were to close down."

# Relate Derby and Southern Derbyshire

relate  
the relationship people

## Relate Derby and Southern Derbyshire

62 Friar Gate • Derby • Derbyshire • DE1 1DJ • 01332 349177 • Fax: 01332 297384  
Email: info@relatederby.org.uk • Website: www.relatederby.org.uk

### Relate Safe Speak Counselling

01332 349301 • Client Appointments: 0800 093 5264  
Email: info@safespeak.org.uk • Website: www.safespeak.org.uk



Margaret Beckett MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

21 OCT 2011

MB

17<sup>th</sup> October 2011

Dear Mrs Beckett,

I am writing to you to let you know that we have been notified by Derby City Council that our annual grant funding of £13,261 is at significant risk. The final decision will be made by the Council after a consultation exercise and an equalities impact assessment is carried out; this is happening at present.

#### WE NEED YOUR HELP

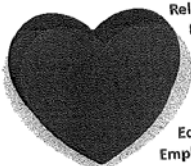
I am writing to ask you to contribute to this consultation as it will be the ONLY way that the Council may consider to continue funding our services. If they do not receive input into the consultation process then our fate is sealed and our funding ends.

We have always been committed to the principle at Relate Derby and Southern Derbyshire, that we should offer service to everyone regardless of their ability to pay for it. For many of our services that are not fully funded (through grants, commissioning, fundraising etc) we do ask service users to make a contribution towards the cost of the service. Due to the Derby City grant we have received for many years; this has meant that we can be flexible for those unable to pay the full cost of the counselling. We can see people who are on benefits or in financial difficulties at a very low charge. If we loose this grant we may have to charge a fixed minimum for each counselling session. If this is the case we know that many people will be unable to access service.

#### WHAT WE DO

Our work directly supports people from all communities and all ages – we want to support everyone to have happy, healthy, safe and nurturing relationships. Our work includes:

1. Relationship Counselling for couples and individuals
2. Family Counselling
3. Relationship / Family Counselling for people from the LGBT community



Relate's range of services include:  
Relationship counselling  
Children and young people's services  
Family counselling  
Telephone and web-based counselling  
Sex therapy  
Education and learning courses  
Employment assistance programmes

Relate Derby and Southern Derbyshire is grant assisted by Derbyshire County Council and Derby City Council

Safe Speak is the name used for our Children and young people's services

A company limited by guarantee  
Registered in England 4980776  
Registered Charity No. 1110768

Patron: William Tucker, Lord Lieutenant of Derbyshire



4. Children and Young People (5 years +)
5. Counselling for families who have a child with a disability
6. Counselling available in Urdu, Hindi and Punjabi
7. Telephone Counselling
8. Specialist support for people and families affected by Asperger's Syndrome
9. Sex Therapy
10. Education and Training
11. Domestic violence support work

We are asking if you can assist in any way to help us make a strong case to overturn this decision. Last year we supported over 4500 people at Derby Relate; our work supported, minimised or prevented the use of more expensive services such as G.Ps, Social Care, Education, Criminal Justice System, and housing. One way to help would be by completing the consultation document on line. You can really help us and hopefully make a difference to the final decision made – we want to continue offering a service to everyone regardless of their ability to pay; and you can help us make that difference.

If you are or have been a service user go

to: [https://remote.derby.gov.uk/dccsurveys/funding\\_organisations/funding\\_organisations.htm](https://remote.derby.gov.uk/dccsurveys/funding_organisations/funding_organisations.htm)

If you are a stakeholder go to: [https://remote.derby.gov.uk/dccsurveys/funding\\_public/funding\\_public.htm](https://remote.derby.gov.uk/dccsurveys/funding_public/funding_public.htm)

Please can I thank you in advance for helping us in this way. I hope you feel as strongly as we do that it is important that services such as ours, should be available not only for the wealthy but should be available for everyone in most need of support at the time they need it.

If you are able to assist beyond the consultation we would be very grateful and I would welcome the opportunity to discuss the situation with you.

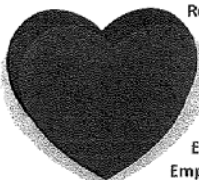
I am sure that supporting all families, and particularly the worst off, will continue to be central to the Labour Party. I hope you will be able to actively assist us with this. We would be delighted to arrange a visit by you to one of our locations.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bev Miller".

