

Report to: **Scrutiny Committee for Social Services and Health**

Date: **17 March 2005**

By: **Acting Director of Adult Social Services**

Title of report: **Review of the Community Partnership Finance Grant**

Purpose of report: **To inform the Scrutiny Committee of the progress made on the review of the Community Partnership Finance Grant**

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## **RECOMMENDATION - to note the current position.**

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### **1. Financial Appraisal**

1.1 The Community Partnership Finance Grant (CPF) for 2005/2006 is £339,207 plus £14,467 for substance misuse schemes.

### **2. Supporting Information**

2.1 In 2005 the Community Partnership Finance Grant will fund 50 schemes totalling £353,674. These grants fund infrastructure organisations, core costs and some services for voluntary and community groups across the county. However, there are several aspects of the scheme which could be improved and we have therefore initiated a review.

2.2 The main aims of the review are to ensure that the process for allocation of grant funding better reflects the strategic vision and core priorities of the County Council and also to align commissioning, contracting and grant aiding.

2.3 A Steering Group has been established to oversee this review, comprising Councillor Tunwell for East Sussex County Council, officers from the Social Services Department, Hastings Borough Council, Wealden District Council, the Primary Care Trusts and the voluntary sector. This Steering Group is responsible for overseeing the strategic elements of the process, such as roles and responsibilities, criteria and allocation. At its first meeting, the Steering Group set up a Working Group to address the process of the grant scheme, i.e. application, financial checking, monitoring, grant conditions, etc. The Steering Group will meet 4 times in total and will make recommendations in March 2005.

2.4 A three month consultation period will follow before the revised information packs are circulated in July. We will consult with grant applicants, contracts officers and partner funders to ensure that recommendations are as well informed and far reaching as possible. The principles laid out in the Compact Code of Practice on Funding are fundamental to this review. Although CPF is managed by Social Services, there are opportunities to make wider recommendations about how the Council works with the voluntary sector.

2.5 The timescales for the review are as follows:

Review	December 2004 - March 2005
Consultation	March – June 2005
New application packs issued	July 2005
Deadline	30 September 2005

### **3. Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendation**

3.1 The Scrutiny Committee for Social Services and Health is asked to note the current position.

3.2 A further report will be presented to the Committee on 23 June 2005.

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Acting Director of Adult Social Services

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Local member(s): All

#### **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Report to Lead Member for Social Services and Health – December 2004

Report to Lead Member for Children and Young People – December 2004