

To: City Executive Board

Date: 6th October 2010

Item No: 9

Report of: Head of Community Housing & Development

Title of Report: Financial Support to Voluntary & Community Organisations in Oxford

Summary and Recommendations

Purpose of report: To inform the committee on the review of the grants commissioning programme, and request support for the commissioning programme from 2011/2012.

Key decision? Yes

Executive lead member Councillor A Bance

Report Approved by:

Finance: Janine Graham

Legal: Jeremy Thomas

Director Melbourne Barrett

Policy Framework: Oxford Community Strategy & Corporate Plan

Recommendations (s):-

Members of City Executive Board are asked to approve the following recommendations:-

1. To approve the programme for one-year open bidding applications for grant funding for 2011-12, subject to budget decisions
2. To approve the programme for two years commissioned funding for 2011-12 & 2012-13, subject to budget decisions
3. To receive a further report setting out allocations to community and voluntary organisations for both the one-year open application grant funding and commissioning for 2011-12.

Background

1. Oxford City Council has traditionally run a substantial voluntary and community sector funding programme, in order to contribute to the council's corporate priorities. These are:
 - More housing, better housing for all
 - Tackling inequalities and supporting communities
 - Improving the local environment, economy and quality of life
 - Tackling climate change and promoting sustainable environmental resource management
 - Reducing crime and anti-social behaviour
 - Transforming the Council by improving value for money and service performance
2. In 2010-11, the programme had a budget of £1,623,759. Nearly ninety per cent of the funding - £1,439,195 - was allocated to three-year grants to organisations delivering activities which were identified by the council as making a substantial and central contribution to the achievement of our corporate goals. The remainder of the funding is not, and organisations are invited to apply to the council on an annual basis for funding of less than £10,000 for projects that meets the council's corporate priorities.
3. Funding for the voluntary and community sector funding programme is from the council's core budget, and subject to annual review as part of the annual budgeting process, with the formal announcement of funding to voluntary and community organisations happening after the completion of the budget process but before the start of the new financial year every year.
4. The current commissioning period commenced on 1 April 2008 and ends – as planned - on 31 March 2011. The services delivered by organisations commissioned by Oxford City Council in this commissioning period fitted broadly into the following themes:
 - Advice
 - Arts (includes twinning)
 - Community safety
 - Community and voluntary sector infrastructure
 - Homelessness
 - Inclusive play
5. Unlike traditional grants to the voluntary sector, a commissioning process enables the funding organisation (in this case, Oxford City Council) to specify the nature of the services which it would like to be provided. Organisations are invited to bid to provide those services

Reviewing funding programmes to the voluntary and community sector

6. The current three-year commissioned programme is due to end in March 2011. It is prudent to review how this programme has worked and, in the light of the current financial situation, to consider how best to take forward the City Council's support for voluntary organisations in the city.

7. Local government, in common with all statutory bodies, must await the government's Comprehensive Spending Review in the autumn to know their budgets for future years. It is unlikely that Oxford City Council will know our final financial settlement from central government before January 2011, and we are expecting to have to make considerable savings. Therefore, we will not know the level of grant funding available for the one-year grant funding or three-year commissioning programme until the council's budget is approved by the meeting of Council on 17 February 2011. We will inform organisations who applied for one-year grant funding or three-year commissioned funding whether they have been successful and the level of funding proposed subsequent to this meeting.
8. In addition, two years ago the council agreed a £100k funding reduction to the community and voluntary sector funding programme, which comes into effect this year, a further £30k has recently been added to this. A number of other budget allocations to the grants process also come to an end this year, leaving a further reduction in the budget of £40k.
9. However, the city council is committed to supporting the excellent work to meet our shared objectives carried out by many community and voluntary organisations in the city, so it is appropriate to review our past programmes and set out a rationale for our support to the voluntary and community sector in the future, in the awareness that the programme depends on successfully securing an adequate budget.
10. Oxford City Council is a signatory to the Local Compact for Oxfordshire which sets out commitments by the voluntary and statutory sector to improve the way in which we work together for the benefit of communities and citizens of Oxford and Oxfordshire..
11. A number of initiatives have been undertaken to ensure effective communication with community and voluntary organisations in the spirit of the Compact ethos:
 - Letter sent from Head of Service in August 2010 to all organisations (both commissioned and open bidding) regarding notification of end of funding and outlining key dates and way forward in terms clarifying budget available
 - Two Voluntary Sector Forums to be run by Oxford City Council in partnership with OCVA in November 2010 and January 2011 to enable full discussion and clarification of grants process and budget available. These dates have been agreed with OCVA as the most appropriate as there will be greater clarification on budgets available at these times,
 - Ongoing dialogue with OCVA and a joint letter to be issued to voluntary sector organisations in late September regarding commitment to working together and keeping them informed of any developments as new information is learnt.
 - Contributing to 'Preparing for Change' workshop led through OCVA in October 2010, which is intended for senior management from both voluntary/community organisations and from the statutory agencies to provide voluntary sector attendees with the opportunity to explore and discuss the likely impact of imminent cuts in public sector spending.

