

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee North Warwickshire Area Committee

Date of Committee 1 February 2006

Report Title Community Development Worker - Social Inclusion Funding

Summary The report seeks continuing financial support for a further three years from April 2006 for the Community Development Worker funded by North Warwickshire Area Committee since April 2003.

For further information please contact:

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Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework? No.

Background papers NW Area Committee 16 November 2005

CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:- Details to be specified

- Other Committees
- Local Member(s) Councillor Sweet and Councillor Moss as the Area Committee's nominated representatives on the Community Development Worker steering group.
- Other Elected Members
- Cabinet Member
- Chief Executive David Carter
- Legal Catherine Witham – comments incorporated
- Finance David Preece, Financial Services Manager

- Other Chief Officers
- District Councils
- Health Authority
- Police
- 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
– 16 November 2005**

**Community Development Worker - Social Inclusion
Funding**

**Report of the Strategic Director of Performance and
Development**

Recommendations

That the Area Committee

1. Considers and comments on the 3 year Project Plan for the Community Development Worker.
2. Agrees to explore the continuation of the Community Development Worker post, subject to the development of a more comprehensive 3 year Project Plan and continuation of existing levels of Social Inclusion Funding.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 In 2003 the Area Committee agreed funding for a three-year community capacity building project to support North Warwickshire CVS in developing its outreach work. Over the three year period £90,000 was agreed for allocation to the project from the Social Inclusion Fund. The 3 year Service Level Agreement between Warwickshire County Council and North Warwickshire Council for Voluntary Service for the post of Community Development Worker (North Warwickshire) will terminate on 31 March 2006.
- 1.2 Over the last 3 years, six monthly reports have been submitted to the Area Committee for comment and approval of progress. At the Area Committee in November, it was noted that a 3 Year Project Plan would be presented to this meeting. The report is intended to suggest the possible focus and projected outcomes of the next phase of the Community Development Worker's role.
- 1.3 In committing to this project, we are assuming the continuation of the Social Inclusion Fund from 2006/07 through to 2008/09 (at an allocation of £50,000 per year as in previous years). Continuation of the Community Development Worker post is subject to the Social Inclusion Fund continuing at this level. Should funding cease or fail to continue at the expected level in 2006/07, 2007/08 or 2008/09 support for this post may have to be withdrawn.

2. Social Inclusion Fund proposal

Community Development Worker

- 2.1. Attached at **Appendix A** of this report is the proposal presented by the CVS for the development of the role of Community Development Worker for North Warwickshire. It summarises the work of the Community Development Worker for the period 2003-2006 and outlines plans for future development work.
- 2.2. The proposal includes little evidence of specific outcomes that have been achieved during the last three years. More evidence of detailed outcomes has been provided through the regular six monthly reports submitted to the Area Committee.
- 2.3. The future plans presented within the proposal do not cover the next 3 years for which funding is sought. A comprehensive 3 year Plan with detailed tasks and performance targets will be necessary in order to justify the continuation of this post.
- 2.4. The report includes estimated expenditure proposed by the CVS in order to deliver this post and area of work over the next three years. The proposed costs for the CVS to deliver this post present a significant increase from the existing Service Level Agreement.

3. Conclusion

- 3.1. The CVS has submitted a proposal for the future development of the post of Community Development Worker for North Warwickshire. Members are invited to offer their views on these proposals.
- 3.2. The current Service Level Agreement ends on 31st March 2006. Members are asked to agree to explore the continuation of the post of the Community Development Worker for North Warwickshire for a further 3 years, subject to the development of a more comprehensive 3 year Project Plan and to the continuation of existing levels of Social Inclusion Funding throughout the lifetime of this project.

DAVID CARTER
Strategic Director of
Performance and
Development

Shire Hall
Warwick

4 January 2006

**North Warwickshire CVS Community Development Worker
Report to North Warwickshire Area Committee
February 2006**

**Proposal from North Warwickshire CVS
Community Development Worker - Future Plans**

This proposal will summarise the work of the Community Development Worker 2003 – 2006, outline plans for the development work for a further 3 years and demonstrate how the future plans fit with the County Council's priorities and the aims of Social Inclusion Fund.

The CDW post was originally identified by Milburn, Trinnaman and La Court (MTL), who were commissioned by Warwickshire County Council to undertake a research project in the three rural ex-mining villages of Piccadilly, Wood End and Hurley. In brief, the MTL report concluded that these rural and deprived communities lacked capacity and were in need of a CDW who would work alongside them in their own communities. Initial 12 month funding from Coalfield Regeneration Trust and WCC enabled a Worker to be appointed to focus on the 3 villages. However with the initial Social Inclusion Fund monies the post was able to expand to meet the needs of North Warwickshire's rural and widely spaced out communities particularly for the same 'hand holding' support as proved so successful in the ex-mining villages.

The CDW post has become:

- A key 'hand holding' post within the infrastructure services in North Warwickshire and the only post which gives practical, on going, one to one support for a wide range of potential funding sources
- A source of knowledge for other workers/sectors/funders
- A point of contact for voluntary/community groups in need of support and advice.

The Social Inclusion Fund has enabled the CDW to work with, and increase the capacity, of the community and voluntary groups in North Warwickshire.

