

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee North Warwickshire Area Committee

Date of Committee 14th September 2005

Report Title Area Community Learning Partnership – potential utilisation of the well-being fund

Summary This paper summarises the work undertaken by the Area Community Learning Partnership in the development of new ways of working to meet priorities highlighted in the North Warwickshire Community Learning Plan. Outline information is given about planned developments and possible utilisation of support through the well-being fund.

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Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework? [please identify relevant plan/budget provision] No

- Background papers**
- North Warwickshire Area Community Learning Plan
 - North Warwickshire Community Plan
 - North Warwickshire Area Committee report 15.9.04

CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:- Details to be specified

- Other Committees
- Local Member(s)
- Other Elected Members
- Cabinet Member Cllr John Burton

- Chief Executive The Chief Executive is represented on the Area Community Learning Partnership
- Legal Jane Pollard / Richard Freeth – “fine”
- Finance
- Other Chief Officers WCC Social Services, Libraries, Heritage & Trading Standards, Education and Planning, Transport & Economic Strategy are all represented on the Area Community Learning Partnership
- District Councils North Warwickshire Borough Council is represented on the Area Community Learning Partnership
- Health Authority The North Warwickshire PCT is represented on the Area Community Learning Partnership
- Police
- Other Bodies/Individuals Copies of this paper will be circulated to all members of the North Warwickshire Area Community Learning Partnership.
The North Warwickshire Partnership Coordinating Group has discussed the outline of this report.

FINAL DECISION YES

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS:

Details to be specified

- Further consideration by this Committee A detailed commission against the well-being fund to be submitted to the Area Committee at its meeting on 16th November 2005
- To Council
- To Cabinet
- To an O & S Committee
- To an Area Committee
- Further Consultation

North Warwickshire Area Committee – 14th September 2005

Area Community Learning Partnership – potential commissions against the well-being fund

Report of the Area Community Learning Partnership

Recommendation:

That the Area Committee notes the contents of this report and gives an indication of whether it feels able to support the further development of commissions against the well-being fund focused on:

- (1) developing pilot activities within localities
- (2) developing work with the three identified 'hard to reach' groups, i.e.
 - (a) older young people (25+ age group)
 - (b) low skilled or low paid workers
 - (c) men aged 45-54 with low levels of skills.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Warwickshire County Council Area Committee approved Lifelong Learning as a priority for commissioning projects for funding under the North Warwickshire Well-being Fund. The Committee asked the Area Community Learning Partnership (ACLP) to develop project ideas for consideration at a future meeting.
- 1.2 This was reported to the ACLP. Members of the Partnership welcomed this initiative and the opportunity to use this funding to further develop its work. The Partnership agreed a draft Area Community Learning Plan which was endorsed by the Area Committee at its meeting on 8th June. This Plan has now also been endorsed by all of the partner agencies.

2. Potential area for development with support from the Well-being Fund

- 2.1 A report was submitted to Area Committee twelve months ago identifying four areas in which the ACLP hoped to develop new and improved ways of working. The Partnership identified the following initial project areas:

- A multi-agency 'one-stop-shop' approach to publicising learning and how to access learning, including leisure learning, in North Warwickshire.
 - A partnership approach to the wider use of schools in North Warwickshire, including the development of community facilities.
 - Improving communication with and access to 'hard-to-reach' and under-represented groups in North Warwickshire.
 - Working in partnership with one or more major local employers to promote personal learning (as opposed to work training) in the workplace.
- 2.2 All four priorities are interrelated and form part of the ACLP's wider strategy as set-out in its Community Learning Plan. Our intention is that all communities within the Borough should benefit from our work, both through specific locality projects developed over a period of time and through Borough-wide initiatives.
- 2.3 Subsequent reports to Area Committee secured funding to assist with the 'one stop shop' approach to publicising learning and the development of a community facility at a Primary school.
- 2.4 A publicity sub group has met to look at aspects of promoting learning across the whole Borough. The group has been behind the development of the 'Put a Spring in Your Step' publicity campaign currently taking place within the Borough and is now actively looking at other ways of raising the profile of learning within the area. The issues and priorities identified during the North Warwickshire Community Partnership Day held in July will inform this further work.
- 2.5 As part of the development and promotion of the wider use of schools, the pump-priming funding agreed by Area Committee is being used by Birchwood Primary School to help develop a parents and community facility within the school. The money allocated has been used to clear and equip a suitable space within the school. Further work is now taking place to encourage parents and the wider community into the school and for partner agencies to make use of the facilities available.
- 2.6 The next focus for the ACLP is to develop work around 'hard to reach' or under-represented groups within the Borough. A sub group of the ACLP is taking this issue forward. Initial work has included an audit of providers which identified three groups where there is currently very little activity. These being
- Older young people (25+ age group)
 - Low skilled or low paid workers
 - Men aged 45 to 54 years with low levels of skills.

It is worth noting that men aged 45 to 54 were also identified as a priority group in the Coventry and Warwickshire Learning and Skills Council Adult Learning Strategic Area Review of North Warwickshire.

- 2.7 The ACLP is keen to ensure that, in addition to considering work with those considered 'hard to reach', we also look at the rural nature of North Warwickshire and the implications this can have for accessing services. The ACLP is keen to consider pilot working within localities to respond to the differing make up of the Borough. When identifying potential pilot areas we will give consideration to the following issues:
- Level and type of provision currently available
 - Venue/location availability
 - Possible sharing of facilities
 - Educational achievement within the locality
 - Deprivation indicators for the area
 - Previous activity within the area.
- 2.8 Further work will include links with the Community Development Workers Forum. These workers are already known within localities. They have a detailed knowledge of their areas and understand what communities want and need. We hope to be able to utilise their experience to deliver innovative projects within their locality to support our longer-term aim of improving educational attainment and skills levels within the Borough.
- 2.9 We also see this as an ideal opportunity to develop our fourth project area: to engage employers within the area. Initially this may only be as a point of information about what is available but longer term could develop into the hosting of services by employers within the Borough.

3. Conclusion

Detailed bids to help develop these projects are being developed by the ACLP sub group and a formal commission will be made to Area Committee on 16th November 2004. In the meantime it would be helpful if Area Committee could indicate their support for these projects.

DAVE POTTER
Chair of North Warwickshire ACLP

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1st September 2005