

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET MEMBER MEETING – HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES

18 July 2013

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Strategic Director - Health and Communities

Community Safety Projects

Purpose of Report

To consider a request to fund four projects: general clean ups / graffiti removal at targeted sites, the provision of street lighting in areas of crime and disorder across Derbyshire, the provision of electronic kiosks in Probation offices which provide advice and support and support for staying safe training for people with learning disabilities.

Information and Analysis

During 2012-13, the Community Safety Unit coordinated projects to reduce anti-social behaviour, crime and disorder by organising clean ups across the county and the provision of street lighting whereby impacting on the levels of recorded crime and residents' perception of crime in their local areas.

Clean ups / Graffiti removal

Potential sites for being cleaned up were nominated by District and Parish Councils, Community Safety Partnerships and Derbyshire County Council (DCC) departments. The project utilised the Probation Community Payback Scheme for all general clear up work supported by a contractor for the graffiti removal.

The overall cost of the project in 2012-13 was £21,162 which included materials and supervisor costs for Probation, materials and labour for the graffiti removal contractor. Probation Community Payback carried out work on 37 schemes ranging from one to 15 days work per scheme and the contractor removed graffiti from 30 sites. Work included the removal of vegetation and bushes, cleaning general debris, litter / fly tipping, painting / decorating, graffiti removal on bridges, subways, signage, a skate park, railings, fences and walls. Positive feedback was received during the project with the graffiti removal contractor and Probation receiving direct feedback from members of the public who indicated that they would like to see more of this type of work undertaken and we have already had a number of requests for further work in 2013-14 have been received.

Street Lighting

During 2012-13 funding of £45k was approved to support requests for community safety street lighting improvements. 44 requests were received, of which 13 met the project criteria. Each request is screened against criteria which include establishing the levels of crime and anti-social behaviour in that area, cost of any scheme and input from local partners. Work is also undertaken with the Council's Part Night

Lighting project to ensure that any newly proposed street lighting does not conflict with the implementation of this project. The aim of the initiative is to improve street lighting in areas where there have been higher levels of crime and anti-social behaviour and where it is considered that additional street lighting would have a positive impact on these issues thereby improving the quality of life for local residents.

An evaluation of 16 street lighting improvement schemes installed since 2011 shows a number of locations having significant reductions in ASB related police calls for service.

- The overall monthly figure for police calls for service fell by almost 15% post installation.
- The overall monthly figure for total crime fell by almost 11% post installation, violent crime reduced by almost 18% and criminal damage and arson by just over 27%.

Satisfaction surveys following the installation of street lighting recorded that residents were satisfied with the new lighting and that they felt safer after dark. The projects will also contribute to the Anti-Social Behaviour Key Performance Indicator in the 2011-14 Derbyshire Community Safety Agreement and the Service Plan 2013-14.

Reducing Re-Offending

The Derbyshire Probation Trust, in conjunction with the Citizen's Advice Bureau, has piloted the use of an electronic kiosk in its Derby City office which provides up to date information for offenders around debt, finance and benefits, housing options and support services and other relevant services which may assist offenders in reducing or ceasing their offending behaviour. There has been positive feedback from the city office pilot and a number of referrals and sign posting into services have been taken up as a direct result of information from the kiosk.

The county is currently performing well in relation to reducing re-offending and it is initiatives such as this which help support the rehabilitation process.

The cost of a kiosk is £3,500 and the Citizen's Advice Bureau undertakes to ensure that the information it contains is regularly updated.

The Probation Trust and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Derbyshire are keen to see these kiosks rolled out in the three main Probation offices across the county (Derby City, Chesterfield and Ilkeston). The Probation Trust will fund the city office and the Commissioner will fund one kiosk for the county. The Probation Trust is seeking match funding from the County Council to ensure that all three offices can install a kiosk.

Hate Crime/Staying Safe

In 2009 Cabinet approved the development of a Hate Crime and Staying Safe Project for People with Learning Disabilities in Derbyshire. The aim of the project being to provide information about bullying, harassment, hate crime and safeguarding through a series of workshop events delivered at a variety of settings. McIntyre developed and delivered these workshops. A Learning and Development Officer was recruited by McIntyre to develop the workshops along with a member of

staff with a learning disability. A pool of people with learning disabilities deliver the workshops as Keeping Safe Champions. The champions are trained and then paid on a sessional basis. The whole project is overseen by a multi-agency steering group. During 2009 another element was added to the project and a Safe Places Scheme was established. Derbyshire libraries were all established as 'safe places' – a place of safety that a person with learning disabilities can go to for help if they feel unwell or unsafe knowing that staff are trained to help. In September 2011 a further bid was approved from the Communities Budget to match fund money from the Derbyshire Learning Disabilities Partnership Board for the continuance of the project.

The project itself has achieved a profile both regionally and nationally with Champions speaking at national conferences and assisting with the training of detectives in the East Midlands.

There is continued interest in the project and there is scope both to keep reiterating the same messages, particularly as the client group benefit from being reminded of the issues, and also to expand the messages to embrace topics like the safe use of technology (internet, and social networking) and cyber bullying.

Adult Care is keen to continue to deliver the project in its current format and is providing £7,500 funding and it is proposed that this be matched by £7,500 from the Communities budget. This will enable the project to continue in 2013/14, allow for potential further development to be considered and enable an exit strategy to be developed if the project as a whole were not to continue beyond 2014.

Financial Considerations

The cost of the proposals totals £76,000 and can be met from within existing budgetary provision.

Other Considerations

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

Background Papers

Community Payback – Evaluation Report 2013-14.

Officer's recommendation

That the sum of £76,000 is awarded from the Communities Budget to support four community safety projects as follows: General Clean Ups and Graffiti Removal £20,000, Street Lighting £45,000, CAB kiosk £3,500, Hate Crime/Staying Safe Project £7,500.

David Lowe

Deputy Chief Executive and Strategic Director – Health and Communities