

Title: Financial support to Community Area Partnerships and Voluntary/Community and Arts Sector organisations and projects 2008/09

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Chris March

**Reporting Officers: David Crisfield, Stronger Communities Manager
Meril Morgan, Community Development Officer**

Key Decision : No

PURPOSE

To seek Cabinet's approval for financial support to voluntary, community and arts organisations and projects in 2008/09

BACKGROUND

Under the Council's constitution, Cabinet has to approve financial support of over £5,000 to individual organisations and projects.

These can be split into three areas:-

- Arts development funding
- Voluntary and community sector
- Community area partnerships

Key organisations and projects within arts development and the voluntary and community sectors have previously received financial support through 3 year funding agreements and service level agreements, many of which are joint agreements with one or more funding partners. These will end on 31 March 2008.

With local government reorganisation (LGR) and the anticipated abolition of the district council in 2009, it is neither possible nor prudent to arrange new 3-year funding arrangements with these organisations. As a general principle, it is recommended that wherever possible existing arrangements should be extended for a further year to provide continuity of service and a degree of security for the recipient organisations. However, there are some exceptions to this as detailed in the report.

Community Area Partnerships (CAPs) have received varying levels of funding from the district council over the last three years, but each received a total of £6,000 in 2007/8. The proposed governance arrangements for the new unitary authority identify CAPs as having a role in the future planning and development of their local communities. Over the next year, officers within the district and county councils, along with the Wiltshire Forum for Community Area Partnerships, will be working with the CAPs to clarify their future roles.

Therefore, it is recommended that funding remains consistent across all CAP's for the next financial year to assist them in their transition planning.

KEY ISSUES

Annual reviews and regular monitoring of funding arrangements with our key organisations and projects have been carried out. Officers also regularly attend CAP meetings.

A key issue identified by all organisations is the lack of clarity around future funding beyond March 2009. Local government reorganisation and the abolition of the district council mean that we are only able to allocate funding up to the end of March 2009. This presents natural concerns for all organisations around their security and stability which could impact negatively on their future service delivery.

Current arrangements under the Wiltshire COMPACT mean that a minimum of 3 months notice must be given if there is any change to future funding arrangements. Some current agreements indicate a minimum of 6 months notice. In order to ensure continuity, these organisations will be advised that a minimum of 3 months notice will be applicable for the forthcoming year.

As future arrangements for the unitary council become clearer, it will be essential for officers to inform and work closely with all organisations, the county council and other funding partners. Ideally, organisations need to be made aware of proposed future funding allocations by December 2008. To date the County Council have given an indication that they will fund all currently supported organisations for a further 12 months i.e. the 2009/2010 financial year.

Whilst a summary of the services provided by each organisation is detailed in the appendices of this report, the following specific issues have been identified for the three areas of work.

Arts Development

Annual reviews and regular monitoring of funding arrangements with our key arts organisations and projects have been carried out and all have performed well to targets set. A brief summary of the organisations and examples of key targets are listed in appendix 1 of this report. Whilst there may be on going discussions throughout the coming year about preparations for the new unitary council, an extension of existing arrangements for the year 2008/9 is recommended.

Voluntary and community sector

Annual reviews have taken place with all voluntary sector organisations who receive funding through service level agreements. Whilst performance has varied, no significant issues have been identified which would result in a recommended change in our level funding (with the exception of one organisation). A brief summary of the organisations and examples of data/statistics relating to service provision are listed in appendix 2 of this report.

However, the following details highlight specific issues that have arisen through the annual review process.

The Alabaré Christian Centres' Trowbridge drop-in centre

- Previously known as Action on Homelessness, Alabaré had to relocate in July 2007 to smaller nearby premises. However, whilst most services have continued, there is no longer a shower provision at the Centre. Alabaré has identified key tasks for 2008 which includes linking the drop in centre to two shared houses Alabaré hope to open in Trowbridge to provide accommodation and support for vulnerable homeless people. In the last quarter of 2007, the drop in centre has seen a rise in people who use its services who are rough sleeping.
- Whilst it is recommended to allocate the same level of funding for 2008/9, there is, in order to reflect current services, a need to undertake a minor review of the current service agreement between the district and county councils currently and Alabaré.