12. We are also engaging with Oxfordshire County Council and Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust to further develop a more co-ordinated approach to grant funding voluntary sector activity in the City.

One-year open-application grant funding round

13. The open-application grant funding round enables small organisations with small-scale, new or innovative projects to apply for small amounts of funding on an annual basis. No changes are proposed to the open-application grants funding round, so the process will proceed as in previous years, and funding to organisations will be confirmed following the budget process. It is expected that funding will be available to run this programme.
14. Allocations to individual community and voluntary organisations from the open-application grant funding round will be the subject of a further report to the City Executive Board in March 2011.

Three-year commissioned funding round

Background

15. The three-year commissioned funding round has provided security and sustainability for a number of key organisations delivering important services that make a major contribution to the achievement of Oxford City Council's corporate priorities and aspirations for our city. It has enabled these organisations to provide high quality services that are complementary, or additional to, council-run services and lever more resources and funding in from other sources to Oxford. Funding for periods longer than one financial year is a preferable approach to providing one-year or rolling one-year funding for this reason; this is particularly the case in the current financial environment, where many voluntary organisations expect to experience a severe squeeze on funding.
16. It is also appropriate to consider how the voluntary sector in Oxford has changed and developed in the funding period. For example, new organisations may have started to provide services in the city, and may be better placed to help us meet our corporate priorities than existing organisations. Other voluntary organisations may have closed, or changed their ways of working. And finally, decisions by other funders may have a major impact on how the city council uses our resources, particularly where our funding forms a minority of the income for an organisation. Appendix 1 sets out the state of the voluntary sector, by previous funding theme, in Oxford city, and has informed the recommendations.
17. There is also a question as to how far the city council's funding programme for the community and voluntary sector should support our aspirations for the city as a whole. In the past, the city council has taken the view that it will only fund services that primarily fit with our responsibilities as a district council, and expect organisations delivering services more closely aligned to other statutory bodies' responsibilities to approach those bodies for funding. We should maintain this distinction.

18. In each theme, community and voluntary organisations need to demonstrate how their projects promote social inclusion. Officers use the principles outlined in the Regeneration Framework and other core strategies when making recommendations to fund organisations, as well as looking at issues of organisational robustness and sustainability and quality of provision.
19. It is also important that the funding allocated by Oxford City Council provides value for money. It is appropriate to expect voluntary organisations in receipt of funding to show how they are reducing their cost base and finding better ways to work together with partners.

Themes

20. For the period 2011-12 to 2012-13, the overall themes within which voluntary organisations will be commissioned to deliver services are recommended to be:
 - Independent advice and money management services
 - Inclusive arts and culture provision that promotes social inclusion
 - Services to reduce crime and support victims of crime
 - Community and voluntary sector infrastructure
 - Services to reduce homelessness
 - Inclusive play and leisure for children and young people with disabilities
21. The specified services to be provided within each theme are listed at Appendix 2. Voluntary and community organisations with the capacity to deliver these services will be invited to apply for activities within their theme in autumn 2010.
22. Allocations to individual community and voluntary organisations from the three-year commissioned funding round will be the subject of a further report to the City Executive Board in March 2011, following the council's budget meeting in February 2011.

