

**AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET**

**Name of Committee** Warwick Area Committee

**Date of Committee** 21 November 2006

**Report Title** Well Being Fund / Social Inclusion Fund 2006/7 - funding proposals

**Summary** This report outlines proposals for projects to be funded through the committee's Well Being and Social Inclusion Funds for 2006/7.

**For further information please contact:**

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**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)  Cllrs. Boad, Haywood and Randev as Area Committee funding sub group.
- Other Elected Members
- Cabinet Member  .....
- Chief Executive  .....
- Legal  David Carter, Sarah Duxbury
- Finance  Nicola Cumberledge – Finance Officer
- Other Chief Officers
- District Councils  .....
- Health Authority  .....

Police  .....

Other Bodies/Individuals  Monica Fogarty, Nick Gower - Johnson

**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  .....

## Agenda No

### Warwick Area Committee – 21 November 2006.

## Well Being Fund / Social Inclusion Fund 2006/7 – Funding Proposals

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

#### Recommendation

That Members approve the funding proposals set out in sections 2 and 3 below.

#### 1. Introduction

1.1 At it's meeting of May 16th 2006 this committee approved priorities for allocating Well-being and Social Inclusion Funds for 2006/7 and for bringing proposals to committee.

1.2 The Wellbeing Fund for 2006/7 is £66,940 and the Social Inclusion Fund, £50,475.

#### 1.3 Wellbeing Fund

Of the £66,940 available in the Well Being Fund, £25,000 is committed to the community support posts jointly funded by Warwick District Council, approved in March this year. Furthermore, £15,000 allocated last year to the Culture in a Suitcase project and for community safety initiatives in the Packmores/ The Cape area of Warwick is also currently a commitment against this budget, although it may be that these projects do not proceed and the funds can be reallocated. Additionally £11.50 underspend was carried forward from 2005/6. £7,250 was committed at the May meting of this committee, giving a currently available budget of £19,701.50.

#### 1.4 Social Inclusion Fund

Three projects approved last year carry over into 2006/7 and commit almost all of the £50,475 available in the Social Inclusion Fund. Those projects are:

Portuguese Community Support Worker	£22,000
Warwick District Welfare Rights Group	£20,000
Policy for Older People Support Worker	£ 8,000

However, there was a carry forward of underspend from 2005/6 of £17,388.50, which is available for projects this year. £12,000 was allocated from this budget at the May meeting of this committee, leaving a balance of £5,838.50.

## **2. Funding Proposals**

- 2.1** This report contains funding proposals from the Warwick Area Team that have been considered by members of the Area Committee's funding sub group. Further details of any of these proposals can be obtained from the County Council's Warwick Area Office.

### **Wellbeing Fund Proposals**

#### **2.2 Leamington Old Town Men's Health Group – "Doing Forgiveness" Project**

**a) Description of the Project**

A new organisation "Doing Forgiveness" based in Old Town, Leamington Spa, has grown out of the Leamington Old Town Men's Health Initiative, based at the Brunswick Healthy Living Centre. The ability to forgive is an important element in the maintenance of good relations within communities and is a key element of community mediation and conflict resolution. Being able to forgive is also a critical part of maintaining good mental health for individuals. This group has been established to take this issue forward.

The primary activity of Doing Forgiveness is a week-long event, hosted at the Brunswick Healthy Living Centre from 18th - 25th November 2006. The week-long events programme will be based around a major national touring photographic exhibition "The F Word: Images of Forgiveness" - beautiful and challenging images of forgiveness from around the World. Other events will include talks from keynote speakers, drama workshops for local people and local schools, and the staging of a play written by one of the group members.

**b) Applicant**

Leamington Old Town Men's Health Group – "Doing Forgiveness" Project

**c) Amount of Funding sought**

£3,000

**d) Total Cost of the Project**

The cost of staging the event will be £3,000 and comprises room hire, caretaking services, refreshments, speaker's expenses, and hire of exhibition, insurance, transport and publicity.

**e) Appraisal**

The proposal meets the Cohesive Community objectives of the Warwick District 2020 Community Plan.

**f) Recommendation**

Approve a grant of £3,000

#### **2.3 Council for Voluntary Service – South Warwickshire – Trustee Development Worker**

**a) Description of the Project**

The proposal seeks to improve the governance of voluntary and community sector organisations across South Warwickshire by employing a Trustee Co-ordinator who will support the recruitment, development and training of trustees / directors working in the community and voluntary sector to ensure that they have the skills required to fulfill their role.

Members will be only too aware of a number of voluntary and community sector organisations that have run into trouble over funding in the past year.

Some organisations have no business plans and Boards of Trustees have often been struggling to cope and have not had the skills available to take essential strategic decisions. Full details of the proposal from CVS are contained in appendix A to this report.

- b) Applicant**  
CVS Warwick District
- c) Amount of Funding sought**  
£2,940 in year 2006/7 from Warwick Area Committee and £8,815 in 2007/8. Similar amounts are sought from Stratford on Avon Area Committee. The project will cover both Districts.
- d) Total Cost of the Project**  
The total, full year cost of employing a Trustee Co-coordinator for 12 hours per week will be £17,630, to be split 50/50 between Stratford on Avon and Warwick Area Committees
- e) Appraisal**  
The proposal meets the objectives of Warwick 2020 Community Plan where the role of the voluntary and community sector in delivering a wide range of services and activities to meet the needs of the community is recognised.
- f) Recommendation**  
Approve grants of £2,940 in 2006/7 and £8,815 in 2007/8.