Wiltshire Race Equality Council

- As a consequence of WREC's repeated failure to deliver the terms of the SLA, both in respect of services offered and monitoring requirements, consultants were commissioned to look at whether WREC is a fit for purpose organisation.
- In the light of the report's findings, and following consultation with the Portfolio Holder and Chair of Scrutiny, it was decided not to renew the SLA when it expires on the 31st March 2008. This decision was communicated to WREC on the 21st December 2007. Both Salisbury and North Wilts district councils have taken similar action.
- It is the intention to secure a minimum level of service provision to Black and Minority Ethnic communities in West Wiltshire via an alternative service provider utilising the £5,000 grant that would otherwise have been paid to WREC.
- Wiltshire County Council have decided not to withdraw their funding, preferring to retain the services of WREC and to secure the future of their staff for the foreseeable future. However, they have recognised the issues regarding WREC being 'Fit for Purpose' and wish to see WREC staff managed by another organisation as a means to safeguarding the quality of both the service and performance monitoring data provided. It is proposed that West Wiltshire-Wide Citizens Advice Bureau take on this role. Thereafter, work on establishing a new Wiltshire-wide equalities and human rights body will be initiated with the trustees of WREC, adding in other Stakeholders representing the other equalities strands (age, disability, faith/religion, sexuality, gender) as appropriate.
- It is the wish of Wiltshire County Council that funding partners commit to this proposal and agree that funding is put into the pot to enable a new 12-month funding agreement to be established.

- It should be stated that the above is not the original decision agreed by the funders in September 2007 but represents a departure by the County Council.

Community First

- As 2007/08 is the final year of the current 3-year funding agreement Community First have with Defra, a key issue has been whether this would be renewed. Rural Community Councils (Community First being Wiltshire's) have now received confirmation of a further 3 years funding with the settlement for 2008/09 representing a 10% reduction over the grant received in 2007/08.

Community Link Scheme Project

- The Community Link Scheme is currently running at full capacity and needs to consolidate the support it offers the various link schemes. Some of the challenges facing the project in the future are maintaining volunteer numbers, providing a good neighbour service as well as providing health journeys, maintaining financial stability, supporting and training co-ordinators, new volunteers and committee members. However, it is recommended to continue the current level of funding to this project as officers from the district council, county council and the primary care trust negotiate appropriate levels of service through the extension of the current service agreement.

Community Area Partnerships

Each of the five major towns with their surrounding villages has an active CAP. These help involve local people in local projects, lever in external funding and gain support for local priorities. They currently receive £6,000 each from the district council and a current condition of our funding is that they administer, on our behalf, our small grants scheme relating to their community area.

Although it is clear from the new unitary arrangements that CAPs are seen to have a role within the new governance arrangements, it is unclear what this will be and to what level they will be resourced financially.

CAPs are currently operated and co-ordinated in different ways and have varying levels of engagement and activity. If therefore, they are to be a vehicle for community engagement within the new unitary structures, it will be vital for officers within the district and county councils, along with the Wiltshire Forum for Community Area Partnerships, to work closely with the CAPs to clarify their future roles and structures.

Officers are already working with the West Wiltshire CAPs to enable them to be 'Fit for Purpose' when the new unitary council becomes operational e.g. achieving the separation of the Partnership and Development Trust where these are currently one and the same organisation (Melksham and Westbury).

Recent funders meetings with Melksham 1st have revealed that Melksham 1st requires an immediate and substantial level of support if it is to survive and be in a

position to undertake the future role of the CAPs as described under the new unitary governance arrangements.