Joint commissioning

23. For those community and voluntary organisations that are funded by one or more of the district and county councils, the Grant Officers Group (which has a representative from each council) is working together on information-sharing and joint monitoring.
24. Joint commissioning is furthest advanced in the homelessness theme. The performance of organisations funded through the homelessness theme is monitored by a strategic steering group which meets every quarter. Representatives on this group include Oxford City Council, Oxfordshire County Council, the Primary Care Trust and Oxfordshire DAAT. In partnership with Supporting People at Oxfordshire County Council we have jointly commissioned two organisations through the homelessness theme - Bournemouth Churches Housing Association (BCHA) to deliver an accommodation based service for young people at One Foot Forward, Iffley Road (previously known as The Bridge) and O'Hanlon House, Oxford Homeless Pathways which is the City's direct access hostel.
25. Further meetings are planned between Oxford City and Oxfordshire County councils to see if we can reduce bureaucracy and duplication by bringing other

jointly-funded organisations into a joint commissioning process, with a single funding timeframe and accountability process.

Climate change / environmental impact

26. There is no significant climate change or environmental impact issues related to this report; however organisations funded through the grants programme are encouraged to be responsible when considering any impact on the environment.

Risk

27. Please see risk register attached at Appendix 3.

Equalities impact

28. Each organisation funded through the grants programme has to provide their equal opportunities policy or statement to confirm they comply with this legislation.
29. Each theme of the commissioning programme works to benefit the community and targets their work towards areas with high indices of multiple deprivation or prioritise work with socially excluded groups.
30. The advice theme aims to increased take up of entitlements and managing debt which can improve the financial situation of a household and a reduction in deprivation and poverty experienced.
31. The inclusive arts and culture theme takes theatre and culture activities to those who would not normally have access to it, promoting social inclusion and supporting economic development objectives.
32. The community safety theme supports the growing need of support for victims of violence, intimation and abuse.
33. The homelessness theme supports rough sleepers into settled accommodation and develops clear pathways into independent homes, training and employment.
34. The inclusive play theme aims to increase the opportunities of access to quality play & leisure for children and young people with disabilities.

Financial implications

35. This programme sets out the rationale for a programme to be carried out in the coming financial year 2011-12 for which funding is not yet secured. The city council expects to run both a one-year open application grants round and a two-year commissioned funding round; the value of each of these two rounds will be confirmed following the budget-setting process. In common with all public sector bodies and following decisions taken by national government, the city council expects to have less funding in future, and so will make decisions about the size of resource allocated to the programme of support for the voluntary and community sector in that context.

36. Community and voluntary organisations funded by the city council are monitored to ensure funding awarded to them is spent for the purpose it was given.

Legal implications

37. Oxford City Council considers it reasonable and appropriate in exercising its powers pursuant to the provision of s.2 Local Government Act 2000 and all other relevant enabling legislation to offer grant assistance to community and voluntary organisations through its commissioning programme.
38. Oxford City Council has taken steps to notify all community and voluntary sector funding recipients that funding for the coming financial year is not secure, so there are no legal implications arising from this.
39. Oxford City Council offers grant aid to community & voluntary organisations through the grants programme for services delivery against the Council's core priorities. Grant funding is not subject to EU procurement law.

Recommendation(s)

1. To approve the programme for one-year open bidding applications for grant funding for 2011-12, subject to budget decisions
2. To approve the programme for two years commissioned funding for 2011-12 & 2012-13, subject to budget decisions
3. To receive a further report setting out allocations to community and voluntary organisations for both the one-year open application grant funding and commissioning for 2011-12.

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Appendix 1

Overview of the voluntary sector in Oxford, by theme funded in 2008-11

Advice

Recent research by the Legal Services Research Centre highlights that one third of the population experiences a problem that requires advice, yet 65% of these people fail to seek it out. This can perpetuate or lead to social exclusion and ill health. In order for the sector to be able to address this in a way that's sustainable, stakeholders and funders must also be aware of and buy into the idea that the advice sector contributes to their economic, social and policy objectives

A diverse range of independent advice is essential to ensure equality of access, provision and community cohesion. From April 2009 the Community Legal Services introduced audit fees for the Quality Mark at General Help level. Many advice agencies will have difficulty in paying this fee and maintaining the Quality Mark as a result. This in turn could result in loss of funding.

