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POLICY BRIEFINGS

West Sussex Voluntary Organisations' Liaison Group
Ground Floor, Parbrook House, Natts Lane,
Billingshurst, West Sussex RH14 9EY

☎ 01403 787940 📠 01403 787941

THE PREVENTION STRATEGY & PREVENTION GRANT

Preventative work is an area that the voluntary sector promotes regularly. Changes in planning, resources and service eligibility put more emphasis (and pressure) on the preventative work of voluntary organisations seemingly without a comparable emphasis on funding and recognition.

Have you said: *'Where is the funding for it?' 'Why isn't it a priority?'*
'Nobody recognises the value of preventative work.'

What is it? The grant for this year is £473k, (next year £785k) most of it to be distributed through localities. The entire grant must be used for new, non-intensive community care services. Localities are being asked to identify suitable schemes through their local commissioning processes. Voluntary organisations will be made aware of the grant and criteria. Proposals will be prioritised & considered by local multi-agency planning meetings.

Rather than creating a new range of subgroups, the Prevention Steering Group is encouraging all joint planning groups to identify the preventative element(s) of their plans (what's going on, what's not but should be). This year's strategy will be developed from that.

Who's it for? Last year's strategy focused on older people, tying in with the review of services for older people. This year the intention is to look more widely across services for adults under 65 where lower levels of intervention will benefit most preventing deterioration or promoting recovery.

Action for voluntary organisations

This is an opportunity to put your work on the map and promote it more widely. Tell the Prevention Strategy Group, and the agencies involved, about the preventative work you already do and/or about work that is needed.

Briefly (no more than 2 sides of A4) & by 30th June:

- ✓ Describe your work, why is it preventative?
- ✓ Describe your client group, who receives your services?
- ✓ Who is funding your work, do you have funding problems?
- ✓ Describe your outputs, e.g. # of people, # of hours provided, # of sessions, etc.
- ✓ Describe the outcomes that you are measuring. i.e. what change(s) has your service brought to the lives of your clients? How does this prevent people from needing other services from other agencies?

Please put your name, organisation and contact details at the end. If you are producing this on a word processor you can email it to me or send it on disk. If it is handwritten please write neatly so that even I can read it.

If I get a good range of information (and most of it can be reproduced quickly, i.e. little retyping/reformatting) I will collect this and produce it as a report on Preventative Work of the Voluntary Sector in West Sussex – all credits to contributors!

Robert Jones, VOLG