Bev Miller

Centre Director



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From Rt. Hon. Margaret M Beckett, MP for Derby South  
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA  
Tel: 020 7219 5135 or 020 7219 2088

DERBY CITY COUNCIL	
Chief Executive	
04 NOV 2011	
Referred to	

Adam Wilkinson, Chief Executive  
Derby City Council  
Saxon House  
Heritage Gate  
Friary Street  
Derby DE1 1AN

1<sup>st</sup> November 2011  
Our ref: ED01/ 01.11/0013

Dear Adam

Re: Bev Miller, Centre Director, Relate Derby, 62 Friary Gate, Derby DE1 1DJ

I enclose a copy of the letter that I have received from Ms Miller regarding the notification that they have received from the Council that their annual grant funding may be at risk following a scheduled equalities impact assessment and consultation exercise.

Ms Miller makes the very strong case for the work of Relate in supporting people from all communities and ages including but not in the least limited to the very young, those with disabilities, people and families affected by Asperger's Syndrome and those suffering from domestic violence. Moreover, I am aware figures demonstrate that Derby Relate supported more than 4,500 people last year alone, minimising or preventing potentially more expensive care.

I do, indeed, feel very strongly that the support and counselling to those in need that is offered by Derby Relate is of huge value and benefit to our community as a whole and I am therefore writing, as I have been requested, to formally write in support of the commendable work they do and hope that this may be taken into consideration during the consultation process.

Regards

*Margaret*

**Rt Hon Margaret Beckett MP**

**Enc.**



26<sup>th</sup> October 2011

Dear *Ms Jones*

I am writing to you to let you know that we have been notified by Derby City Council that our annual grant funding (under the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector Grant Aid) of £13,261 will cease beyond March 2012. The final decision will be made by the Cabinet on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2012 after a consultation exercise and an equalities impact assessment this is happening at present.

#### OUR SERVICES SERVE YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES

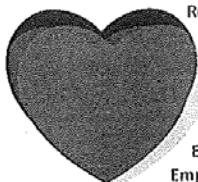
Please would you to contribute to this consultation and encourage others to do the same – without our Derby city funding our organisations ability to meet the needs of the people of Derby will be severely affected and we are currently experiencing a sustained 20% increase in demand.

We have always been committed to the principle at Relate Derby and Southern Derbyshire, that we should offer service to everyone regardless of their ability to pay for it. For many of our services that are not fully funded (through grants, commissioning, fundraising etc) we do ask service users to make a contribution towards the cost of the service. The Derby City grant has meant that we can be flexible for those unable to pay the full cost of the counselling. We can see people who are on benefits or in financial difficulties at a very low charge. If we lose this grant we shall have to charge a fixed minimum payment rate for each counselling session. If this is the case we know that many people will be unable to access service. Last year we saw over 4500 people and 4306 children under 18 years lived in those families that accessed service.

#### WHAT WE DO

Our work directly supports people from all communities and all ages – we want to support everyone to have happy, healthy, safe and nurturing relationships. Our work includes:

1. Relationship Counselling for couples and individuals
2. Family Counselling
3. Children and Young People (5 years +)
4. Specialist counselling for families who have a child with a disability
5. Counselling available in Urdu, Hindi and Punjabi
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Relate's range of services include:  
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Email: [info@safespeak.org.uk](mailto:info@safespeak.org.uk) • Website: [www.safespeak.org.uk](http://www.safespeak.org.uk)



We are asking if you can assist in any way to help us make a strong case to overturn this decision. It is estimated that family breakdown costs the UK upwards of £24 billion a year from increased crime, extra pressures on the NHS and costs to the education service in terms of poor school attendance. This figure does not even begin to show the impact on Social Care, the work place or housing by relationship breakdown. Relate is working very cost effectively to reduce this impact, but we rely on the continued support of our many funders to do this.

One way to help would be by completing the consultation document on line. You can really help us and hopefully make a difference to the final decision made – we want to continue offering a service to everyone regardless of their ability to pay; and you can help us make that difference. We see people of all ages (5 - 70+ years), religions or none, ethnic and cultural backgrounds, sexuality etc. If you believe that is it vital all these people still have access to relationship support then please help us change this proposal to end our grant. The people of Derby deserve happy, healthy and positive relationships.

If you are or have been a service user go to:

[https://remote.derby.gov.uk/dccsurveys/funding\\_users/funding\\_users.htm](https://remote.derby.gov.uk/dccsurveys/funding_users/funding_users.htm)

If you are a stakeholder go to: [https://remote.derby.gov.uk/dccsurveys/funding\\_public/funding\\_public.htm](https://remote.derby.gov.uk/dccsurveys/funding_public/funding_public.htm)

Please can I thank you in advance for helping the service in this way. I hope you feel as strongly as we do that it is important that services such as ours, should be available not only for the financially well off but should also be available for everyone in our communities when they most need support.