New funding is needed to help agencies providing debt, housing and employment advice respond to increased and changing demand. It should be used wisely to allow preventative work and early intervention and provide sustainable advice services.

Advice UK have called for more government funding for advice but for this to be spread fairly across the advice sector. The uncertainty of funding for many advice agencies, as funding for advice is not a statutory duty with local authorities, cuts a threat for some agencies in the current financial climate.

Inclusive Arts and Culture (includes twinning)

Arts and culture contributes significantly to the economic, educational and community wellbeing, as well as offering skills development for a wide range of individuals particularly those in disadvantaged situations..

Organisations funded through this theme have delivered a substantial increase in audience attendance, participation levels in theatre, dance and film, presented events, off site shows and the creation of new shows. All are committed to delivering outreach work in all art disciplines.

Through this work invaluable employment and training opportunities for emerging artists are offered. Community art enables the artist to develop additional skills essential to the profession and also benefit community cohesion and social inclusion. The provision of art activities has built connections within communities and is a means to exchange ideas around issues of identity and pride in localities.

External funding from the Arts Council of England and other public bodies including trusts and foundations is levered into the City by these organisations and contributes to the work they provide in the community. Any substantial reduction in funding would put a risk to the programme of art projects aimed at the disadvantaged communities around the City.

Community safety

The local Community Safety Partnership (CSP), comprising the police, Oxford City Council, Oxfordshire County Council, the Primary Care Trust, Oxfordshire Probation Service and other partners have identified the following community safety priorities for Oxford: anti-social behaviour, domestic and sexual abuse, serious acquisitive crime, drug and alcohol misuse, alcohol-related disorder, vulnerable young people and community confidence. The majority of voluntary sector organisations that deliver services to improve community safety in the city are focused on the prevention of crime or anti-social behaviour, or the important role of supporting victims of crime.

There are a large number of organisations that provide positive activities for young people in Oxford, some of which are located and target their activities in the city's areas of deprivation. There is a recognised need in the city Regeneration Framework for organisations that work with young people to provide both enticing activities, and offer advice and support for young people on a range of subjects that can improve their life chances and keep them safe from harm. Organisations in the youth activities arena need to be able to provide activities the appeal to the diverse communities in the city.

There is a growing need for specialist support for victims of violence, intimidation and abuse. Domestic abuse (including Honour Based Violence) and sexual abuse reports have increased in recent years, reflecting the significant amount of work undertaken by agencies to increase reporting before they get to crisis point. These offences do not only affect the victim but has a significant impact on their children and extended families. This requires outreach support to victims of domestic and sexual abuse as many victims do not want to report to the police or the police are not appropriate to provide the necessary intensive support for such victims. The vast majority of children tell no one of the sexual abuse until adulthood. It is imperative that people who have experience sexual abuse or violence receive specialist support to enable them to come to terms with what has happened.

CSP funding that funds a range of community safety activities in Oxford is being cut by over 30%. In addition, partners core funding is reducing in all organisations, reducing their capacity to provide these essential services.

Community and voluntary sector infrastructure

The total number of community and voluntary organisations in Oxfordshire is estimated to be 3,783, of which 598 known groups are located and work in Oxford City.

Nationally the new government are championing their 'Big Society' agenda which is based around social responsibility and community action. The ambition is to put more power and opportunity into people's hands and that we all take responsibility for our own communities.

Cuts to the public sector will have big implications for the voluntary sector as well. Reductions to the central government grant could result in less funding being available for community and voluntary groups. This may result in less services and benefits for local communities. Volunteers will play a bigger role in the deliver of services. However, it must still be understood that there is a cost involved and even voluntary effort does not come free.

The sector will have to look at new and innovative ways of delivering services because funding will not be available as it has been.

