

Presentations from Camberley Citizens Advice Bureau and Voluntary Services Surrey Heath

Portfolio	Community
Ward(s) Affected:	n/a

Purpose

To consider presentations from organisations in receipt of Revenue Grants

Background

1. The Executive, at its meeting on 21 February 2012, the Executive agreed that the performance of each of the organisations receiving a Revenue Grant would be closely monitored during 2012/13 and a fundamental review of the grants would be carried out with a view to evaluating the effective use of funds. The External Partnerships Select Committee was asked to assist the Executive in the gathering of the information from the relevant organisations.
2. The Committee has scheduled presentations from organisations in receipt of these grants throughout the 2012/13 municipal year.

Camberley Citizens Advice Bureau – Item 6

3. Camberley Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) assists thousands of people each year. It estimates that advice it gave last year resulted in around £250,000 worth of savings to individuals. The CAB anticipates that the number of people it assists will increase from 2013 with the introduction of new benefit regulations, including the Universal Credit and measures from the Welfare Reform Act.
4. The CAB received a grant of £70,109 in 2012/13. The Council has not increased the CAB's funding level from its revenue grant for at least three years.

Voluntary Services Surrey Heath – Item 7

5. Voluntary Services Surrey Heath (VSSH) is a registered charity, whose objective is to promote voluntary groups and organisations in the Surrey Heath area, representing the voluntary services at local and county level. It also aims to promote and facilitate partnerships within the borough to achieve common aims and objectives. It operates from the ground floor of Surrey Heath House.
6. Following the departure of the Director of VSSH in 2011, the organisation entered into joint management arrangements with Runnymede's voluntary services, Runnymede Action for Voluntary Services (RAVS). The new manager has a particular plan to focus on working with corporate organisations. VSSH is currently in the process of merging with RAVS.
7. VSSH is funded by Surrey Heath Borough Council, Surrey County Council and NHS Surrey. In 2012/13 the Council provided a Revenue Grant of £24,970 to VSSH.

Proposal

8. It is proposed that the Committee receives each presentation, followed by Members' questions and discussion.

Recommendation

9. The Committee is asked to consider the presentations and consider any future steps which Members would wish to recommend to the Executive and/or Council.

Background Papers:

None

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