

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MEETING WITH CABINET MEMBER, HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES

28 July 2015

Report of the Strategic Director, Health and Communities

COMMUNITY SAFETY EVENTS IN LIBRARIES

1. Purpose of the report:

To consider funding for a Community Safety Week to be delivered in partnership by Community Safety Unit, Libraries and wider partners during the autumn half term 23 - 31 October which will raise awareness of community safety and increase public confidence.

2. Information and analysis:

Community Safety Week events have been run successfully in 2008, 2009 and 2010 with other smaller themed events in libraries up to 2012.

The aim of the 2015 event is to increase public awareness of community safety issues, particularly developing areas such as modern slavery, exploitation and radicalisation as well as preventable crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) and increase public confidence through displays and a range of activities held in libraries around the county. Libraries are the hub of the community and the Chesterfield Library has facilities to co-ordinate a large scale event, with a selection of other libraries providing information to the communities in line with concerns they may have.

Previously community safety events have been run both in term time and school holidays but attendance was better during the school holiday, so the proposal is to run a main event at Chesterfield Library with other libraries supporting this with displays and optional partnership attendance/engagement.

Crime and disorder issues in Chesterfield Library and the public's concerns relate to drugs and legal high use, alcohol and anti-social behaviour and looking after the vulnerable people within the community. Complaints to the library reflect this and, as such, will be the main themes of the day.

A range of events will be delivered in libraries throughout the week, including, youth engagement activities, alcohol awareness sessions and the showcasing of campaigns developed by local young people. Funding of £4,500 is required to cover the cost of:

- Bookable seminars on community safety related matters, including drugs and their effects, legal high dispelling, ASB and youth involvement, preventing extremist behaviour and child safety on the internet, etc.
- Key information about the impact on community safety and health. This will include drinks measures and unit measures to promote better understanding of alcohol units, volume and safer drinking, as well as long term health issues relating to this
- Youth engagement activities, e.g. extreme wheels or climbing wall. These will be used to engage with young people and enable the delivery of safer drinking messages.
- Wider engagement activities, options currently being explored include community training around 'Brief Interventions', peer education and the use of street theatre.
- Promotional Items – a competition will be factored into the day whereby visitors must visit all the stands in order to receive community safety related materials for use at home.

3. Financial Considerations:

£4,500 can be met from the Communities budget.

4. Other considerations:

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

5. Background papers:

Evaluation of previous Community Safety Week 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012 projects.

6. Key Decision:

No

7. Call-in:

Is it required that call-in be waived for any decision on this report?

No

8. Officer's recommendation:

That £4,500 to support Community Safety Week in October 2015 is agreed.

**David Lowe
Strategic Director
Health and Communities**