
Report to
Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

19th April, 2006

Report of
Councillor Joan Griffin

Title
Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies – Coventry Citizen's Advice Bureau Management Committee

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 At their meeting on 10th May 2005, the Cabinet approved a process of reporting back to the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee on the work of those outside bodies appointed to by the City Council. This reports sets out details of the work of the Coventry Citizen's Advice Bureau over the preceding twelve months and details of attendance by the City Council's representatives.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the City Council should continue to make an appointment to the Coventry Citizen's Advice Bureau.

3 Information on Work of Outside Body

- 3.1 Coventry CAB describes itself as a progressive Bureau, working towards meeting current and future advice needs in the City. Most of the Bureau's 20,000 + enquiries per year relate to the effects of low income and poverty. In response, the Bureau specialises in the main poverty areas of advice.
- 3.2 Caseworkers deliver specialist advice, along with volunteer advisers who receive training to equip them with the skills necessary to provide a complementary service to that of the caseworkers. Services range from basic advice to representation at tribunals. The CAB holds the Community Legal Service Quality Mark for debt and welfare benefits at specialist level.
- 3.3 In the year 2004/2005 the CAB received £225,216 in grant funding from the City Council. The CAB also received funding from the Legal Services Commission and some other sources. During the year the CAB has experienced some uncertainty over the future of some funding streams.
- 3.4 During the year the CAB has been an active member of the Coventry Partnership for Advice Services which is seeking to improve the provision of advice services within the city. A draft strategy has been produced to develop a co-ordinated approach to the delivery of these services. This includes establishing and maintaining joint working arrangements with

other agencies providing advice to ensure easily accessible, well publicised advice and information services to meet the needs of the citizens of Coventry. This work will contribute towards the achievement of the Coventry Community Plan.

4 Benefits to the City Council of the Appointment

4.1 The CAB is one of a number of advice services funded by the City Council. Membership of the Management Committee ensures that the Council is involved in determining policy and monitoring performance. Continued membership is particularly important in view of the current work to review and co-ordinate city wide advice provision noted in the paragraph above.

5 Attendance Record and Remuneration for the Appointment

5.1 Councillor Mrs Griffin is the City Council's representative on the Coventry Citizen's Advice Bureau Management Committee, in the past twelve months there have been 10 meetings of the Committee of which Councillor Mrs Griffin has attended 7.

5.2 There is no remuneration associated with this appointment.

List of background papers

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Papers open to Public Inspection

Description of paper	Location
Schedule of City Council Appointments to Outside Bodies	CH61