

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee	North Warwickshire Area Committee		
Date of Committee	14th September 2005		
Report Title	North Warwickshire Well-being Fund – Mid-term reports and New commission		
Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The report details progress after 6 months of a Well-being commission agreed by Members at February 2005 Area Committee. Community Safety theme group: 'Remedial works for visual audits'• The report also requests a reallocation of funding for a project reported at last Area Committee. Transport theme group: 'Improved access to health information'• The report also provides an update on a bid agreed in March 2002 for a four year project managed by Warwickshire Rural Community Council: 'The wider effects of housing upon social inclusion'• And also details a new commission for approval. Health & Wellbeing theme group: 'PATCHES (Prevention of Accidents To Children Home Equipment Scheme)'		
For further information please contact:	<table><tr><td>Alistair Rigby Community Partnership Officer Tel: 01827 715646 alistairrigby@warwickshire.gov.uk</td><td>Susan Gooding Area Manager Tel: 01827 721084 susangooding@warwickshire.gov.uk</td></tr></table>	Alistair Rigby Community Partnership Officer Tel: 01827 715646 alistairrigby@warwickshire.gov.uk	Susan Gooding Area Manager Tel: 01827 721084 susangooding@warwickshire.gov.uk
Alistair Rigby Community Partnership Officer Tel: 01827 715646 alistairrigby@warwickshire.gov.uk	Susan Gooding Area Manager Tel: 01827 721084 susangooding@warwickshire.gov.uk		
Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework?	No		
Background papers			

CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:-

Details to be specified

- Other Committees
- Local Member(s)
- Other Elected Members
- Cabinet Member
- Chief Executive David Carter.....
- Legal Ian Marriott
- Finance
- Other Chief Officers
- District Councils
- Health Authority
- Police
- X Other Bodies/Individuals

FINAL DECISION YES

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS:

Details to be specified

- Further consideration by this Committee
- To Council
- To Cabinet
- To an O & S Committee
- To an Area Committee
- Further Consultation

North Warwickshire Area Committee – 14 Sept 2005

**North Warwickshire Well-being Fund – update reports
and new commission**

**Report of the County Solicitor and Assistant Chief
Executive**

Recommendation

That members:

- 1) Note and if desired, comment on the six month progress report (Well-being commission 2004 / 05) from the Safer Communities Theme Group on the project ' Remedial works for Visual Audits'
- 2) Agree to reallocate unspent funding (Well-being commission 2004 / 05) for 'Improved Access to Health Information' from printing costs to supporting Beeline. This service provides transportation to medical centres for North Warwickshire residents.
- 3) Note and if desired, comment on the update report (Well-being bid 2001/02) by Warwickshire Rural Community Council on 'The wider effects of housing upon social inclusion'.
- 4) Approve a new commission to the Well-being Fund (2005 / 06) from Health & Well-being Theme group of the North Warwickshire Community Partnership for 'PATCHES' project

1. Introduction – mid term report 2004/5

1.1 For year 2004 / 05 North Warwickshire Area Committee priorities for the Well-being Fund were:

- Transport
- Safer Communities
- Education and Life Long Learning
- Public Realm

1.2 At the February 2005 Area Committee meeting, a commission from the Community Safety Theme group was supported and is outlined below in 1.5 and detailed in Appendix A

1.3 In line with the Area Funding Strategy agreed at 3 February Area Committee meeting, each commission would be 'formally agreed' by the signing of a mini-contract by the Lead Officer of the project. The progress of the commission would then be monitored with two reports presented to Area Committee. The first being a mid-term, 6 monthly report, followed by a final end of project report.

1.4 The reports will form the basis for evaluating the fund 2004 /05 after all the commissions have been completed.

1.5 A summary of the commission's main purpose and value is as follows:

Community Safety theme group commission:

Remedial works for Visual Audits – value £ 5,000

Visual Audits have been carried out in a number of parishes across the borough including Arley, Dordon, Polesworth, Mancetter, Atherstone, Coleshill, Fillongley, Packington, Curdworth, Wishaw, Shustoke, Whitacre Heath, Kingsbury, Wood End Piccadilly and Maxstoke. The audits have been carried out by staff from Warwickshire Police and North Warwickshire Borough Council. Visual Audits are carried out to identify environmental triggers that influence fear of crime in the community.

Funding will contribute to the costs of remedial work and initiatives to remove the environmental triggers. The remedial works and initiatives include repairing vandalism, removing graffiti, community clean ups, preventing anti social behaviour and supporting facilities for young people.