In addition to officer support over the forthcoming transition year, it is recommended that an additional one off payment of £1,500 be allocated to Melksham 1st, which would make the total funding allocation for 2008/9 £7,500. Other funders of Melksham 1st have already agreed in principle to raise their level of funding. Melksham 1st is also committed to making savings to balance their 2008/9 budget.

Subject to final approval of an increased level of funding by all parties, we will jointly agree with all the funders (Melksham Town Council, Wiltshire County Council and Melksham Without Parish Council) specific conditions attached to the full funding offer. These will specifically relate to the organisation becoming 'Fit for Purpose' by April 2009 in order that they will be able to work effectively with the new community area board and maintain tighter controls over their budget.

'Trowbridge Community Area Future' and 'Warminster and Villages Community Area partnership' have both expressed interest in being part of any piloting arrangements for the new Area Boards, and if successful will require our continued support to try out any new initiatives.

It is therefore recommended that the remaining four CAPs are funded at the same level as this financial year (£6,000 each) with an additional one off fund of £6,000 in total (£1,500 for each CAP) earmarked in the 2008/9 budget to enable Trowbridge, Warminster, Bradford on Avon and Westbury CAPs to access financial help towards any transitional changes as the local authorities move to unitary status. This would not require any additional funding and could be found from within the existing Sustainable Communities Services budget. It is also recommended that the condition relating to the administration of our small grants scheme remains.

EFFECT ON STRATEGIES AND CODES

The role of Arts, Voluntary/Community Sector organisations and the Community Area Partnerships is identified in the Corporate Plan as an example of how the council delivers in partnership and therefore contributes directly to this principle. (pages 16/17 'Delivery in Partnership')

It also contributes to the overall aim of the corporate spotlight areas "Improving Market Towns" and "Meeting Housing Needs".

Furthermore, arts projects directly assist in delivering Objective 3 of the Corporate Plan spotlight area "better access to recreation", which highlights development and renewal of facilities and creating opportunities for local people to participate, and reflects the priorities identified in the arts development plan 2005-08.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

A decision not to fund Community Area Partnerships and Voluntary/Community and Arts Sector organisations would impact directly on their financial stability and ability to deliver services effectively, particularly in what will be a difficult transitional year.

In the case of the recommendation to ring-fence £5000 for racial equality work, a sum that had previously been allocated to Wiltshire Racial Equality Council, a decision not to support this could have a negative impact on the council's obligations under Race Equality legislation.

Furthermore there is a direct correlation between the funding this council provides and the contribution of other funders, both in terms of the level of external funding leverage and the contribution of our public sector funding partners with whom we are signed up to joint funding agreements. Removal of council funding would, therefore, contribute to a further de-stabilising of the organisations concerned.

As signatories to the Wiltshire COMPACT we are also bound to principles of longer-term funding wherever possible and to recognising the particular needs of organisations with paid staff. Removal of funding would, at this critical time of transition, significantly de-stabilise the organisations concerned and potentially put the council in breach of the COMPACT.

Removal of funding would also compromise the council's commitment to working in partnership as expressed in the Corporate Plan.

FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

The base level of grants proposed can be met from within the 2008/09 budget, as approved by Council on 20 February 2008.

LEGAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

There are no significant legal issues. The human rights implications of the actions recommended in this report have been considered and are acceptable and the checklist has been addressed.

NEXT STEPS

The Stronger Communities team will continue to work with these key organisations, negotiating new targets for 2008/9 and keep them updated about the new unitary arrangements and its possible impact on them.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. That Cabinet notes that all current Service Level Agreements/Funding Agreements are due to expire on the 31st March 2008.**
- 2. That Cabinet is asked to approve financial support to the following organisations and initiatives for 2008/09.**

