

## Report of: Oxford Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee

To: Executive Board

Date: 20<sup>th</sup> February 2006

Item No:

Title of Report : Benefits in Practice



### Summary and Recommendations



**Purpose of report:** To outline Benefit in Practice funding requirements.



**Key decision:** No

**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr Dan Paskins

**Scrutiny Responsibility:** Oxford City Health Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee



**d(s) affected:** All



**Report Approved by:**



Cllr Dan Paskins



Jan Banfield (Strategy & Review)



Imogen Wooder (Legal & Democratic Services)



Andrew Collett (Financial & Asset Management Services)

**Policy Framework:** N/A



**Recommendation(s):**


- That the Executive Board agrees to accept the Grant Officer recommendation to grant fund the Benefit in Practice project. (It is understood that the grant application will be considered by the Executive Board on 20<sup>th</sup> February). That the level of funding is maintained at £20,000. If grant funding cannot be approved, the Executive Board agrees to recommend to Council funding for the Benefits in Practice scheme in its 06/07 budget.



- That funding is maintained on the basis that GPs surgeries in the most deprived areas of the City are re-targeted.

## Background

At its meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2006 the Sub- Committee received an update of the Benefits in Practice project. The project provides advice on welfare rights through general practice surgeries. Its main target groups are the sick & disabled, the over 50's and minority ethnic groups. A note from the Citizens Advice Bureau is attached which provides an update on some of the key outcomes of the programme.

The project has been running since April 2002 and for the last year has been running with funding from the Legal Services Commission, Oxford City hary Care Trust and Oxford City Council.

Similar to last year the project is facing a funding shortfall and is seeking £20,000 from Oxford City Council to enable the project to continue at its present level.

The Oxford City PCT's Public Health Group (a sub – group of the PCT Executive Committee) at its meeting in January 06 approved part funding of £15,000 for 06/07 to the project. The PCT see the project as effective in tackling the most serious health inequalities at source. The Public Health Group have also supported the recommendations of the Oxford Healthy Communities Partnership to ensure;

- Monitoring data is used to inform project development
- Targeting of deprived areas is as robust as possible.
- City wide view of advice services is taken into consideration
- New venues to be considered including Children's Centres
- Value for money is monitored and reported.

The Sub- Committee concur with the need for the project to target the most deprived areas of the City, noting that no GP surgeries in Northfield Brook or Rosehill are signed up to the programme.

The Sub – Committee is recommending to the Joint health Scrutiny Committee, that the Cabinet at Oxfordshire County Council approve part-funding for the project.

### **Name and contact details of author:**

Julia Woodman (Scrutiny Officer)  
Tel: 01865 252318  
E Mail: [jwoodman@oxford.gov.uk](mailto:jwoodman@oxford.gov.uk)

### **Background papers:**

Benefits In Practice update sheet – David Scott (Manager at Oxford CAB)