2. Progress and analysis of mid-term report

2.1 Community Safety Theme Group Commission:

Remedial works for Visual Audits – value £ 5,000

This project is progressing in line with the contract agreement – no action required

3. Introduction – reallocation of funding for 2004/05 project

3.1 A summary of the commission's main purpose and value is as follows:

Transport Theme Group Commissions:

Improved access to health information – value £ 6,088

3.2 This project aims to provide a credit card sized fold out information leaflet to provide residents of North Warwickshire with information about transport links to medical facilities, including Doctors' Surgeries, Hospitals and Dentists. The project aims to increase the use of public transport to medical facilities, and

decrease the number of people failing to attend medical appointment because of lack of information about available transport.

- 3.3 A mid-term report for the project was received at July's Area Committee where Members noted progress made and viewed a draft copy of the Information leaflet. Since receiving the report the budget has been re-forecasted. This subsequent report requests Members to agree to a re-allocation of funding in light of reduced printing costs and feedback from initial consultation.
- 3.3 The original budget forecast for printing the foldout information leaflet has been revised by the print company, with a significant reduction in costs. This allows £2,166 from the designated £6088 to be assigned elsewhere within the project.
- 3.4 Approval is sought from Area Committee to enable this funding to be re-allocated to address two other parts of the project:
- 3.5** The results of early consultation have identified the need to produce an A5 sized card in larger print, containing the information from the "Important number guide". This will cost approximately £458.
- 3.6** The second proposal is to assist Beeline, a key local provider of community transport to medical centres for North Warwickshire residents. The new 'Improved Access to Health Information' leaflet promotes the service of Beeline. It is therefore expected demand for the service will increase. Funding of £1708 will assist them to meet this demand.
- 3.7 Further information is outlined in the report by the Transport Theme group in Appendix B

3 Introduction – Update report 2002 – 2005

- 3.1 In year 2001/02 the Well-being fund was administered as an open bidding process. The Council made the distinction for the Well-Being Fund to be used for projects of a more strategic nature, which would benefit the wider community. All projects would help to achieve the objectives of the Area Business Plans, Community Plans and the County Strategic Plan.
- 3.2 All Well-being applications were also considered under the following general criteria:
- projects fall within the Area Committee's terms of reference
 - funding is available on a one-off basis only, up to £10,000
 - projects have clear objectives and outputs, and a designated lead officer to monitor and report back progress to the Area Committee
 - underspendings on projects should be returned to the Committee and overspendings not funded unless specifically agreed.

3.3 In that year £75,000 of Well-being funding was available for allocation by North Warwickshire Area Committee.

3.4 A summary of the bid's main purpose and value is as follows:

Warwickshire Rural Community Council:

'The wider effects of housing upon social inclusion' – value £5,000

3.5 This project in Year 1 undertook a piece of research highlighting the impact of housing on social inclusion within Warwickshire. The report was produced in autumn 2002. It advocated the creation of the post of Rural Housing Enabler within Warwickshire.

Charles Barlow took up post of Rural Housing Enabler in October 2003. The five year post is supported by Stratford District Council and the Countryside Agency.

3.6 An update report on project progress is given in Appendix C

4 Introduction – New commission

4.1 For year 2005 / 06 North Warwickshire Area Committee priorities for Well-being Fund are:

- Education and Life Long Learning
- Community Life
- Health & Well-being
- Local Economy

4.2 Members agreed to take commissions from the relevant North Warwickshire Community Partnership Theme groups.

4.3 The budget for this year's fund has now been set. The figures mark a 0.4% increase on last year's budgets. North Warwickshire Area Committee has £52,880 to administer from its Well-being Fund. The above priority theme groups will each receive £13,220 for 2005 /06. Theme group leaders have been notified and requested to submit commissions to the value of £13, 220 by December 2005 Area Committee for approval.

4.4 A summary of the commission's main purpose and value is as follows:

Health & Wellbeing theme group commission:

PATCHES (Prevention of Accidents to Children Home Equipment Scheme) – value £8,985

PATCHES is a free home safety equipment scheme targeting families on low income across the rural North Warwickshire District. It will be

managed and coordinated by Warwickshire Specialist Health Promotion Service.

The project will operate by health visitors referring qualifying low income families who have a child under one year of age to the scheme.

Safety equipment such as fireguards and safety gates will be installed in the family's homes free of charge, through purchasing the services of Age Concern Warwickshire's handyman scheme.

85 families across North Warwickshire are expected to benefit from the scheme.

A supporting letter from the Director of Public Health, North Warwickshire Primary Care Trust is attached in Appendix D, Table 1, stating the aim of securing mainstream funding for this project in North Warwickshire.

5 Conclusion

- 5.1 Members are asked to approve the second commission of the new financial year 2005/6 and support the progress made by two current projects in light of their update reports to Area Committee.
- 5.2 Members are also asked to approve the re-allocation of funding of a current project in response to public consultation and projected increase in demand for a local community transport service.