	2007/8	2008/9	Change/comment
Alabare Christian Centres' Trowbridge drop-in centre (previously known as Action on Homelessness)	£7,000	£7,000	No change
Arc Theatre	£11,000	£11,000	No Change
Bradford on Avon Community Area Partnership	£6,000	£6,000	No change
Bradford on Avon Community Area Partnership		£1,500	One off provision for transition arising from local government reorganisation as required
Bridge Trust (previously Voluntary Action West Wiltshire)	£11,000	£11,000	No change
Charities information Bureau	£5,000	£5,000	No change
Citizens Advice Bureau	£60,000	£60,000	No change
Community First (core grant)	£15,000	£15,000	No change
Community First (Link Scheme)	£5,000	£5,000	No change
Melksham 1 st	£6,000	£7,500	An increase of a one off £1,500 for transition arising from local government reorganisation
Rural Arts Wiltshire	£5,500	£5,500	No change
Trowbridge Community Area Future	£6,000	£6,000	No change
Trowbridge Community Area Future		£1,500	One off provision for transition arising from local government reorganisation as required
Warminster and Villages Community Partnership	£6,000	£6,000	No change
Warminster and Villages Community Partnership		£1,500	One off provision for transition arising from local government reorganisation as required
Whitehorse Area Action Group	£6,000	£6,000	No change
Whitehorse Area Action Group		£1,500	One off provision for transition arising from local government reorganisation as required
Wiltshire and Swindon Community Foundation	£5,000	£5,000	No change
Wiltshire Music Centre	£13,000	£13,000	No Change
Wiltshire Racial Equality Council	£5,000	£0	£5,000 ring-fenced to secure services to BME communities via alternative service provider
Wiltshire Youth Arts Partnership	£6,500	£6,500	No change

- 3. Cabinet are asked to approve that the £5000 previously allocated to WREC is ring-fenced to support the provision of services to Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) communities via an alternative service provider. It is proposed that in order to secure best value for money our £5000 is added to the contributions of WCC, NWDC, SDC, KDC, Wiltshire Police and Wiltshire PCT to secure a service for West Wilts BME residents through the auspices of the West Wilts Citizens Advice Bureau.**
- 4. That Cabinet requests that Wiltshire County Council continue to support the above organisations for a minimum of an additional 12 months.**
- 5. Cabinet agrees to delegate to the Stronger Communities Manager, in consultation with the Community portfolio Holder, the opportunity to negotiate variations to funding conditions as appropriate.**

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Relevant files are kept in Room F34

Minute No. 79 Cabinet meeting 18 April 2007

Minute No. 50 Cabinet meeting 8 March 2006

Minute No. 456 Cabinet meeting 30 March 2005

Minute No. 457 Cabinet meeting 30 March 2005

Minute No. 363 Cabinet meeting 29 September 2004

Minute No. 333 Cabinet meeting 28 July 2004

Arts Development Plan 2005-08

Brief summary and examples of key targets for the arts organisations and projects 2007/08

Wiltshire Music Centre, Bradford on Avon

Our funding to Wiltshire Music Centre helps to support a wide range of quality music events and activities, both at the Centre and across West Wiltshire. These include regular open-access workshops, holiday workshops for young people, concert programmes and a strategically relevant community outreach programme. It has a strong national reputation for delivering a quality service.

An annual review has taken place, which shows that the Centre is performing well against set targets. Our financial support to the Centre over the last ten years has been vital in contributing to its viability and ability to attract external funding. Over the past year, District Council funding has helped to secure in the region of £146,000 of external funding. Arts Council England South West have recognised the contribution that the Centre makes to the arts in the region by significantly increasing its funding from April 2010. The District and County Councils' continuing support to the Centre has contributed to the decision made by Arts Council.

Performance indicators relating to general activity	2007/08
Min. 50% of attendees and participants from West Wiltshire	50%
Min. 55% of young people participants in regular music centre activities from West Wiltshire	58%
Min. 25% of young people participants in project and outreach activity from West Wiltshire	64%
Min. 80% of attendees and participants to be satisfied with services	88%*

** survey carried out in People's Voice September 2007 (question relates to satisfaction with concert halls/theatres)*

Arc Theatre, Trowbridge

Our funding to the Arc Theatre helps to support a wide range of opportunities to experience theatre, dance, music, children's events and film. These include a children's drama club, youth theatre and young people's theatre, both at the Arc and across West Wiltshire.

