

COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICE
SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT

PORTFOLIO HOLDER: Cllr. Norman Williams
LEAD OFFICER: Martin Jepson – Head of Legal and Democratic Services
REPORT AUTHOR: Martin Jepson – Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Summary: Recommend approval to the terms of SLA's with Community Law Centre and Copeland Citizens Advice Bureau.

Recommendation: Executive Recommend to Council:- That the attached Service Level Agreements for CLC and CCAB be approved.
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Impact on delivering Corporate Plan objectives: Can help safer and stronger communities aspirations.

Impact on other statutory objectives (e.g. crime & disorder, LA21): No direct impact but advice can assist.

Financial and human resource implications: Monies already set aside in Council's budget. Monitoring to be done by Head of Legal and Democratic Services and already taken account of in work plan.

Project & Risk Management: The grantees are required to report back to the Council on progress

Key Decision Status

- Financial: N/A
- Ward: N/A

Other Ward Implications: N/A

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 For some years this Council has made grants to both the Community Law Centre and both Copeland and Millom Citizens Advice Bureaus. Generally the amounts of grants have been reducing. In order to give the organisations some ability to plan their futures they made representations that the Council makes a longer term commitment to them.

1.2 As a result of recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee it was agreed for each organisation that a Service Level Agreement for three years be negotiated.

2. PROGRESS

2.1 As can be seen the draft Service Level Agreements attached to this report are for the years 2005 to 2008. Following the outcome of the 2005/06 budget both the Citizens Advice Bureaus

and the Community Law Centre made representations that additional grant funding be given to them. As a result of this a larger budget bid was made for 2006/07 and following. However this was not successful and the amount of grant was settled at £47,000 for 2006/07 and 2007/08, but on a recurring basis.

- 2.2 In recent months the Copeland and Millom Citizens Advice Bureau have merged. In calculating the amount of grant due to the Law Centre and the Bureaus the combined percentages of grant calculated for 2005/06 for both Whitehaven and Millom added together were used as a basis for calculation of the percentage of grant to be offered to Copeland Citizens Advice Bureau.
- 2.3 Following negotiations after the budget settlement draft Service Level Agreements have been agreed between Copeland Citizens Advice Bureau and Community Law Centre. These are attached.

3. CONCLUSION

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Service Level Agreements attached are agreed for 2005/06 to 2007/08.

List of Appendices:

Appendix A Draft Service Level Agreement for Copeland Citizens Advice Bureau

Appendix B Draft Service Level Agreement for Community Law Centre

List of Background Documents:

**As shown in Legal and Democratic
Services File**

List of Consultees:

**Head of Paid Service,
Head of Finance and Business
Development**