



Minutes of the meeting of the GRANT AID COMMITTEE held on TUESDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 1999 at 7.30 pm

**Present:** Councillor Barton (Chair)  
Councillors Clark, Gillingham, I Henderson, Irons (substituting for Councillor Miles), Pym and Squires

**Officers:** J Cove (Leisure, Youth and Community Services Manager), P Scrimshaw (Policy and Inter-Agency Liaison Manager), C Chandler (Group Accountant (Community and Economic Development)), C Bland (Grant Aid and Administration Officer) and S Parker (Committee Administrator)

**Apology:** Councillors Miles

**GA8/00 MINUTES**

RESOLVED -

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Grant Aid Committee held on 15 June 1999, be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

**GA9/00 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following declarations of interest were made:

Councillor Irons: Milton Keynes and North Bucks DEN  
City Discovery Centre

Councillor Pym Citizens Advice Bureau  
Coffee Hall Out of School Project

**GA10/00 GRANT AID PRESENTATION - THE ACCESS GROUP**

The Committee received a presentation from Sean Walsh, on the work of the Access Group and its activities over the past year of funding.

The Committee noted the role of the Access Officer in relation to the planning and building control duties of the post, as well as the role of the Group in providing a multi-departmental advisory service.

The Committee thanked Sean Walsh for his presentation.

**GA11/00**

**GRANT AID PRESENTATION - MK FAMILY MEDIATION**

The Committee received a presentation from Felicity Evans, on the work of MK Family Mediation.

The Committee noted how the organisation had grown from its origins in Milton Keynes Magistrates Court using volunteers, to its affiliation to the National Family Mediation, with paid staff and mediators supported by a Management Committee.

The Committee was presented with details of the Group's finances, as well as details of weaknesses and threats to its future development.

The Committee noted that achievements over the year for the Group had included computerisation of the office; increased contact with local groups in Milton Keynes, for example, Home Start and Relate; and the compilation of a directory of family solicitors.

The Committee thanked Felicity Evans for her presentation.

**GA12/00**

**GRANT AID PRESENTATION - PEOPLE ESTABLISHING A CARING ENVIRONMENT (PEACE)**

The Committee received a presentation from Monica King, Stephen Davie and Craig Stitson of PEACE.

The Committee noted the developments which had taken place within the organisation since it was established in 1990.

The period 1996-1999 had seen development of special needs placements and extended work experience placements from mainstream education, New Deal placements and a large increase in outside educational talks, benefiting not only the people at PEACE but other organisations and educational facilities.

The Committee noted that PEACE had achieved all of the developments proposed over the last ten years and the objectives which it had set itself.

PEACE felt that its biggest achievement last year, was when Milton Keynes Council, in recognising the benefits to the community provided by the organisation, agreed to the leasing of the old Netherfield Children's Centre.

The Committee noted that PEACE had, however, to resubmit its planning application to the Council's Development Control Committee.

The Committee also noted the weaknesses and threats to the future development of PEACE. PEACE felt that it was important that both sides of the project were recognised, as many only saw PEACE as an Animal Welfare organisation, when in fact the benefits to people involved far outweighed the benefits to the animals.

The Committee thanked the PEACE representatives for their presentation.

**GA13/00**

**GRANT AID PRESENTATION - RAPE CRISIS**

The Committee received a presentation from representatives of Rape Crisis.

The Committee noted the background to the organisation and details of its finance, including running costs and grants received.

The Committee noted that the organisation has launched a Friends Group and the continuation of the phone line and face-to-face counselling.

The Committee also noted the Group's affiliation to the Rape Crisis Federation and its plans to deliver an Action Plan and activities for the coming year.

The Committee thanked the members of Rape Crisis for their presentation.

**GA14/00**

**GRANT AID COMMITTEE REMIT**

Further to Minute GA7/00, the Committee considered a paper on the role of the Grant Aid Committee, and noted the review which had been conducted in the context of endeavouring to achieve strengthened relationships with voluntary sector partners.

The Committee noted a number of options for the role the Committee could fulfil.

The Committee also noted details of grants which were managed and developed through the Leisure, Youth and Community division as well as those managed through Economic Development, Arts and Museums, the Environment Directorate and the Neighbourhood Services Directorate.

The Committee also noted the response to the consultation from the voluntary sector.

**RESOLVED -**

1. That Option 1, as detailed in the report, to maintain the status quo of continuing with funding arrangements, be supported at present.
2. That officers provide a report to the next meeting of the Grant Aid Committee, which gave more detail on the strategy/monitoring/scrutiny role outlined in Option 2, which the Committee could undertake in relation to Grant Aid, prior to further consideration about its role.

**GA15/00**

**REVISED MILTON KEYNES COMMUNITY VOLUNTARY SECTOR STRATEGY**

The Committee considered a report on the revised Milton Keynes Community Voluntary Sector Strategy.

The Committee noted the evolving nature of the Milton Keynes Community Voluntary Strategy document, between partners who provide wide ranging services and lifelong opportunities that contribute to the health and social well being of service users and volunteers.

It was reported that the document had originally been spearheaded by the Voluntary Sector Liaison Group under the aegis of the External Affairs Committee.

The Voluntary Sector Liaison Group had been upgraded by the Policy and Resources Committee into the Voluntary Sector Consultative Assembly, of which Councillor Barton was the Vice-Chair. It had been agreed by the Consultative Assembly that the Chair should be a representative from the voluntary sector.

The Grant Aid Committee also considered the possibility of appointing the Chair of the Voluntary Sector Consultative Assembly as a non-voting co-opted member of the Committee.

RESOLVED -

1. That the revised Milton Keynes Community Voluntary Sector Strategy, as detailed in the report, be approved.
2. That the Council be recommended to co-opt the Chair of the Voluntary Sector Consultative Assembly as a non-voting member of the Grant Aid Committee.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 9.34 PM