DAVID CARTER
County Solicitor and Assistant
Chief Executive

Shire Hall
Warwick
17th August 2005

Warwickshire County Council

Well-being Fund Mid-term report 2004/05

Name of Lead officer: Chief Inspector Chris Lewis

Name of Project: Remedial Works for Visual Audits

Name of Theme Group promoting project: Community Safety

Wellbeing fund grant £ 5,000

Outline of Project brief
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual Audits are carried out to identify environmental triggers that influence fear of crime in the community. Audits are carried out by staff from Warwickshire Police and North Warwickshire Borough Council. • Funding is sought to contribute to the costs of remedial work and initiatives to remove the environmental triggers. The remedial works and initiatives may include repairing vandalism, removing graffiti, community clean ups, preventing anti social behaviour and supporting facilities for young people. • Remedial works and initiatives to remove environmental triggers will be authorised by The Community Confidence Group. • Funding is to benefit completed Visual Audits that identify remedial action & initiatives • The Community Confidence Group will monitor and report on progress / effectiveness of identified actions

Details of timescale	Measurable outputs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project to start –February 2005 Community Confidence Group to review current Visual Audits - March • Environmental triggers identified from each audit - April • Community Confidence Group to compile programme of remedial action across borough – May 	<p>List of villages / projects to benefit from Well-being funding to support remedial action & initiatives</p> <p>Remedial action and initiatives identified for each Visual Audit</p> <p>Timetable of delivery</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remedial work started • Community Confidence Group to monitor remedial work • 1st report to Area Committee – August <p>2nd report to Area Committee – February 2006</p>	<p>Photographs of two community clean up operations</p> <p>Quarterly progress reports compiled</p> <p>Report complete 24th August for September Area Committee</p> <p>Report complete 1st March for March 2006 Area Committee</p>
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Commentary on Project Progress – achievements to date

A number of issues are present at moment, which are hindering planned progress albeit there are numerous positive features to comment upon. It is with regret that PC Alan Spittles the Police Community Projects Officer who was based at Coleshill and who actually owned and led on these issues for the group in the previous year and achieved a comprehensive round of clean ups in the district is suffering a very serious illness and is absent from the work place. That has had a significant impact on our ability to build on Alan's initial successes. That said a number of promising initiatives are being developed.

The Probation Service became involved in our clean ups as part of their community service function and it is felt appropriate that they expand their role and use and access to the graffiti removal machine with support and financial assistance from the group for cleaning materials and other relevant resources.

An informal working protocol is currently being finalised between probation and the group. Critical to the success of this area of work though is the efficacy of visual audits. At this moment in time the actual lead and ownership of visual audits is under discussion.

Previously PCSOs played a leading role to kick-start this work but as their role and success develops it is not feasible for them to be the sole agents for visual audits. The fact that the Borough Council has instituted a hot line for public reporting of street scene issues has had a bearing on this issue but has also had a positive effect. It is believed parish councils have the potential to play a far greater role as it is felt they literally can be eyes and ears on the ground on a regular basis and are well positioned to report clean up issues.

The advent of the borough council public realm group is also another factor that needs to be taken into consideration to ensure there is fully joined up working on these issues. Hence, direct contact is being made with Parish

Councils on this issue in early September and the Public Realm Group meets in October when partnership working on this issue can be discussed.

Against this background, however, graffiti removal and clean ups have taken place in Coleshill and Water Orton. Some repair work is also taking place in Water Orton. Clean up work is planned for Ansley Common in the very near future.

The group is also planning initiatives to help prevent nuisance motorcyclist activity. There is also keen interest to assist with combating young persons access to and use of alcohol, which translates into anti social behaviour and impacts negatively on community confidence. Hartshill is being considered as an area in which positive action could be considered.

Slippage

See above comments

Revision to programme

Despite the described pressures it is not believed there needs to be any significant revisions at this stage

Details of timescale

Measurable outputs.

Analysis of cost

Expense	Budget	Expenditure to date (apprx)
Capital/Equipment:		
Other: Other contributions to remedial works for example Barriers, bollards, materials, graffiti removal consumables. It is not possible to breakdown costs as a contribution is being sought to support remedial works and initiatives.	£5,000	<i>Precise figures are not currently available albeit expenditure is well within budget.</i>

Publicity

The group has agreed to contribute to the funding of a special edition of North Talk that will concentrate purely on community partnership work in North Warwickshire but also showcasing the work of groups such as the Community Confidence Group and in the overall context of Community Safety.

Sustainability of project

The philosophy of visual audits and remedial work in the context of community confidence is still very sustainable
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Lessons learnt

See comments under progress to date

Other comments

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Warwickshire County Council Well-being Fund 2004/05

Well-being Fund request for an alteration to the existing project brief 2004/05

Name of Lead officer: Cheryl Bridges and Francine Poole

Name of Project: Improved access to health information

Name of Theme Group promoting project: Transport and Health and Well-Being Themes.

