

Cheshire West and Chester Local Strategic Partnership

General meeting report.

AGENDA ITEM 10.

Report title	FUNDING TO MANAGE THE TRANSITIONAL IMPACTS OF LEGAL MIGRATION
Description	External funding for sub-region
Document purpose	
Circulation list	Cheshire West and Chester LSP
Decision/Action required	<p>1) To support a single joint bid for the Cheshire and Warrington sub-region</p> <p>Reason: As stated in the Fund criteria, “the GONW Appraisal Panel may recommend that bids are merged or amended to optimise use of what will be modest resources. Cross-area, sub-regional and regional packages of projects will be greatly welcomed”.</p> <p>Note: If a joint bid is not supported, confirm if the LSP wish to support only a bid in their locality (Eg. the Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service project idea to take place in the West only), though bearing in mind the above advice in point 1.</p> <p>2) To agree an appropriate Accountable Body for a joint bid. For example, Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service is a logical option as they cover all three local authority areas.</p> <p>Reason: As stated in the Fund criteria, “as LSPs are not legal entities able to receive funds directly, partnerships will need to nominate one member to act as lead partner and Accountable Body”.</p> <p>Note: If Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service are not to be the Accountable Body, an appropriate alternative is required.</p>
Author	Bethan Vaughan, External Funding Officer, Cheshire West and Chester Council
Contact details	Bethan.Vaughan@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk Tel: 01244 972962
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Target audience	Cheshire West and Chester LSP, Cheshire East LSP, Warrington LSP
Cross reference	

Report narrative

INTRODUCTION

This paper summarises the key criteria of the Fund and progress made so far in developing an application to benefit the Cheshire and Warrington sub-region. As applications must be endorsed by LSPs, there are potentially three LSPs involved with this process. LSP decisions are required on several issues, outlined at the end of this paper. It should be noted that the paper gives an overview of project ideas as the detail is currently being worked up for submission on 1 May.

BACKGROUND TO THE FUND

As migration can bring short term funding pressures on local public services, this fund has been set up to help address such transitional impacts, and to promote innovative ways of managing these pressures. It is available for all local service providers including the police, local authorities and PCT, though bids should come forward with the endorsement of LSPs and the agencies within it.

FUNDING AVAILABLE

Funding has been allocated on a regional basis through Government Offices, with £3,606,606 over the 2009-11 financial period allocated to the North West. Every effort should be made to ensure that collaborative rather than competitive approaches come forward in order to achieve the diversity and innovation Government Offices are looking for.

DCLG will hold the fund and will make payments to local service providers. As LSPs are not legal entities able to receive funds directly, partnerships will need to nominate one member to act as lead partner and Accountable Body.

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITY

It is essential that LSPs and local services influence the use of the fund in their local area. This will mean it can be shaped by those who best understand where local stresses occur. No activities are ruled out provided they are directly targeted at managing pressures relating to legal migration.

SUCCESS FACTORS

Projects will improve their chances of support by the GONW Appraisal Panel if they:

- Directly target pressures on services related to legal migration by delivering activities in the services most affected (eg. housing, public health, children and young people, integration, community safety).
- Target more than one priority area or theme
- Can produce robust evidence of the service need, and the potential impact of the funding
- Are demonstrably the product of cross-agency collaboration
- Exploit opportunities to deliver across more than one geographical area,

or are prepared to be scaled up to do so.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Signed applications (electronic or hard copy) must be with GONW by 17:00 on Friday 1st May 2009. The application must not exceed five pages. Applicants should expect decisions by Monday 8th June 2009.

APPLICATIONS FROM THE CHESHIRE AND WARRINGTON SUB-REGION

As organisations across the sub-region have been working on proposals in isolation from each other, it has recently emerged that there could potentially be three competing project bids covering the sub-region. These are as follows:

- Cheshire East Council wish to extend and add to the services, activities and benefits currently being delivered to the migrant community in Crewe, a project funded using HM Treasury 'Invest to Save' funding. For example, addressing pressures relating to benefit claims, accommodation, welfare rights, employment and emergency services. Initially, the project focused on the East but has now been scoped to include the West and Warrington. Also, the experience gained with migrant communities over the past three years would benefit the sub-region through the sharing of good practice.
- Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service wish to employ several Community Safety Advocates from within the migrant community to work in areas with high migration levels. The advocates would be employed to operate holistically doing Home Safety Assessments (ie. addressing fire risks from overcrowding) but also to act as a signpost to health care, welfare benefit support, road safety training and other partner issues. This role could have multiple benefits for links to the LAA, and compliment the above project. Initially, the project focused on the West but has now been scoped to include the East and Warrington.
- Warrington Borough Council is interested in developing the Fire Service project outlined above in their borough.

PROGRESS WITH DEVELOPING AN APPLICATION

As all three projects have complimentary aspects which will strengthen each other, a joint bid is a feasible solution (subject to LSP approvals). The project could report to a Cheshire and Warrington Partnership Board with links to each respective LSP and Steering Groups, for example

Based on the Fund criteria and the proposed project ideas, Alistair Jeffs (Head of Policy, Performance and Partnerships, Cheshire West and Chester) and Russ Glennon (Head of Policy and Performance, Cheshire East), support a single joint bid. Discussions are ongoing with Warrington Borough Council.

External Funding Officers for the East (Stephen Wright) and West (Bethan

Vaughan) are supporting officers with the application process / form, in particular, Evan Morris (Fire) and Claire Wilson (Cheshire East). For expediency, we are preparing a single joint bid. Indicative costs will be around £1m over two years.