An annual review has taken place, showing that the theatre is performing well to the targets set. Our financial support over the last ten years to the Arc has also contributed to its viability and enabling it to attract external funding. Trowbridge Town Council, Wiltshire County Council, Wiltshire College and Arts Council England South West all make significant financial contributions to the Arc, in the region of £99,000 a year.

Performance indicators relating to general activity	2007/08
Min. 50% of attendees from West Wiltshire	74%
Min. 55% of young people participants from West Wiltshire	87%
Min. 80% of attendees and participants to be satisfied with services	96%*

** Arc Theatre's participation satisfaction survey carried out in July 2007*

Wiltshire Youth Arts Partnership

Our funding to the Wiltshire Youth Arts Partnership supports arts opportunities for young people aged between 13 and 21 years, as identified in its business plan and delivered through a Youth Arts Co-ordinator. Other funding partners include Wiltshire County Council's Youth Development Service, the four Wiltshire district councils and Arts Council England.

The success of the partnership has been widely promoted and our funding of £6,500 in 2007/08 has levered in £46,050 of core funding, thereby enabling leverage of a further £116,150 project funding.

Performance indicators	2007/08
No. of hours young people are engaged in youth arts	8400*
% of young people indicating satisfaction with WYAP programmes	80%*

** please note this is the estimated level based on previous year as not all evaluations have been received.*

Rural Arts Wiltshire

Rural Arts Wiltshire (RAW) brings high quality theatre to rural communities, ensuring that arts activity is locally based, accessible and affordable to local groups. Performances are held primarily in village halls and are often a catalyst for communities to develop more locally based performances and activities. The scheme has been successfully administered by The Pound Arts Trust Limited (previously known as Posthorn Arts) on behalf of the four Wiltshire district councils for six years.

Regular monitoring meetings reveal that they are performing well against the targets set and ensured that it continues to meet the corporate priorities and service objectives of both this Council and our partners.

We have worked with other partners, including Arts Council England, to evaluate and investigate ways of securing the future of the scheme. In 2007/08, our funding

levered in £21,500 from the other Wiltshire authorities and Posthorn Arts secured a further £28,500 from Arts Council England South West to extend and develop rural arts activity.

Performance indicators	2007/08
Minimum of 19 performances across the district	16*
Minimum of four workshops across the district	10
Minimum of one meeting with local promoters	1
Minimum 80% positive response from promoters' performance evaluations	86%**

**two performances cancelled due to artist illness but will be carried over to 2008/09. In addition, a special participatory project to create a mural reflecting village life, Rural Mural, was staged in Atworth.*

*** 2006/07 figures as evaluations not received yet from promoters.*

It is essential to note that regular meetings are held with each organisation. Every effort has been made to provide up to date information; in some cases, estimations have been made where actual figures are not currently available, which reflect overall positive trends. In addition, it is important to note that some fluctuations will occur in the figures as projects vary from year to year.

Brief summary and examples of achievements for the voluntary and community sector 2007/08

Charities Information Bureau

Wiltshire Charities Information Bureau exists to help community groups, organisations and individuals in Wiltshire, to work effectively by providing information, advice and support concerning charitable funding and charity law.

The Charities Information Bureau works with individuals and groups/organisations, providing advice, information, training and practical assistance with the following;

- Charity law and charity registration
- Setting up a community/voluntary organisation/group
- Responsibilities of charity trustees
- Funding Strategies
- Fundraising and funding applications

The total funding provided through the SLA in 2007/08 is £33,200, of which £5,000 is West Wiltshire District Council's contribution.