Wellbeing fund grant: £ 6088

Original- Outline of Project brief

- The production and distribution of information relating to transport to medical facilities across the Borough of North Warwickshire
- Information will be easy to read. Including a map of local medical facilities, bus routes, taxi and community transport information. List of contact numbers, organisations and benefits available. The back cover will be an appointment card.
- The credit card sized foldout information handouts will be printed and distributed to the local community covering the whole Borough.
- Distributed to all: Surgeries; Dentists; Hospitals; Libraries; Clinics. Also sent to Public and village halls
- Sent to groups including: Older peoples forum; Pensioner group; Luncheon clubs; Social clubs
- Information included in local newsletters with a detachable page
- The contact numbers will ensure people are aware of who they should contact if they have an issue or a question about access to medical facilities.

Details of timescale	Measurable outputs.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project to start – December 2004 Seek estimate 	Estimates from 3 local graphic agencies / printers for artwork & printing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sign contract – February 2005 	Contract agreement signed with most appropriate agency
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Artwork & printing – first draft by June 2005 	Draft artwork sent to Area manager & agreed. Artwork for credit card sized foldout agreed. To inc WCC logo.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments / feedback from user groups, Transport & Health & Well-being Strategy Groups – 	3 target groups consulted eg Older Peoples Forum and theme groups for comments on design, readability, and

June/July 2005	usefulness of info.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Artwork & printing – final draft by Aug 2005 	All information checked ensuring it is up to date. 30,000 copies printed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaflets distributed from Aug 2005 onwards 	Copies in EVERY surgery; dentist; hospitals; libraries; clinics in North Warks Copies sent to local user groups
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st report to Area Committee - July 	Report complete June for July Area Committee
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questionnaires distributed from Feb 2006 	10% of questionnaires complete/returned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2nd report to Area Committee – March 2006 	Report complete Feb for March Area Committee
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project complete – March 2006 	

Commentary on Project Progress and amendments requested

The Access to health map is currently at the consultation stage. The consultation is as wide reaching as possible, including the Older peoples forum, CVS, local youth clubs, community plan theme groups, Area Committee, Doing things and seeing people group, practice managers, locality forum, Policy for older people group and many other organisations.

Due to negotiations with the printers, the cost has been reduced dramatically. 25,000 handouts will cost £3,922 to produce, leaving £2,166 unallocated from the designated £6088. We seek the approval of Area Committee to enable this funding to be allocated to two additional access/ transport to health projects.

One project will be to produce an A5 sized card in larger print, containing the information from the “Important number guide”. This will cost approximately £458.

The second proposed project is to assist Beeline, who provides transport to medical service for North Warwickshire residents. Beeline is currently facing financial difficulties as they provide more journeys than they receive financial funding for. This has resulted in them using their small reserves to meet the increasing demand from local residents. The number of journeys they conduct, have increased year on year since 2001, when the data commenced. Last year the total number of journeys Beeline conducted increased by 5.4%. These increases have occurred without Beeline raising its profile in anyway. The access to health map has a descriptive section on Beeline and its services, as a direct result of providing residents with these leaflets, it is anticipated more North Warwickshire residents will be aware of the Beeline service and will use it. Beeline is facing a major issue, due to its

financial difficulties, they are in danger of having to turn patients away. If the remaining funding, approximately £1708, was allocated to the Beeline service, this would go towards securing the immediate-term financial future of Beeline. The PCT's commissioning unit is currently looking at the way it funds organisations like Beeline, it is hopeful that come 2006 a more responsive situation will be available, assisting the financial future of successful local projects, we anticipate Beeline will be one of these projects.

Total Project Cost- originally		£6088
Approx 26,000 homes in North Warwickshire		
Capital/Equipment	Approximate costing	
Printing costs quantity 10,000	£1936	
For 30,000	£5808	
Artwork	£280	
Total	£ 6088	

Total Project Cost - adjusted		£6088
Approx 26,000 homes in North Warwickshire		
Capital/Equipment	Approximate costing	
Printing costs quantity 25,000	£3922	
Printing cost for 2000 A5 large print	£458	
Beeline support	£1708	
Total	£ 6088	

