

RAYLEIGH ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY SERVICES (RAVS) - GRANT (Min 305/00)

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1. At a meeting of the Corporate Resources Sub Committee held on 19 January 2000 it was agreed that a grant of £1,500 be made to RAVS.
- 1.2. Subsequent to that decision, RAVS announced that it was to close its Rochford office. In view of this, the Finance & General Purposes Committee recommended that grant be withheld until such time as RAVS could inform the Council what action would be taken in providing additional outlets for the service.
- 1.3. This report updates Members on progress to date and seeks permission to release the grant monies.

2 CURRENT POSITION.

- 2.1. RAVS advised the Council by letter on 17 March that it intended to operate an outreach service at Rochford Roche Centre Hawkwell, Canewdon Village Hall and Great Wakering, commencing on 10 April.
- 2.2. The following update follows a telephone conversation with the Vice Chairman of the Association on 7 June.
- 2.3. The outreach service was attempted for Hockley and Hawkwell by utilising the Parish Rooms. The service was provided for one month, but usage was extremely poor and has had to be withdrawn temporarily. A new venue for the service is being considered.
- 2.4. An outreach service of one day a week is being provided from St. Lukes Place, Rochford, and is being utilised. If demand continues to increase, provision has been made to extend the service to two days per week.
- 2.5. Three further outreach facilities are under discussion. Although no roll out dates are yet available, the service will be provided in the following order:-

Canewdon
Great Wakering
Hullbridge

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- 2.6. The predominant users of the service are the elderly and young parents. Very often they do not have their own transport and the organisers are, therefore, very keen to take the service out to the user if at all possible.
- 2.7. RAVS is also negotiating with Essex Social Services for more office space and is actively pursuing a closer working relationship with that Department.
- 2.8. The organisation has also appointed a person who will act as its representative on the boards of voluntary organisations within the District. This should help in identifying common concerns and spreading good practice.
- 2.9. In view of the above, it would appear that RAVS is implementing the programme set out in its letter of 17 March

3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1. Provision for the grant has been made available within the current year budget.

4 PARISH IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1. The provision of an outreach service will benefit a number of Parishes within the District.

5 RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 It is proposed that the Sub-Committee **RECOMMENDS**

That the grant of £1,500 be now released to RAVS. (CD(F&ES))

Roger Crofts

Corporate Director (Finance and External Services)

Background Papers:

Letter from RAVS dated 17 March 2000.

For further information please contact Roger Crofts (01702) 546366