Achievements*	2007/08
Number of West Wilts groups assisted	132
Number of West Wilts individuals assisted	78
Amount of funding brought into West Wiltshire	£133,026

* To February 2008

West Wiltshire-Wide Citizens Advice Bureau

The Citizens Advice Bureau service helps people resolve their legal, money and other problems by providing free, independent and confidential advice, on the following subjects: Debt, Housing, Employment, Welfare Benefits, Family and Personal Matters, Consumer Contracts, Legal Procedures, Education and Health.

West Wiltshire-Wide CAB is a registered charity and is reliant on trained volunteers and funding to provide these vital services for local communities.

The CAB services are impartial. They are offered to all, regardless of their means, race, colour, ethnic or national origins, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, disability, age or religion.

The CAB delivers services under two broad headings; 'assisted information' and 'general help'.

Assisted information is a service where staff are available to help clients to access information, and to identify where they need further information or advice.

General help is:

- Diagnosing the client's problems
- Giving information and explaining options
- Identifying further action the client can take
- Giving basic assistance e.g. filling in forms, helping the client draft letters, and contacting third parties to seek information on the client's behalf.

Where necessary the core service provided by the bureau can include contacting a third party to negotiate on a client's behalf; the client, however, retains responsibility for the case.

The total funding provided through the SLA in 2007/08 was £117,885 of which £60,000 is West Wiltshire District Council's contribution.

Achievements	2007/08
Total number of Unique Client Contacts (projected figure based on actual figures for Q1, Q2 & Q3)	3600
100% increase in opening hours in Trowbridge	4 day per week opening
Increase in number of client contacts by telephone	12%
Number of new volunteers recruited	23

Community First

Community First is a charity that works at the forefront of community development to help improve the quality of life and economic well-being of people and local communities throughout Wiltshire and Swindon.

They work in close partnership with local grass roots communities, voluntary organisations, statutory agencies and funders to help develop and deliver wide-ranging community programmes that bring social, economic and environmental benefits to local people in Wiltshire and Swindon.

Identified as one of Wiltshire's major infrastructure organisations they are actively involved in a wide-range of activities including Parish Planning and Community Consultation, Parish Councils, Community Development, Rural Housing, Community Transport, Social Enterprise, Credit Unions, Village Halls, Village Shops and the administration of specific grant schemes.

In 2007 the organisation merged with Youth Action Wiltshire thereby adding support to the voluntary youth sector and work with young carers to their portfolio of services.

In West Wiltshire, our financial contribution is allocated to the following areas of work; support to the Wiltshire Association of Local Councils, Village Halls advice, SOLVE

small grants scheme, Credit Union and Community Cohesion/Community Development.

The total funding provided through the SLA in 2007/08 is £112,800, of which £15,000 is West Wiltshire District Council's contribution.

Achievements*	2007/08
Number of new parish councillors trained	60
Number of Parish council enquiries handled	1066 (256 in West Wilts)
Number of Village Halls supported	30
Value of Landfill Grants awarded to West Wilts groups	£9000
Number of SOLVE grants awarded to West Wilts groups	1
Number of children in Junior Savers Club pilot (West Wilts)	65
Value of funds saved by children in Junior Savers pilot	£1300
Number of West Wilts Social Inclusion projects	2 (Adcroft and beyond Parish Boundaries)

* Based on first 6 months

Community Link Scheme Project

Link Schemes are local voluntary groups which offer a good neighbour service to local people who are in need because they are elderly, lonely, disabled, single parents or are temporarily in need because of illness. There are 44 groups across Wiltshire and they aim to complement other services. This project is managed through a service level agreement on behalf of the four district councils, county council and the primary care trust by Community First.