Warwickshire County Council

Well-being Fund Update Report 2002 – 2005

Name of Lead officer: Alison Chappell

Name of Project: The Wider Effects of Housing upon Social Inclusion

Name of Theme Group promoting project: n/a

Wellbeing fund grant £5,000

Outline of Project brief

- Building capacity within communities is a sustainable way of ensuring that communities can articulate their needs and seek to meet them.
- The postholder will undertake research across Warwick, Stratford and North Warwickshire Areas to identify the impact of housing on social exclusion, including youth homelessness, the sustainability of villages and the extent of second and empty homes. This work will link into the County Council's Social Inclusion Strategy.
- Whilst recognising that housing is a primary issue for district and borough councils, this project will build the capacity of rural communities using the issue of housing as the medium for doing so. This work will be used to feed into parish plans, community plans, village design statements and other community consultation initiatives. Building the capacity of communities, and encouraging a greater involvement in community life is a key part of the County's Strategic Plan. The postholder will be instrumental to delivering community involvement on this key issue.
- Housing is a key issue for rural communities, whether it is the lack of affordable housing, the desire to keep developers from 'spoiling' a village environment or simply wanting to have an input into district plans.
- The postholder will raise awareness of housing issues amongst rural communities and enable them to identify housing needs and find sustainable solutions to needs that are identified.

Details of timescale	Measureable outputs
<p><u>Year 1 (April 2002 – 03)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake research on impact of housing on social inclusion • Raise awareness of housing issues in rural communities. • Build community capacity through the identification of housing issues Work with relevant partners such as Young and Older People's Forums, Care and Repair Agency, Connexions, etc. 	<p>Research work completed and report written. To include: Level of Youth homelessness; extent and impact of vacant properties and second homes; identified pressures on village sustainability in North Warwickshire</p> <p>Number of capacity building initiatives engaging local people in identifying housing needs and finding sustainable solutions</p> <p>Number of young, elderly and socially excluded groups contacted and needs highlighted</p>
<p><u>Year 2-4 (April 2003 – 2006)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priorities set by monitoring group to respond to issues identified in research and by communities. 	<p>Monitoring group set up and meeting regularly</p> <p>Issues identified and priorities set</p> <p>Action plan agreed and implemented</p>

Commentary on Project Progress – achievements to date

WRCC also approached the Warwick and Stratford Area Committees for funding towards the project but were unsuccessful in those bids and this meant that the WRCC were not able to match fund the money for a rural housing enabler post and it was only possible to implement part of the project in Year 1.

During year one, the North Warwickshire Area Well being funding contributed towards the costs of the research that was undertaken highlighting the impact of housing on social inclusion within Warwickshire. A report 'Social Inclusion: The Impact of housing on rural communities in Warwickshire' produced in the Autumn of 2002 was made available to the North Warwickshire Area Committee in March 2003. As part of the original proposal, funding applications were also made to the Warwick and Stratford Area Committees, but these were unsuccessful, so the report also highlighted the case for a Rural Housing Enabler post within Warwickshire.

The Rural Housing Enabler post would work to help communities address their housing needs and to broker relationships between local authorities, land owners, house builders and the community to ensure that these needs can be met.

As a result of this work undertaken in 2002-3, Stratford District Council agreed to part fund a Rural Housing Enabler post, located within the WRCC for five years from 2003. A bid was made to the Countryside Agency for the remainder of the funding and the post was successfully recruited in October 2003.

Since October 2003, the post holder, Charles Barlow has worked across the County (focusing initially on Stratford District) to help communities identify housing needs and then where appropriate help to identify suitable sites for housing (affordable or market). This work has been undertaken as a follow on from WRCC's parish plan work, or where communities have specifically identified housing as an issue. Charles has also worked strategically across the County and the Region, responding to relevant consultation documents, such as Local Plans, the Regional Housing Strategy etc. to ensure that the issues of rural housing are placed at the forefront. This work, together with the work of other interested parties has been reflected in new priorities for local strategic partnerships. There is now a housing section in the new Warwickshire Strategic Plan and a housing theme group is being proposed in the North Warwickshire Community Partnership structures.

The work to undertake a number of capacity building initiatives engaging local people in identifying housing needs and finding sustainable solutions has been undertaken since the Rural Housing Enabler has been in post which was not during year one as anticipated, but has taken place in years two to four. This work has however been limited within North Warwickshire. This has been for a number of reasons, which includes the lack of parish plan work being undertaken in North Warwickshire (therefore housing has not been raised as an issue from the community). In addition, we believe North Warwickshire Borough Council's Local Plan Review has impacted on the image of smaller scale 'exceptions' type development, and little to date has been forthcoming from the Borough Council or communities.

Undertaking housing needs surveys within communities has meant that young, elderly and socially excluded groups have been contacted and needs highlighted where they are relevant. Again, this has been limited within North Warwickshire for the reasons above.

Details of the action plans for the Rural Housing Enabler Post which have been set for 2003-4, and 2004-5 are detailed in Appendix 1.

Details of the work to progress the action plans and with communities is given in Appendix 2.

Details of an analysis of housing needs, undertaken by the Rural Housing Enabler is included in Appendix 3.