The CDW has done this by:

- **Working extensively with more than 200 groups.** The CDW works with groups who provide diverse services to their communities as well as to disadvantaged people. These services are vital and contribute to the social & economic well being of the residents of North Warwickshire and the development of active communities within the Borough. Without these groups people would become more susceptible to isolation, exclusion and the fear of crime would grow. The volunteer-led after-school clubs and pre-schools allow families to pursue work opportunities that they would otherwise be excluded from because of child care responsibilities.
- **Identifying and helping groups to apply for funding worth over £400,000** (a sound investment with a return of 444%). The CDW often works with groups who have no understanding at all of how to apply for funding or who to apply to. This funding can make a tremendous difference to a group and

enables them to deliver a more effective service. The funding brought into the Borough also contributes to the economic development of North Warwickshire.

- **Encouraging over 200 volunteers onto training courses** enabling individual and group capacity to grow encourages the volunteer's confidence to grow and will equip them for future employment. Transferable skills are gained when the CDW works with groups on Constitutions, business plans, funding bids, policies and procedures. Groups are sign-posted to Community Education for one-to-one work and to the College to access qualifications – for example, NVQ in child care.
- **Identifying the need for a Youth Support Worker** (successful funding for the Rural Youth Support Worker was gained in 2003). The volunteer-led youth clubs serve to broaden young people's opportunities, encourages them to contribute to their community and become more active citizens. The CDW has helped groups to apply for funding from PAYP, as well as arranging summer activities in the villages.
- **Building good partnerships with other sectors, organisations and funders** - this enable the groups to have wider networks and choice of services. For instance: - With help from the Community Partnership Officer and County Councillor Richard Grant, a Stay and Play was secured for Piccadilly.
- **Accessing funding from PAYP and arranging summer activities** in the villages of Piccadilly, Wood End, Baddesley, Hurley, Arley, Ansley, Ansley Common, Ridge Lane, Mancetter and Dordon. This funding encourages young people to take part in village activities and gives them an opportunity of new experiences.
- **Piloted outreach sessions in the villages** - these sessions are in partnership with the Volunteer Centre North Warwickshire and have been successful in Coleshill, Baddesley, Wood End, Polesworth, Kingsbury and Arley. The scheme is to be developed on a more extensive and regular basis in 2006/7.

The CVS Development Team gives added value to the Social Inclusion Fund. As well as having access to 'hand holding' support, the community groups are able to access all CVS services which includes:

- Community Accountancy (currently working with fifteen community groups)
- Publicity and Marketing (essential to promote groups/organisations as well as advertising to their potential funders)
- ICT service and advice
- Millennium Volunteers - enabling young people to become active members of their own communities.
- Information & views gathered by the CDW contribute to an overview of the voluntary and community sector which enables CVS staff to make a valuable contribution to the development and implementation of the North Warwickshire Community Plan, the Community Partnership and related strategic plans and partnerships.

Future plans: The CDW would like to discuss this draft plan with County Councillors to see how it can be implemented in their own wards. This would be a good opportunity for County Councillors to add any key issues from their areas to the plan.

The CDW will continue to work with groups to build their capacity and to enable them to fulfil their aspirations.

A significant area of need identified over the last 2 years is the difficulties many older people's groups face in sustaining their group – both in terms of providing a service/activity and managing the group.

The following plan focuses on this area of work:

April – Sept 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broadening the work with the Heritage Lottery (Piccadilly book), to deliver a reminiscence project in other villages of North Warwickshire. This work will link with the North Arden Trail and the VC WW2 project. • Build on the success of the outreach projects and enable more groups to access the range of services available to them both within the CVS and other infrastructure agencies e.g. WRCC, NWBC Community Development Team • Work with groups to apply for PAYP funding for summer activities. • Work with the Three Villages Partnership to develop a new focus for their partnership and possible joint projects.
Sept 06 – March 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To encourage inter-generational work in partnership with NWBC. • To identify projects in the villages for the Millennium Volunteers taskforce. • To encourage older people's groups to access funding for well-being projects. • Identify new needs and proposed actions for 2007 -2008

In conclusion the community sector makes a significant contribution to the social well being and local economic development of North Warwickshire.

The CDW recognises the wealth of existing skills, experience and talent within the community sector but also recognises that the majority of groups worked with lack confidence, have low expectations and have no idea of the help available to them from other organisations and funders.

There are clear requirements from government to increase the voluntary and community sector's role in service delivery. If groups, which are managed by local people who are aware of and able to respond to local needs, are to be able to do this effectively then the CVS, working in partnership with other infrastructure services, needs to continue the crucial CDW role at the grass roots.

The community sector is ever changing; volunteers move away, move into employment or retire. For these reasons, the community sector of North Warwickshire will continue to need access to good quality advice and support so that it can continue to be an effective partner in delivering services to the local communities.

This is an exciting opportunity to build on the success of the last 4 years and continue developments which respond to local needs at a grass roots level.

Financial Information

Estimated Expenditure

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
	£	£	£
Salary Costs	37,046	38,106	39,249
Total Project Activity Costs	900	923	946
Total Project Support Costs	7,224	7,416	7,618
Total Expenditure Projected	45,170	46,444	47,812