Achievements for West Wiltshire from the latest annual audit	2006
Number of Link Volunteers	348
Miles travelled by Link Volunteers	184,948
Number of tasks completed	12,892
Hours worked by volunteers	32,868
Economic value based on hourly rate	£175,844*

*Based on October 2006 minimum wage of £5.35 per hour

Wiltshire Race Equality Council

In view of the issues relating to WREC's under-performance referred to in the body of the report (a feature of which has been the absence of effective performance monitoring data) and the subsequent decision not to renew the SLA in 2008/09, no performance indicators are reported here.

If members would like any additional, or more detailed, information regarding WREC's under-performance and factors contributing to the decision not to renew the SLA, copies of the Consultant's report (62 pages plus appendices) and other confidential papers can be made available on request.

Furthermore, if members would like further information regarding the decision of Wiltshire County Council to break from the original position agreed by the funders and to secure WREC's future in the short/medium term, the Stronger Communities Manager will be happy to give a verbal update at cabinet.

Alabaré Christian Centres' Trowbridge drop-in centre (previously known as Action on Homelessness)

Alabaré provides a range of services and accommodation for people who are homeless and the Trowbridge Drop In Centre is part of those services. The Centre is aimed at adults and young people who are faced with homelessness or are in inappropriate accommodation that places them at risk. Alabaré will use funding from the District and County Councils to fund the cost of the Senior Project Worker and associated costs.

Alabaré's research shows that many people who use the drop in centre service have complex needs that may include unemployment, drug and alcohol related issues, mental ill health, rough sleeping, a history of abuse or having a learning difficulty. The drop in centre aims to support a growth in individual self esteem and independence whereby people are signposted to and are able to access appropriate services and support where needed.

The drop in centre works closely with organisations such as BADAS (Bath Area Drug Advisory Service) as well as our own housing options advisor who visits the drop in centre on a monthly basis.

Statistics	April 2007	May 2007	June 2007	Nov. 2007
Attendances (varies from day to day)	23 to 41	28 to 62	24 to 35	25 to 39
Male %	82%	82%	80%	83%
Female %	18%	18%	20%	17%
Rough sleepers (average)	6.73	9.45	8.17	16
Sofa surfers (average)	3.64	3.91	2.33	2.00
Supported accommodation (average)	2.00	0.54	0.17	0.17
Unsupported accommodation (average)	19.99	22.65	28.58	14.33

Voluntary Action West Wilts (now known as Bridge House Community Trust)

VAWW's main purpose is to support, promote and develop local voluntary and community action by providing them with a range of services and by acting as a voice for the local voluntary and community sector.

VAWW delivers services locally but works in partnership with other infrastructure organisations across Wiltshire and Swindon to ensure a range of expertise and resources are brought into West Wiltshire.

VAWW owns and manages Bridge House in Trowbridge. It provides a well equipped Resource Centre for use by local groups and organisations. It also provides office accommodation to 11 voluntary organisations. It has a large conference and training room, provides a meeting room and runs the West Wilts Volunteer Centre.

Achievements*	2007/08
Percentage of users very satisfied with the services provided	90%
No. of groups given advice/information and help sessions	36
No. of volunteers interviewed and signposted to West Wiltshire organisations through the Volunteer Centre	72
No. of training events (with 34 attendees from 31 organisations)	15
Total number of people assisted	142
Total number of organisations assisted	139

**based on 6 months monitoring information from returned questionnaires (59% response rate) from April to September 2007*

Wiltshire & Swindon Community Foundation

The foundation aims to create a culture of giving that will enable funding of local voluntary organisations and community groups, and strengthen communities in Wiltshire and Swindon. They manage a range of grant programmes and can offer grants from £50 to £9,000. Their primary focus is on helping the disadvantaged and making a genuine difference to the lives of local people. They are able to do this by bringing in regional and national funds into Wiltshire and build an endowment fund to generate income in perpetuity for those most in need.

Achievements*	2007
Grants made to West Wiltshire beneficiaries	29
Value of grants made to West Wiltshire beneficiaries	£135,164
Endowment fundraising	£1,423,398.70

**based on a 12 month period from Sept 06 to Aug 07*