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Slippage
The work which could not be completed in year one, has been completed in years two to four. With regard to specific work in North Warwickshire, we would anticipate an increase in our ability to be able to undertake housing related work with the funding for parish plan work which has been given to WRCC by North Warwickshire Borough Council. The issue of housing need is often raised through a parish plan and then the Rural Housing Enabler can follow this specifically through housing needs surveys etc.

Revision to programme	
[Please advise on any changes to the current agreed programme. Give revised programme under 'Details of Timescales' and of 'Measurable Outputs' below. NB The project should still be completed within the year, and any changes should not alter the outcomes of the project.]	
None	
Details of timescale	Measurable outputs.

Analysis of cost		
Expense	Budget	Expenditure to date (apprx)
Salaries & costs	£5,000	£5,000
Overheads (inc: travel, IT, training, office costs)		
Recruitment		
Partnership meetings		

In year one - £3226 was spent on staff salaries to produce the report – this equates to 12 days time. No additional funding was used for this research.
In year two - £1774 was contributed to the costs of the Rural Housing Enabler Post and went on salaries. In year two, additional income for the RHE post was received from the Countryside Agency (£18,774), Stratford District Council (£16,000) and Warwickshire Rural Housing Association (£1000)

We are in year three of the RHE post (year 4 starts in October 2005), and we are receiving similar amounts of funding from the above funders for this year.

Publicity

Periodic press releases have been issued when communities are undertaking housing needs surveys.

Parish Councils within North Warwickshire will be made aware of the Rural Housing Enabler Post during the work we undertake on Parish Plans

Sustainability of project

With the demise of the Countryside Agency, funding from them for this post will cease in April 2006. However, funding from Stratford District Council is secure until October 2008. The Steering Group for the Rural Housing Enabler is currently seeking funding from local authorities and RSL's within Warwickshire to continue the post. In addition, WRCC will make representation to ensure that any funding from the DEFRA Rural Social and Communities Programme can be used to secure, or enhance the provision of rural housing enablers within the County. To date, we believe that it will be possible to fund the post until at least 2008.

Lessons learnt

The project has been well received by communities, RSL's and some local authorities, particularly Stratford District Council. It has been difficult to motivate communities to undertake housing needs surveys where the planning policies within the local authority do not favour local choice, as communities anticipate need being met by 'outsiders'.

The Countryside Agency have undertaken an evaluation of the Rural Housing Enabler project nationally and have concluded that independent rural housing enablers have the most confidence of rural communities, and that enablers based in local authorities are perceived as having bias towards the authority and house builders rather than the community. The research(RHE Programme 2 year report) can be found on the Countryside Agency's web site

at:www.countryside.gov.uk/EssentialServices/Housing/Rural_Housing_Enablers.asp#

Other comments

Warwickshire County Council Well-being Fund 2005/06

Part A – Project Brief - To be completed by the commissioning theme group

Name of Project: PATCHES

(Prevention of Accidents to Children Home Equipment Scheme)

Name of Local Strategic Partnership:

North Warwickshire Health and Wellbeing Group

Name of Theme Group promoting project:

North Warwickshire Health Improvement and Wellbeing Group

Description of Project for which funding is sought from Area Committee
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<p>PATCHES (Prevention of Accidents To Children Home Equipment Scheme) is a free home safety equipment scheme targeting families on low income across the rural North Warwickshire District (based on 85 new births). It will be managed and coordinated by Warwickshire Specialist Health Promotion Service and supported by North Warwickshire Borough Council, North Warwickshire Primary Care Trust and Age Concern Warwickshire.</p>

<p>The project will operate through health visitors referring qualifying low income families who have a child under one year of age. For the purposes of this scheme, low income will be classified as anyone who is in receipt of income support or receiving free or reduced cost milk.</p>

<p>Safety equipment such as fireguards and safety gates will be installed in the families homes free of charge, through purchasing the services of Age Concern Warwickshire's handyman scheme.</p>
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<p>The PATCHES model has been running in the Warwick district area for the past nine years, Nuneaton and Bedworth two years, Stratford district one year and the Borough of North Warwickshire is in the process of a pilot project. Rugby is in the process of attempting to secure funding. The latest figure for accidents amongst the under 5's in Warwickshire show that Warwick district has one of the lowest accident rates across the county.</p>
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<p>Accidents are the greatest single threat to life for children. Every year over 2 million children are treated in Accident & Emergency or admitted following an accident. The home environment is responsible for a significant number of deaths and a high number of serious injuries.</p>

<p>Research has shown that children from low income families are more likely to experience an accidental injury. Children living in disadvantaged areas are also more likely to be exposed to traffic, lack of safe play areas and may have dangerous</p>

sites surrounding their home. They are also more likely to live in lower standard housing and may experience parenting difficulties from stress, depression or social isolation.

