



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

MINORITY ETHNIC COMMUNITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE 15 JUNE 2006

Report of the Director of Regeneration and Community

Equality Grants to Voluntary Groups 2005/06

RECOMMENDATION

1. To note the grant payment of £ 3,500 to eight voluntary organisations.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 2.1 Until April 2006 the Council set aside £3,500 each year to assist voluntary organisations to promote equality of opportunity, which was distributed through the Equalities Grants budget. The Council decided to merge this grants budget with Small Change from April 2006. 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 Amari-Chi Group requested funding for publicity material for an open day held by the young people at the homework club and after school club. The group seeks to raise awareness to the work and activities of the young people by providing an open day to which the wider community will be invited. Funding supported the cost of producing publicity material including, posters, leaflets and brochures to advertise the day.
- 2.4 Asian Advisory Service received a grant to contribute to the production of publicity materials in different community languages, to promote their services so that more people could access their services. They offer advice and information to the local community who are experiencing problems with debt, welfare rights, immigration, health, employment, education and housing issues. These services are facilitated by bilingual staff and volunteers who help clients directly or signpost them to appropriate agencies.
- 2.5 Children's Heart Foundation supports children with congenital heart disorders. Their grant was used for producing publicity materials in different community languages, to promote their helpline within Derby's Black and Minority Ethnic communities. The organisation's services help to empower parents and families, and through the publicity material will raise awareness of the condition and the support available.
- 2.6 Derbyshire Coalition of Independent Living works to provide independent , integrated living opportunities for disabled people. Their grant was requested to deliver a pilot disability equality training programme for 30 taxi drivers in Derby, covering staff time, promotion and resources. Note, due to setbacks, they have not yet been able to deliver the programme. The programme is due to take place at the end of June.

- 2.7 Derby Women's Centre offers a caring and relaxing environment for women seeking help, support and advice. The centre also promotes and co-ordinates a variety of courses, workshops, talks and activity days enabling women to come together and share experiences, be creative and learn new skills. Derby Women's Centre used their grant to help meet the costs of a signer for the International Women's Day event.
- 2.8 JET - Jobs, Education and Training -, held a gala dinner and awards ceremony celebrating the achievements of young people, male and female, in the Pakistani community. Eight awards were made. The key note speaker was Mr Waqar Azmi, Chief Diversity Advisor to the government. An aim of this was to promote social cohesion and partnerships between the community and local institutions. The grant was towards the cost of the venue hire.
- 2.9 The Sahakra project provides a day care service for elderly men and women from the Pakistani community. The project is currently based in the Pakistani Community Centre and will shortly relocate to a new venue. Funding helped them to produce publicity material to promote their services and raise awareness within the community about the project and to promote their new base.
- 2.10 The Somali Education and Welfare Foundation is a relatively new voluntary group that seeks to support and provide information and a signposting service to the new and emerging Somali community. They also provide an interpreting service and link individuals to the appropriate services within the voluntary or statutory sector. Funding helped them to support the costs of a community event for the Somali community although not exclusively, the event raised awareness to the Somali culture.

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Background papers:

List of appendices:

Appendix 1 – Implications

Appendix 2 – Equality Grant Information 1 April 2005 – 31 March 2006

Appendix 3 – Criteria for Receiving Grants

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

1. The total amount for the Equalities Grants Budget was £3,500 for 2005/06 and grants of £3,500 were approved. The budget for 2006/07 was transferred to Small Change.

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 objective of a shared commitment to regenerating communities.

Equality Grant Information 1 April 2005 – 31 March 2006

Name of Organisation	Activity/ Service	Amount requested	Outcome	Amount approved	Cumulative expenditure	Monitoring
Amari-Chi Group	Young people's open day	500	Approved	500	500	June 06
Asian Advisory Service	Promotion of services in different community languages	500	Approved	500	700	June 06
Children's Heart Federation	Promotion of helpline in different community languages	500	Approved	500	500	June 06
Derbyshire Coalition of Independent Living	Pilot disability equality training programme for taxi drivers.	495	Approved	495	690	Programme delayed – no monitoring likely until July/ August.
Derby Womens Centre	Provision of signed at event for International Women's Day	105	Approved	105	700	May 06
JET	Gala dinner and award ceremony promoting the achievements of young people from the Pakistani community.	500	Approved	500	9,130	April 06
SAHARA project	Publicity material to promote their new base.	500	Approved	500	166	April 06
Somali Education and Welfare Foundation	Cultural event.	400	Approved	400	1,309	April 06

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 258419 or textphone 258522, if you want to discuss your application before submitting it.