

## Liverpool Supporting People Hardship Fund 2009/10

The current financial constraints on the Liverpool Supporting People programme means it is not in a position to offer service providers inflation for 2009/10. We do however appreciate that this may lead to severe hardship for some services and therefore have set aside a sum of money which can be applied for by these services.

This money will be used to award one off payments to providers who pass the criteria, with the amount based on information provided in the application and available funds. The hardship fund offers a short term solution to services where service delivery may be at risk due to the current financial climate for 2009/10. Providers will need to evidence that they have a long term plan for the financial viability of the service, such as a cashflow forecast.

Applications will be considered on a service by service basis, and will need to provide the following information to support their application.

- an updated **VFM Workbook** for 2009/10 for the service (available to download from the Supporting People web pages)
- a completed **Hardship Fund Application** (available to download from the Supporting People web pages)
- The latest version of the company's accounts
- Any additional information which may be requested to assist us in coming to a decision.

A decision on whether to award a hardship payment will be made taking into account the relevant factors in relation to the service:

- **Provider** - has the provider demonstrated an effort to achieve efficiency savings to cover the shortfall? Does the financial information include that the provider has the resources to meet the shortfall?
- **Need** - is service delivery at risk due to financial pressures? What would be the consequences if a hardship payment isn't made?
- **Value for Money** - does the service represent value for money?
- **Quality** - has the service met and maintained the required quality standards? Is the service achieving level B in most of the standards in the QAF?
- **Contract Compliance** - has the service made returns required (PI's, payment returns) on time? Are there any other contractual issues with the service?

- **Future Funding** - is there a long term plan to ensure the viability of the service going forward, looking at options to make efficiency savings or seek additional funding from other sources?

All applications will go to the Supporting People Commissioning Body for a decision.

**The closing date for applications will be 30th September 2009.** A decision will then be made on how the hardship fund is allocated to providers based on the highest need. Providers are advised to apply early as there is only a limited amount of money available.

Please send all applications to:

Sara Naylor

Service Review Manager

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Victoria Street

Liverpool

L1 6JD

or by email to [supporting.people@liverpool.gov.uk](mailto:supporting.people@liverpool.gov.uk)