Unfortunately, all of these features contribute to a child being at higher risk from accidental injuries within the home. It does, therefore, make sense to prioritise families who are living in such difficult circumstances.

At present there are 85 possible new births to income support claimants each year in the Borough of North Warwickshire (Figure supplied by Warwickshire County Council Research Unit, based on 1998 data on children of income support claimants). PATCHES will ensure equity of opportunity for those 85 families to access safety equipment, which will reduce the risk of their children having an accident in the home.

Current evaluation of both clients and health visitors accessing the Warwick district PATCHES scheme has shown;

- 97% felt that the equipment supplied had helped keep their children safe from accidents in their home
- 97% felt it was either very important or important to have the equipment fitted
- 69% felt the visit had made them more aware about their children's safety
- 71% have made **further** alterations or changes to make their home safer after the visit.

Such changes were;

- Installation of locks on cupboards where cleaning products or medicines were kept; removal of obstacles and trailing wires; purchasing plug socket covers

This evaluation has demonstrated that the PATCHES model is effective in terms of: -

- Increasing a parents awareness of their child's safety
- Empowering parents to take ownership and responsibility for their child's safety by making their home a safer environment.

PATCHES is fully supported by health visitors as they see the project as an ideal mechanism to adopt a holistic approach of not just addressing child safety but highlighting broader safety issues and signposting as appropriate to other key agencies for advice and support.

This overwhelming response illustrates the need to operate an equitable PATCHES in the Borough of North Warwickshire. In response to this need, the PATCHES steering group was able to secure funding from North Warwickshire PCT's Health Improvement Local Finance Budget to pilot PATCHES for the Borough of North Warwickshire in the current financial year 2004/05.

The PATCHES steering group had originally planned to secure longer term funding for Rural North Warwickshire PATCHES. Unfortunately, due to the financial climate

at the time, it was only possible to secure £5,000 from North Warwickshire PCT's Health Improvement Local Finance Budget; this only enabled a pilot project to take place.

The pilot project has successfully reached 35% of the expected target of 85 families. Evaluation has already demonstrated that both clients and health visitors are pleased with the service and feel it has already reduced the perceived risk of accidents to children in the home living in the Borough of North Warwickshire.

Due to the overwhelming success of this pilot, this application is requesting continuation funding to enable the Borough of North Warwickshire's PATCHES to move out of pilot status, whilst longer term mainstream funding is sought from the North Warwickshire Primary Care Trust's (PCT) Local Delivery Plan. The Director of Public Health fully supports PATCHES and is working with the PCT's commissioning department to put PATCHES on their future action plan.

As previously mentioned, the PATCHES model is running in Warwick, Nuneaton & Bedworth and Stratford. With the exception of Warwick, all PATCHES projects are short-term funded. Nuneaton & Bedworth PATCHES is funded by Nuneaton & Bedworth Healthy Living Network, Stratford District are just completing their pilot status and have successfully been awarded continuation funding from Warwickshire County Council's Well-being fund. Due to the longevity of its successes, Warwick District PATCHES has been able to secure recurrent funding from Warwick District Council. PATCHES steering group has been unsuccessful in securing funding from other local authorities due to the current financial climate.

If further funding is not secured then the service provision of PATCHES for the Borough of North Warwickshire will cease at the end of December 2005. The PATCHES steering group are seeking support to keep the scheme running whilst securing longer term funding opportunities.

Priorities, set by the County Council Area Committee, that will be addressed

This application for funding has been entered as PATCHES addresses two priorities of the County Council Area Committee's priorities. The first of which is the issue of health inequalities and social exclusion. PATCHES main aim is to give those families who have the greatest need and the highest risk of their child having an accident, access to safety equipment, which they would not be able to afford themselves. PATCHES will also provide health visitors with a mechanism to reach this vulnerable group and to discuss broader safety issues and signpost to other key agencies of support.

In the longer-term PATCHES aims to reduce childhood accidents in the Home, thus improving a child's health. PATCHES will not only raise the parent's awareness of their child's safety but also empower them to take ownership and responsibility and make their home environment safer for their child.

The National Service Framework (NSF) for children and younger people recognise safety equipment schemes as not only reducing accidents but also tackling poverty at the same time. PATCHES also addresses the principles of the NSF whereby

primary care trusts and local authorities, in partnership with other local agencies, are expected to work together to make the local environment safer for children and young people.

The Children Act 2004, Every Child Matters identifies 5 key priority headings, in particular, a key priority 'Staying Safe' includes safe from accidental injury and death, which includes parents, carers and families providing safe homes and stability. The PATCHES scheme makes a key contribution in supporting this priority.

Location of Project

Borough of North Warwickshire

Who will benefit from the project?