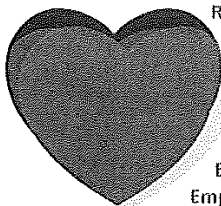
If you are able to assist beyond the consultation we would be very grateful and I would welcome the opportunity to discuss the situation with you.

I am sure that supporting all families is a key priority of all the political parties. I hope you will be able to actively assist us with this. We would be delighted to arrange a visit by you to one of our locations if desired.

Yours sincerely

Bev Miller

Centre Director



Relate's range of services include:  
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Children and young people's services  
Family counselling  
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PAULINE LATHAM OBE MP  
Mid Derbyshire



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

- 5 JAN 2011

Cllr Philip Hickson JP  
Leader of the Council  
Derby City Council  
Saxon House  
Heritage Gate  
Friary Street  
Derby  
DE1 1AN

Our ref: MM6518/JC

12<sup>th</sup> December 2011

Dear *Philip*

I am writing to you regarding Derby and Southern Derbyshire Relate and the review of their annual £13,261 Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector Grant.

I know the huge pressure on council resources and that each charity currently receiving funding will be doing all it can to maintain or increase its funding. As a result, I have always resisted calls from many charities that hope to secure my support for their funding, as I know the difficult decisions you and your council cabinet colleagues have to make.

In the case of Relate, however, I feel I must make an exception. The work they do, with all communities and faiths across Derby and the surrounding area is of the utmost importance. Unlike many charities who have a specific community or faith focus, Relate works with people regardless of background helping to prevent the breakdown of families and relationships or deal with the aftermath. Indeed, given the amount of GP referrals that Relate accepts, £13,261 appears incredible value for money, especially as reforms to our health services will see the Council take on more responsibly for public health and wellbeing.

Therefore, given the huge success that Relate has had in all communities across Derby and the extensive referrals from GPs and other health services, I hope that

Westminster Office - Tel: 020 7219 7110 Fax: 020 7219 2834  
Constituency Office - The Old Station, Station Road, Spondon, Derby DE21 7NE Tel: 01332 676679  
Email: pauline.latham.mp@parliament.uk Website: www.paulinelatham.co.uk



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Relate will be judged favourably and continue to be supported by Derby City Council.

I have enclosed a copy of a letter given to me by Relate that explains in further detail what Relate does and their impact in Derby.

I look forward to your response and would appreciate any information you can provide on the expected distribution of the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector Grant Aid.

Yours ever  
Pauline

(Encl.)

Relate Derby & Southern Derbyshire  
Family House, 62 Friar Gate  
Derby DE1 1DJ

9 December 2011

Councillor Philip Hickson  
Leader  
Derby City Council

Telephone 349177

*Call - please see  
part of consultation -  
12/12/11*

DERBY CITY	
Chief Executive	
12 DEC 2011	
Referred to <i>CR</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>

Dear Mr Hickson

I recognise the need to make cuts in the Council budget, that charities cannot be insulated from them, and that recipients of a Council grant must expect close scrutiny.

That said, the Board of Relate believes that the proposal to remove our Council grant of £13,261 does not properly acknowledge the contribution made by the range of Relate counselling services to the well-being of Derby citizens.

The assessment of Relate's value appears to have been made mainly on the basis of equality criteria, with apparently a nil to low value outcome. We have to challenge this assessment as we feel that in a number of respects it gives an erroneous impression. For example, in relation to minority ethnic groups, our penetration falls below the balance of the City's population, but this fact does not acknowledge our increasing contact with clients from minority communities, which in general have a cultural resistance to outside support in couple and family relationships. We have been making noticeable progress from a low involvement baseline, a progress that would be hindered by the removal our Council grant. We are at present able to offer some level of subsidy to 62% of our clients, who without it would be unable to access our services, and those from minority ethnic groups fall disproportionately within this category.

Likewise, regarding issues of gender and disability, we feel that the impact of our services on vulnerable clients, for example in relation to domestic violence, or families with children with disabilities, has also been undervalued in the assessment process. We could also point to our promotion of the availability of relationship and family counselling for the LGTB community.


Relate seems to have been grouped with 19 other organisations for assessment against the equalities criteria, with our grant representing 3% of the current grant total for these bodies. Yet Relate is different from the others in the comparison exercise. Although there is an equalities aspect to our work, Relate works across the whole community 'from cradle to grave' with qualified counsellors providing relationship support for couples, individuals and families, counselling for children and young people aged 5 -18, specialist help for people and families affected by Asperger's syndrome, sex therapy, and telephone counselling.

