

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET MEMBER MEETING – HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES

10 September 2013

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Strategic Director - Health and Community Safety

Community Safety Projects

Purpose of Report

To consider a request to fund five community safety projects.

Information and Analysis

Five projects are seeking funding from the Communities budget and meet local community safety priorities. These are set out below.

Bridging the Gap between generations

An intergenerational project has been delivered in Derbyshire since December 2005. It aims to improve relationships between the generations by involving both young and old in activities together thus helping to reduce fear of crime, anti-social behaviour, criminal damage and calls for service. Evaluation of the project shows that outcomes for older and younger people after their involvement are: changed perceptions of older people in relation to younger people and vice versa, increased involvement in their wider communities, feeling valued as individuals irrespective of age and more confidence in expressing their own views.

Previous project work included an initiative with Probation Community Payback working with a 50+ forum in Chesterfield to develop a nature reserve alongside the canal by building bird and insect boxes, planters for shrubs and tidying the canal pathway and hedgerows. Five new community safety related projects will be developed that will contribute to community safety priorities for Derbyshire and will work with young people with behavioural needs. The £15,000 funding will be used alongside match funding from the Adult Care budget to develop a total of ten new projects.

Derbyshire Handy Van Network

Established in 2008 and delivered through a partnership of providers, the Network is made up of 12 Handy Vans, with eight covering each of the eight borough/district areas across Derbyshire and an additional four who have a countywide remit to address areas of high demand and cover for sickness/annual leave. The Network provides a range of basic practical tasks, home security checks and the installation of security equipment to prevent burglaries, domestic violence, repeat victimisation and to reduce the fear of crime. During the last 12 months it has also accepted referrals from victims of domestic abuse to install alarms for high risk victims of domestic abuse, installed specialist alarms for vulnerable adults with sensory

impairment, supported the Dusk to Dawn sensor light project, installed door cameras for victims of distraction burglaries and installed specialist anti-arson letter boxes. The £15,000 funding will go towards the procurement and installation of security equipment to prevent burglaries, domestic violence, repeat victimisation and to reduce the fear of crime.

Fraud Prevention campaign for vulnerable communities

The national threat from fraud is growing, enabled significantly by the increasing use of the internet in society. The National Fraud Authority Annual Fraud Indicator issued in June 2013 put the loss to the UK Economy from fraud at £52 billion. Fraud can take many forms including Advance Fee Scams, Identity Fraud, Door to Door Sales Fraud, Online Shopping Fraud, Plastic Card Fraud, Lottery Scams etc. Data available in 2012 for Derbyshire also echoes the national picture with advance fee and online shopping and auction frauds being significantly higher than other fraud types in Derbyshire.

The aim of the project is to deliver a comprehensive campaign to raise awareness of various forms of fraud particularly those targeted at the elderly and vulnerable in our communities. At the same time providing the public with the information enabling them to avoid fraud on their own behalf and act on behalf of others and achieve a higher level of awareness in the community as a whole. This initiative is being managed by the police but in partnership with the County Council's Community Safety, Adult Care and Trading Standards Departments. It will enhance the work already done by Trading Standards, providing a much longer joint campaign to raise awareness of these issues. The cost of the awareness campaign and information for the public is £10,000 the funding will be transferred to the Police for project implementation.

Sports and Arts Mentoring Project

Over recent years a pilot programme was developed and delivered with the aim of engaging certain target groups of young people in positive sports and arts activities.

The target groups were:

- Young people in care, living in residential children's home
- Young female offenders working with the Youth Offending Service
- Young offenders considered at high or very high risk of re-offending.

The project aimed to divert young people away from crime and towards positive mainstream sports and arts activities. The project used session paid mentors who worked intensively with a young person to identify opportunities and facilitate their involvement in positive activities. The evaluation of the project found that the 28 young people who took part in the project showed an 81% improvement in their risk scores, 46% have not committed an offence since completing the mentoring and those that did go on to reoffend had dramatically reduced their rate and severity of offending.

A new 12 week mentoring project (with an opportunity to extend the time period if required) would work with young people who are: aged 10-17, known to the Youth Offending Service, a young person in care or categorised as a person within the Troubled Families scheme. The mentors will be recruited and managed by Sporting

Futures and will work directly with young people to facilitate their activities. The cost of the new project is £25,700 and will be paid to Sporting Futures.

Anti-social Behaviour Education Programme in Schools

Established in 2012, the Anti-social Behaviour (ASB) Education Programme in schools project utilises the “Art of Being Brilliant” programme focussed on inspiring young people and concentrated on developing pro-social thinking habits, attitudes and behaviours towards committing ASB, respecting difference and understanding the impact of alcohol consumption. The programme was delivered to Year 7 students in nine schools across the county as well as to a group of young people from Children’s homes. The schools were targeted based a number of factors including levels of deprivation, offending rates and school absence statistics. Following the “Art of Brilliance” input, the students were then encouraged to share their learning with other students in their schools, as well as their families and communities.

Perception surveys were carried out before and after the programme. This revealed that students felt that their attitudes at school, confidence and happiness levels had improved since taking part. Students also felt more confident to stand up to friends who were doing something wrong or dangerous. They revealed an improvement in attitudes towards committing ASB, respecting difference and understanding the impact of alcohol consumption. It is proposed that this programme is continued for a further year and works with ten schools, to be targeted in the same way as previous years. This would cost £35,000.

Financial Considerations

The cost of the proposals totals £100,700 and can be met from within existing budgetary provision.

Other Considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: legal, equality of opportunity; and environmental, health, human resources, property and transport considerations.

OFFICER’S RECOMMENDATIONS

That the sum of £100,700 is awarded from the Communities Budget to support five community safety projects:

- Bridging the Gap between Generations £15,000,
- Derbyshire Handy Van Network £15,000,
- Fraud Prevent Project £10,000,
- Sports and Arts Mentoring Programme £25,700
- ASB Education Programme in Schools £35,000.

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