All low income families residing in the Borough of North Warwickshire with a child under one year of age

When will it be delivered?

January 1st 2006

Expected Outputs

- At least 85 low income families to have accessed PATCHES and had safety equipment fitted into their home
- At least 85 low income families signposted to other relevant agencies of support

Expected Outcomes

- By providing and fitting safety equipment, helped to reduce the families children's risk of an accident in the home
- To have raised the families awareness on child safety

Proposed monitoring arrangements/Indicators of success

1.
 - The number of families that have had safety equipment fitted
 - Client Evaluation, which is done on a quarterly basis.
 - Quarterly PATCHES steering group to discuss the progress of the scheme and any new developments

What is the long term future of the project (If appropriate)

If this application is successful in securing continuation funding, the Borough of North Warwickshire's PATCHES will move out of pilot status, whilst longer term mainstream funding is sought from the North Warwickshire Primary Care Trust's

(PCT) Local Delivery Plan, local authorities and other long term sources of funding. To date the PATCHES steering Group have carried out a presentation to North Warwickshire PCT and discussions are taking place with the full support from North Warwickshire PCT's Director of Public health.

Eligible for Main Programme or other funding? Yes/No? No

Details of other sources of funding

None

Contact on LSP Theme Group

Contact name	Morag Stern		
Address	Chair of North Warwickshire Health Improvement and Wellbeing Key Group Director of Public Health North Warwickshire Primary Care Trust 4 TH Floor Maternity George Eliot Hospital Nuneaton		
Telephone No.		Fax No.	
E-mail	morag.stern@nw-pct.nhs.uk		

Signature of Chair of Theme Group

.....

Date signed

.....

Well-being Fund 2003/04

Part B – Expression of Interest - To be completed by the body/individual interested in undertaking a commission

Name of Project: PATCHES Rural North Warwickshire District

Details of body/Individual interested in commission

Name of Organisation	Age Concern		
Contact name	Steve Thomson		
Address	10 Clemens St Leamington Spa CV31 2DL		
Telephone No.	01926 458135	Fax No.	01926 452857
E-mail	Steve.thomson@ageconcernwarks.co.uk		

Description of Project (from project brief)

Provision of a free home safety equipment scheme to families on low incomes residing in the Borough of North Warwickshire (based on 85 new births)

Details of timescale. When would you be able to commence this project?

01 January 2006

Outputs – What can you offer the Project?

Examples of similar projects previously undertaken

In partnership with Warwickshire Specialist Health Promotion Service, Age Concern has been running the Borough of North Warwickshire PATCHES Pilot Project since January 05. The pilot project has reached 30% of the expected target of 85 families already, and evaluation is showing that both clients and health visitors are pleased with the service and feel it is a worthwhile scheme.

Over the last two years Age Concern has also dealt with the administration and fitting of safety equipment into over 250 low income families homes in Warwick and Stratford District, and also gave the families the opportunity to be signposted to other agencies of support.

Analysis of costs – Please be as precise as possible*Total Project Costs: £*

Cost of equipment for one family, Based on two stair gates and one Fireguard	£56.00
Cost of installation of equipment per Family (this includes administration and travel costs)	£40.00
Average cost per family	£96.00
Cost for 85 families	£8160
Cost for collection of equipment and booking Appointments for one year	£500
Cost for printing of carbonated monitoring Forms	£125
Cost for printing of promotional material	£200
Total cost of project for 1 year	<u>£8,985</u>

Total Project Cost	£8,985
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Staff (Salaries and Expenses)**£0.00**

**This project does not require additional staff, as the
administration and management of the scheme is
delivered through existing resources**

Capital/Equipment**£0.00**

With the exception of the purchase of safety equipment
as outlined above, no other equipment is required for this
project

**Other
None****£0.00****Total****£8,985**

Signature of representative of organisation interested in commission

.....

Position

.....

Date

.....

North Warwickshire Borough Council

Simon Powell BA MILAM (Dip) MISRM (Dip)
Assistant Director (Community Development)

P O Box 6

The Council House

South Street

Atherstone

North Warwickshire CV9 1BG

DX : 23956 Atherstone

Switchboard : (01827) 715341

Fax : (01827) 717383

E Mail : francinepoole@northwarks.gov.uk

**This matter is being dealt with by
Fran Poole**

Direct Dial : (01827) 719346

Your ref :

Our ref : FP22

Date : 17 August 2005

Dear Alistair

I can confirm that both Fran Poole and Sarah Chesters are working towards securing longer term mainstream funding for Rural North Warwickshire PATCHES.

In conjunction with Julie Whittaker, we are looking to put PATCHES on our action plan next year with a view to securing funding to continue the project.

Many thanks.

Yours sincerely

Morag Stern
Director of Public Health
North Warwickshire Primary Care Trust