

From: Brant Carron (Legal Services)
Sent: 17 October 2006 14:09
To: Strangeway James; Braithwaite Shirley; Edge Carole; Gillett Claire; Herring Nigel
Subject: FW: Info from Advisory Group
and me. Ta!

Carron

-----Original Message-----

From: Jackson Elaine **On Behalf Of** Ryley Kim
Sent: 17 October 2006 08:57
To: Brant Carron (Legal Services)
Cc: Ormondroyd Jan
Subject: FW: Info from Advisory Group

Carron

If we receive a request relating to expenditure spent on Common Purpose etc (as below), please let Kim Ryley know.

Thanks

Elaine

-----Original Message-----

From: Chris Burn [mailto:Chris.Burn@commonpurpose.org.uk]
Sent: 13 October 2006 15:20
To: Kim Ryley (E-mail)
Subject: FW: Info from Advisory Group

Kim

With reference to my rather long e-mail I have previously sent. Just to alert you to the fact that North Lincolnshire Council have been approach for information relating to expenditure spent on Common Purpose along with Agendas and mins of Advisory Group meetings.

Chris

-----Original Message-----

From: Chris Burn
Sent: 21 September 2006 11:40
To: Kim Ryley (E-mail)
Subject: Info from Advisory Group

Hi Kim

After you left the meeting yesterday there was an agenda item under AOB and I just wanted to bring you up to

speed as it may directly affect the Council. I have provided below some correspondence, that went to Graham Chesters as Chair from our UK office, for your information. So far, we have not had anyone ring the Hull office but it is always best to be warned of these things I feel.

Concerned Citizens

In recent weeks, a few programme teams, as well as some Advisory Group Chairs and members, have been contacted by some members of the public who are challenging whether taxpayers' money is being wisely spent on leadership development and specifically Common Purpose programmes. They are requesting details of public sector expenditure, under the Freedom of Information Act. Usually, there is some implication that Common Purpose has a covert political agenda that they do not agree with. We thought it would be helpful to tell you how we are handling these situations as they arise.

Following consultation with expert lawyers, public relations advisers and local government leaders, we are recommending that when our Programme Co-ordinators receive calls like this, they should refer them to their Programme Director, without engaging in conversation. The Programme Director should listen to what the caller has to say (after all, we encourage citizens to challenge and get involved), repeat that we are an independent and non-aligned organisation with no political agenda, and that we work very hard to ensure we run politically balanced programmes. (It may be necessary to agree to disagree.) Then they should suggest that if they have concerns about expenditure of taxpayers' money, they should put these to the Council directly. We have no information about Councils' spending decisions.

Councils seem to be taking these requests in their stride, along with the many other requests that they receive under FOI.

All of the experts we have consulted tell us that this sort of activity is not unusual, and just comes with the territory of a higher profile. Common Purpose has thousands of satisfied customers who value us for our independence and treasure their Common Purpose experience. If there are one or two members of the public who feel otherwise, that's to be expected and is a symptom of our higher profile.

Please contact your Programme Director, Regional Director or myself if you, or a member of your Advisory Group, are contacted or if you want to talk further about this.

Best wishes

Chris

Chris Burn

Senior Programme Director

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Hull Matrix

Programme starts Thursday 5 October and Friday 6 October 2006
Matrix is a unique, locally rooted programme for experienced leaders. It is a powerful educational experience that brings together leaders from all sectors and widely differing backgrounds.

South Humber Focus

Programme starts Thursday 25 and Friday 26 January 2007
Focus is a powerful leadership development programme with a difference. It brings together decision-makers from all backgrounds, disciplines and sectors and gives them an insight into how society works in the context of their local area.

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