For this reason we think that the contribution of Relate to the City ought to be judged more broadly than just under the equalities agenda. There is substantial evidence of the effect of turbulent and broken family relationships on civil society generally and particularly on children, with some evidence of detrimental consequences for schooling and social attitudes, which of course carry significant costs of their own. The important contribution of Relate in this field is recognised at Government level where Relate is seen as part of the social policy framework for supporting families. However, the support of our local authority is vital for our on-going operation and for bursary funds to enable poorer clients to access our services.

At a time when the City Council is taking on responsibilities for public health, I should also emphasise Relate's contribution to the health and well-being of Derby citizens. We receive a regular flow of referrals from GPs and other health professionals because of the well-evidenced importance of healthy relationships for personal health, especially in the field of mental health and depression. We ask that this contribution be taken into account in the Council's funding decisions.

Relate Derby has had a continuous presence in Derby for 63 years, but our capacity to continue to deliver services would be weakened by the loss of financial support from our local council. We ask that the Council does not proceed with the proposal to terminate its Relate grant, or at least allows us an extension for a fuller assessment of Relate's contribution to the City.

Yours sincerely



Peter Purnell  
Chair

Copies: Cllr Ruth Skelton, Cabinet Member  
Adam Wilkinson, Chief Executive

**Sinfin and Stenson Fields Asians Over 60 Social and Welfare Club**

**SINFIN & STENSON FIELDS  
ASIANS OVER 60 SOCIAL AND WELFARE CLUB**

**5 Willowherb Close  
Sinfin  
Derby DE24 3LA  
Email: harminder.banwait@talktalk.net**

**15<sup>th</sup> December, 2011**

**Mr. Ian Chennery  
Voluntary and Community Sector Partnership Manager  
Derby City Council  
Adults, Health and Housing, Commissioning Unit  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Middleton House,  
St. Mary's Gate  
DERBY DE1 3NS**

Dear Mr. Chennery

Prior to our meeting with your consultation team on 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2011 at Sinfin Moor Church, I would like to put forward concerns and facts about our club which I do not think will be portrayed by filling in the questionnaire.

The Sinfin Moor Asians Over 60 Club is not just a luncheon club, it is a unique in that it provides much needed services to the disadvantaged, marginalised and isolated section of the Sinfin Community.

The Asian Community in Britain is going through a transformation. The present day senior citizens of this community grew up in a marvelous joint family system where the younger generation looked after their elders, in majority of cases this has now ceased. It is very difficult for the older generation to cope with this change, they feel depressed, isolated, uncared for and miserable. This is where we come in, although our Club Room is small it provides much needed support for this section of the Sinfin Community. Our membership also includes many severely disabled persons.

Our Club Room is the only sanctuary for the senior citizens of Asian origin where they can sit, talk, play cards, read newspapers and have a cup of tea. They find friendship with the like-minded people who are going through the similar health/social problems at this stage of life. They can also join our Healthy Walking Team. There is no other place/community centre/temple in Sinfin or Stenson Fields to cater for their needs. Yes, we have a Friday Lunch for our members, but this is a minor part of our activities.

The Club helps them to maintain their dignity, helps to promote well being, prevents social exclusion, creates harmony in their homes enabling them to live in many cases with their families when otherwise they would have to seek alternative housing provided by the council or be placed in a home creating a further burden on Council spending.

The Club has given the members a sense of belonging which helps to build healthier and stronger community.

The members from Sinfin Ward rightly feel that the Derby City Council does not care about them. If funding from Derby City Council ceases, there is very strong possibility that the Stenson Field members will part company from our Club and the Sinfin residents will be left with no facilities whatsoever.

We have recently made arrangements with the local Chemists to check members' blood pressure, blood sugar and cholesterol levels every 3 months, this is going to start from January 2012.

In 2012 we will have to pay more for our Healthy Walking Scheme. We used to pay them around £500 but the organisers have approached us to say that it costs them £1800 and are asking for a hefty increase in our contribution.

We call on Derby City Council to reconsider these cuts and to create a more equitable distribution of available funding in a planned and strategic way for the long term health and well being for the people of Sinfin Ward where there are no facilities where this particular group of people can congregate.

We pay around £4250 per annum for renting the Club Room in the Sinfin Moor Church. The only help/grant we require from the City Council is towards funding this item of expenditure.

Thanking you,

Your sincerely

H. Banwait

Harminder Banwait  
Chair