

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MEETING WITH CABINET MEMBER, HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES

30 September 2014

Report of the Strategic Director, Health and Communities

LIGHTING THE WAY - DUSK TO DAWN PROJECT

1 Purpose of the report:

To request £20,000 to provide light sensitive 'dusk to dawn' energy efficient bulbs or a plug in LED night lamp and community safety advice to older and vulnerable (including those with physical and learning disabilities) Derbyshire residents.

2 Information and analysis:

National research indicates that people over 60 years old have an increased risk of becoming victims of burglary, and of suffering trips and falls around the home.

Whilst rates of dwelling burglary continue to reduce, there were still just over 1,700 (1,728) in the county in 2013/14. For many older, more vulnerable victims, burglary can have a significant impact on their future health and quality of life. Based on this and the evaluation of the previous project, it is proposed that this project be specifically targeted at the most vulnerable older people, such as those who are housebound. Distribution would be through partners and community groups to ensure the bulbs and information reach those most in need, as well as targeted events such as Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service electric blanket testing campaign for vulnerable adults. Distribution of the bulbs will include partners such as Community Safety Partnerships, 50+ forums, trusted / befriending service, libraries, including the 'housebound' service, the Handyvan Service, and volunteer services working with the target audience. Due to the style of the product, fitting can be done by the resident, using a table lamp or a socket that they are able to reach.

The information leaflet to be distributed with the bulb would contain crime prevention advice, trusted trader, online safety, fraud awareness and doorstep caller stickers. The funding would allow for 5,000 packs, with the option of either a night light or a sensor light bulb specified for indoor use.

3 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, human resources, environmental, health, property and transport considerations.

4 Background papers:

Cabinet report 22 October 2012
Get Switched on to safety evaluation 2013

5 Key Decision:

No

6 Call-in:

Is it required that call-in be waived for any decision on this report?
No

6 Officer's recommendation:

That the sum of £20,000 be awarded from the Communities Budget for the purchase and distribution of energy efficient dusk to dawn bulbs to improve the safety of older and vulnerable adults.

**David Lowe
Strategic Director
Health and Communities**