Investment in community and voluntary sector infrastructure will support the community and voluntary sector while it goes through this difficult time, with access to up to date information helping to increase their effectiveness and ensuring those group at risk of exclusion are empowered to find their own solutions.

Homelessness

The City Council manages its homelessness grant of £442,279 alongside the annual grant that it receives from the Communities and Local Government, Homelessness, Overcrowding and Worklessness Division. The grant has been £640k for each year 08/09, 09/10 and 10/11 which has been part of a £200m investment by government to prevent homelessness and tackle rough sleeping.

The grant is a non-ring-fenced grant but is given on the condition that it is used to help tackle all aspects of homelessness within the district and the expectation is that Oxford City Council will have due regard for Government targets when deciding how and when to spend this money, with specific regard to rough sleeping and non-statutory services as well as pump priming initiatives.

Whilst the Minister Grant Shapps has indicated an on-going commitment to the 2012 rough sleeping target, Communities and Local Government have already received a funding cut of 7.4%, and have been singled out for one of the highest levels of cuts at 40% which is likely to translate to the local grant level.

Oxfordshire Supporting People Team are currently reviewing the Supporting People strategy and are anticipating a cut of £500k to its single homeless budget which is the main source of funding for all accommodation based homelessness services in the City and County.

The mental health housing and support pathway, including mental health day centres is currently being recommissioned by Supporting People and the PCT with new services due to come on line in early March 2011.

Further cuts are anticipated to the health budget and the DAAT's substance misuse budget.

Inclusive play and leisure for children and young people with disabilities

Significant research has been undertaken over the last twenty years about the barriers for disabled children and young people to access main-stream services. The Government have recognised that additional resources need to be invested in order to improve outcomes for disabled children and children with additional needs.

With the number of disabled children and young people increasing more play and leisure organisations are being asked to support them. Disabled children are often excluded from their local provision as a result of the level of support they need and the fear that many have of working and interacting with disabled people.

The reality of being a disabled young person is that whilst there are many organisations offering leisure opportunities most are segregated and few are truly inclusive. It is acknowledged that all organisations have equality policies in place to support these individuals however they are unlikely to take them on without the additional resources Disabled teenagers interactions with their peers are often restricted to school or college.

It is difficult to find funding for core costs and enablers. An enabler is a person who through his or her actions allows someone else to achieve something.

Core funding is reducing in all organisations, which in turn is reducing their capacity to provide this essential support.

Appendix 2

Overall specifications of what is to be funded, by theme

Please note that detailed specifications of what is to be funded will be agreed with individual organisations.

1. Independent advice and money management services

Oxford City Council supports advice centres in the city, in order to make free, independent welfare advice, including debt and general advice, available to residents, with a particular emphasis on deprived groups and areas. Increased take up of entitlements and managing debt can make a considerable contribution to improving the financial situation of a household, deliver an increase in living standards and a reduction in deprivation and poverty experienced. In addition, given that many people in more deprived areas experience financial exclusion, Oxford City Council supports money management services.

a. Independent advice services

Outcomes required:

- Increase the uptake of welfare benefits and tax credits for those not working or on a low income.
- Reduce debt and improve money management among socially excluded and vulnerable people and those on a low income, as evidenced by the amount of debt written off, the number advised on debt issues and by customer survey results.
- Enable the City Council through the monitoring of advice centres' work to build up a picture of clients and their problems in order to make or facilitate, where within its powers, improvements to services and access to advice.

Services required:

Commissioned organisations will provide advice where appropriate on the following issues (this list is not exhaustive):

- Community care
- Consumer and general contract issues
- Crime and community safety
- Debt
- Education
- Employment
- Family and relationship issues
- Healthcare issues
- Housing
- Immigration and nationality
- Mental health
- Welfare benefits and tax credits

Commissioned organisations will make onward referrals as appropriate where another organisation is deemed to be better able to meet the needs of the client.

Settings required:

X hours per week of free one-to-one advice across the city, including in (but not limited to) the following locations:

- City centre
- Blackbird Leys
- Rose Hill
- Barton
- Cowley (in city council's one-stop-shop)

X hours per week of one-to-one advice in primary care settings

b. Money management services

A money management service reducing dependency in door step lenders and loan sharks.

