

SHEFFIELD FIRST FOR HEALTH COMMITTEE REPORT TO MEETING

REPORT FROM: Ruth Saffrey

DATE: January 2004

SUBJECT: Sheffield First for Health Small Grants Scheme

ALREADY CONSIDERED BY:

SUMMARY:

The contract with South Yorkshire Community Foundation for the administration of the SFfH Small Grants Scheme expires in April 2004 and the Small Grants Panel is ready (through the Healthy City Team) to tender for the administration of the next phase of the grant. This paper sets out the contribution of the Small Grants Scheme to tackling health inequalities in Sheffield, and seeks support from Sheffield First for Health for a further 3-year phase.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. To endorse the contribution of the Sheffield First for Health Small Grant Scheme to tackling health inequalities.
2. To agree that the Scheme should be funded @ £12,500 per annum over the next three years.
3. To empower the Small Grants Panel to review the workings of the Scheme and to make any necessary alterations to maximise the Scheme's effectiveness and synergy with other initiatives on health inequalities.
4. To authorise the Healthy City Team to issue a tender for the administration of the grant for the next three years on behalf of SffH and the SFfH Small Grants panel.

IMPLICATIONS FOR OTHER AREAS OF SHEFFIELD FIRST FOR HEALTH AND OTHER PARTNERS IN SHEFFIELD FIRST:

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Sheffield First for Health Small Grants Scheme: A cost effective way of engaging vulnerable and disadvantaged communities

The contract with South Yorkshire Community Foundation for the administration of the SFfH Small Grants Scheme expires in April 2004 and the Small Grants Panel is ready (through the Healthy City Team) to tender for the administration of the next phase of the grant. This paper sets out the contribution of the Small Grants Scheme to tackling health inequalities in Sheffield, and seeks support from Sheffield First for Health for a further 3-year phase.

Background

Sheffield First for Health Small Grants scheme has been running in its current form since 2001. Prior to this the scheme was the Healthy Cities Small Grant Scheme. The total annual fund of the scheme is 10k – currently allocated annually to the Healthy City Team budget. On the abolition of Sheffield Health Authority an additional 7k over three years was added to the fund for 02/03, 03/04 and 04/05. Therefore the total fund for 03/ 04 is £12,333.

Tackling inequalities in health

The Scheme enables groups to deliver on the following ‘critical initiatives’ in the Sheffield First for Health - Health Inequalities Action Plan (2003)

- Strengthening vulnerable and disadvantaged communities
- Developing a sure foundation through healthy pregnancy and childhood
- Improving opportunity for children and young people

Grant recipients are monitored. Outcomes include:

Sheffield Irish Elders Lunch Club in Sharrow

- Funding for equipment including a tape player for keep fit and traditional music recordings (£457);
- 42 elderly and disabled people benefited from the project, learning which lighter exercises are suitable for them. 4 new members became involved in running the group.

Sheffield Association for People with Cerebral Palsy

- Funding for a Boccia (kind of bowls) tournament (£260);
- 20 new members have taken up Boccia. More people have become involved in running the group and organising the group’s journey to a tournament.

Mental Health Action Group Sheffield

- Funding for cooking utensils and to enable internet provision (£300)
- New members (from a broader range of backgrounds) have joined the 120-strong group. Members have increased their confidence through learning new skills e.g. food hygiene and healthy eating and the group has made links with other groups including Pitsmoor day centre.

Value for Money

For a tiny investment, the Scheme supports the development of small grass roots based organisations that are uniquely placed to reach marginalized and hard-to-reach groups. This very small amount of money can make a massive difference to small voluntary and community groups starting to work with vulnerable people in areas of deprivation. The grant process also means that groups get access to information about other funding sources and they receive advice and suggestions from the panel about other sources of support and networking.

Criteria

The fund exists to support community and voluntary groups who want to develop health related initiatives. The fund targets and prioritises funding for smaller groups (with an annual income below £10,000), whose development could be significantly helped by relatively small amounts of money. Grants of between £50 and £600 are awarded to each group.

Applications must come from Independent community or voluntary groups, must have a strong health focus, should be developmental, leading to growth or advancement for the group or community. Applications must also fit within a Community Development and Health for All framework. Applications are particularly welcomed from groups which have poorer health than other sections of the population such as groups based in areas of deprivation and Minority Ethnic Communities.

The fund is not available to Individuals, statutory bodies, or activities based outside Sheffield. The panel rarely agree to fund activities which are not developmental - such as everyday running costs.

The process

Groups wishing to apply for a grant contact South Yorkshire Community Foundation (SYCF) who administer the grant. SYCF administer a number of different grants and therefore can signpost groups to the most appropriate funding. Groups complete an application form and are visited by an assessor to help them complete their form. Grant applications are considered by a panel quarterly. The panel is made up of representatives from PCTs, the Healthy City Team and voluntary sector organisations.

Recommendations to Sheffield First for Health

1. To endorse the contribution of the Sheffield First for Health Small Grant Scheme to tackling health inequalities.
2. To agree that the Scheme should be funded @ £12,500 per annum over the next three years.
3. To empower the Small Grants Panel to review the workings of the Scheme and to make any necessary alterations to maximise the Scheme's effectiveness and synergy with other initiatives on health inequalities.

4. To authorise the Healthy City Team to issue a tender for the administration of the grant for the next three years on behalf of SffH and the SFfH Small Grants panel.

Ruth Saffrey and Chetna Patel

Joint Chairs of the Sheffield First for Health Small Grant Panel

30th December 2003