To offer affordable financial services such as low cost loans and a saving facility to the residents of Oxford.

The service should be locally based and accessible to all of the residents in Oxford.

Providing X hours a week of affordable financial services.

The advice and money management services links into the following strategies and plans:-

- Oxford City Councils Corporate Plan 2010-2013
- Council priority – Tackling inequalities and supporting communities
- Social inclusion strategy
- Regeneration framework,

2. Inclusive arts and culture provision that promotes social inclusion

Oxford City Council supports the arts because they have a key and unique role to play in delivering our vision for the city. The benefit to the community is to enable wide access to high-quality performing arts and cultural activities in various forms including film, dance, theatre and culture that help to provide a 'sense of place' and pride in the community, whilst throughout supporting social inclusion and economic development objectives.

Outcomes required:-

- To maintain and sustain community and outreach activity in all art forms
- To be an infrastructure for high quality community arts activity
- Promote Oxford International Links and all twinning links

Services require:-

- Providing strategic support, advice, expertise and advocacy for culture and arts in Oxford.
- Capacity building for arts,
- Focus on creating and brokering new partnerships and collaborations
- Providing support and advice for local artists in Oxfordshire
- Involve more people in participatory arts projects and widen the audience for the arts.
- Developing a programme of live art for Oxford City
- To develop, increase and challenge audiences who find it difficult to access theatre
- Provide general support, advice and guidance for arts development in the city
- Supporting emerging and new talent
- Presenting world class events in the city
- Providing a participatory arts development programme for all community artists
- Developing centre based and off site activities exploring new art forms to benefit the local community
- Developing links and encouraging community cohesion in disadvantaged estates within the city
- Developing links with Oxford City Council twinned City's

Inclusive arts and culture theme links into the following strategies and plans:-

- Oxford City Council Corporate Plan 2010-2013
- Council priority – improving the local environment, economy and quality of life
- Culture strategy
- Arts strategic plan
- Dance development plan.

3. Services to reduce crime and support victims of crime

The commissioning of community safety services supports Oxford City Council in meeting its duty to help reduce the fear of crime which has an adverse effect on all our communities. This funding aims to increase access to support services for victims of sexual or domestic violence and vulnerable young people. The benefit to the local community is that this work may help lead to a reduction in anti-social behaviour and will enhance support for victims of domestic and sexual violence.

Service required:-

Delivery of supported unaccompanied young people and support for victims of domestic violence

Delivery of a helpline to support victims of sexual abuse

Provide a full time domestic violence outreach worker post to work with both male and female victims.

The community safety theme links into the following strategies and plans:-

- Oxford City Council Corporate Plan 2010-2013

- Council priority – reducing crime and anti social behaviour
- Oxford safer communities partnership
- Social inclusion strategy
- Oxfordshire domestic violence strategy
- Oxfordshire sexual violence strategy
- Regeneration framework

4. Community and voluntary sector infrastructure

Investment in community and voluntary sector infrastructure builds the capacity of all of Oxford's voluntary and community organisations. The benefit to community groups is support to look for funding and help with funding applications, and access to specialist knowledge about governance and management and changes in government and local authority strategies and policies.

Outcomes require:-

- To enable voluntary and community groups across the city to access up to date information in order to increase their effectiveness, by:
 - Producing and distributing a newsletter available to all community & voluntary groups in Oxford.
 - Groups having access to a resource centre
 - Updating Oxnet with policy and strategic news.
- To support the development of voluntary and community organisations across the city so that they deliver consistently high quality activities and service to their beneficiaries, ensuring that groups at risk of exclusion are empowered to develop their own solutions, by:
 - Providing 1 to1 support on funding advice, business planning, constitutions, legal structures, policies including health and safety, insurance HR and employment etc..
 - Provide training workshops on good practice and funding issues
 - Run a Management Development Training programme for a minimum of 10 candidates.
- Improve joint working and collaboration within the voluntary and community sector and between the voluntary and community sector and its statutory and business partners; and to raise the profile and improve public knowledge and awareness of the voluntary and community sector in Oxford
 - Conduct review of voluntary and community sector represented on partnerships
 - Provide or assist community groups to write to the voluntary voice column in Oxford Times each week.

The community and voluntary sector infrastructure theme links into:-

- Oxford City Councils Corporate Plan 2010-2013
- Council priority – Tackling inequalities and supporting communities
- Local Area Agreements

5. Services to reduce homelessness

The homelessness theme links into the following strategies and plans:-

- Oxford City Council Corporate Plan 2010-2013
- Corporate priority – More housing, better housing for all
- Homelessness strategy 2008-2011
- Oxfordshire local area agreements 2008-2011

Significant consideration is given to the national rough sleeping strategy entitled “No One Left Out – Communities Ending Rough Sleeping”. This signalled a new energy and renewed focus to end rough sleeping by 2012 and replaces its previous strategy “Coming in From the Cold” which achieved its target of reducing rough sleeping by two thirds from 1998 baseline figures.

Specifically Oxford City Council and Communities and Local Government grant are used to deliver against the City Councils Homelessness Strategy – Objective 4: Rough Sleeping “To support rough sleepers into settled accommodation and develop clear pathways into independent homes, training and employment.”

In terms of commissioning the following priorities have been identified and used as a framework to deliver the above outcomes and allocate funding:-

- Assertive outreach and reconnection
- Modern and effective hostels and day centres with specialist workers
- Good move on into both the social and private sectors
- Successful and sustainable tenancy sustainment
- Better access to education, training and employment.

6. Inclusive play and leisure for children and young people with disabilities

Oxford City Council recognised the importance and value of play in the development of children and young people. Oxford City Council are investing more than £2.5 million over 3 years from 2009 to 2012 in many of its play areas around the city. The benefit to Oxford’s children and young people will be easy access to quality play opportunities. But children and young people with complex needs require specific support to enable them to benefit from play opportunities; this theme will help Oxford City Council achieve that aim and contribute to equality of access to leisure for young people with disabilities

Service required:

The provision of facilities for recreation and other leisure time occupation for children and young people with physical or learning difficulties

- To work with at least 5 other supervised play providers in the City providing suitability qualified worker(s) to support the specialist needs for disabled children and young people.

- Run specific activities eg choice days for disabled teenagers during school holidays
- Work with at least 22 disabled children (5-12 years) during the course of the year
- Work with at least 17 disabled teenagers (13-19 years) during the course of the year

Outcomes

- Provide trained CRB checked staff to support disabled children and young people
- Support disabled children and young people to access mainstream activities.

Inclusive play and leisure for children and young people with disabilities link into the following strategies and plans:

- Oxford City Council Corporate Plan 2010-2013
- Corporate priority – improving the local environment, economy and quality of life.
- Oxford City Councils Children & Young Peoples Plan
- Oxfordshire Play Strategy 2009-2011

Appendix 3 – Risk register

Risk Score: Impact Score: 1=insignificant; 2=minor ;3=moderate; 4=major; 5=catastrophic

Probability Score:

1=Rare;2=Unlikely;3=Possible;4=Likely;5=Almost Certain

No	Risk description link to corp. obj..	Gross risk		Cause of risk	Mitigation	Net risk		Further Management of Risk Transfer/Accept/Reduce/Avoid		Monitoring Effectiveness				Control Risk	
		I	P			I	P	Action Action Owner Mitigation Control Control owner	Outcome Required Milestone Date	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	I	P
1	Loss of budget. (stronger & more inclusive communities)	4	4	Further savings approved against grants budget	Ensure senior management are aware of impact M	3	3	Avoid City Executive Board & Full Council Clear report to CEB Julia Tomkins	Keep budget intact: Milestone date: Feb 2011						
2	Risk to reputation (stronger & more inclusive communities)	4	3	Community & voluntary orgs loss or have a reduction in the amount of their grant. None compliant with COMPACT	Keep community & voluntary org. informed about savings required and impact on their org.	3	2	Reduce Julia Tomkins Give funded organisation early notification about any loss or reduction in grant funding. Julia Tomkins	Lessen risk to reputation On going						