### **3.0 Community Development Fund Virement**

- 3.1** Elsewhere on the committee's agenda for 21<sup>st</sup> November is a report setting out proposed grants to be made from the Community Development Fund. The funding sub-group agreed that it would seek to fund applications in full where appropriate. The scoring this year identified 7 bids totalling £32,140.60 that scored clearly higher than the rest. The sub-group agreed to recommend that committee funds these in full and not fund the remaining applications. In order to fund the shortfall between the resources available in the Community Development Fund and that required to fund these 7 bids, committee is requested to approve a virement of £160.60 from the Wellbeing Fund to the Community Development Fund.

DAVID CARTER  
Strategic Director of Performance and Development  
Shire Hall  
Warwick

24 October 2006

**PROPOSAL FOR FUNDING  
WARWICK AREA COMMITTEE**

**OVERALL AIM**

*To improve the Voluntary and Community Sector's (VCS) ability to achieve excellence*

**SPECIFIC AIMS**

- *To improve the standard of governance within the VCS in Warwick District*

**THE NEED/WHY?**

A vibrant Voluntary & Community Sector (VCS) is a vital element in ensuring community cohesion through the provision of social capital and helps to ensure social justice and equalities. The County Strategy and the Warwick Partnership Community Plan both envisage that the VCS will play a vital role in helping the County Council and the District Council to deliver their Strategies and Action Plans. In moving forward to Local Area Agreements, the government have given a clear signal that the VCS must be involved at all levels.

The recent government report Change –Up has identified two potential areas of weakness for the Voluntary Sector: Governance and Performance Improvement, which are hindering its effectiveness. This proposal is aimed at improving the Governance of Community and Voluntary Sector organisations.

There is evidence that a number of VCOs have run into trouble over funding particularly over the past year; Bath Place, the ACP project; the Ocean Drop In, and Brunswick Healthy Living Centre are just a few examples. Some organisations have no business plans, and Boards of Trustees have been struggling, mainly as a result of not having the right skills available to provide a strategic direction.

A South Warwickshire Trustee networking event held in Stratford in November 2004 had 70 Trustees attending, and again in February 2006 we had some 56 Trustees attending. A need for events and forums for Trustees was demonstrated together with topic areas. A small steering group has been formed working with the Stratford and Warwick District CVS to try and develop and encourage involvement in a network for Trustees in South Warwickshire.

**HOW CAN WE ACHIEVE THESE AIMS?**

1. We will work with local government (County and District) to use the levers they have at their disposal to ensure that VCS organisations begin to adopt quality tools and encourage the use of a skills analysis to identify training & development needs for paid staff, volunteers and trustees.  
Eg. Levers could be
  - 100% council tax exemption only to VCS organisations that sign up to achieving PQASSO level 1 or for very small organisations 'Quality First'

- Contracts with VCS organisations that have signed up to the Warwickshire COMPACT
  - Grants made to VCS organisations on same proviso – plus also requiring VCS organisations to carry out a skills analysis of existing Trustees/Directors and identifying Training needs.
2. CVS to employ an additional part time development worker to continue the development of a Trustee forum in South Warwickshire who would also link with the Coventry & Warwickshire Learning Consortium to establish a range of training and development opportunities to meet the training needs identified for the next 2 years.
  3. WCC and WDC to organise events in conjunction with CVS for Councillors who become Trustees of Voluntary Organisations.
  4. Until new training needs have been identified to run a series of courses and events designed to meet the needs identified in November 2004 and in February 2006 There were a number of events programmed through to June 2006. These included:
    - New SORP 2005 requirements – held on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2006
    - Duties and Responsibilities of Trustees – for new Trustees 2 x 2 hrs
    - Ditto - refresher 1 x 2 hrs
    - Employing staff – consequences 1 x 2 hrs

## WHO WILL WE WORK WITH?

1. The Trustee Development Worker will work predominantly with Trustees/Directors to ensure that they are aware of their responsibilities, to ensure they get up to date, and in a position to offer strategic direction and management as appropriate for the organisations they serve.
2. As with many organisations, often the very Trustees who need help and guidance are the ones who do not attend networking or training and development events. Hence the proposal that we work in partnership with the local authorities to encourage them to use the levers at their disposal, so that the impetus for change also comes from external pressures.
3. WCC and WDC are jointly working with CVS in producing guidance notes for Councillors who are Trustees, to encourage members who are Trustees/Directors to become internal catalysts for change, and encourage their fellow trustees.

## ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

- Increased competence of trustees of VCOS
- Local Authority Councillors understanding their role and responsibilities when they are allocated to VCS groups.
- Increased knowledge, skills and confidence of Trustees
- Increased opportunities for Trustees to share good practice
- Increased ability for Management Committees to assess their training needs
- Improved effectiveness and efficiency of VCOs

- Improved ability of VCOs to plan and think strategically.
- Local Authorities having increased confidence in the VC Sector to manage their affairs.
- VCOs demonstrating in annual reports the impact they are making -outcomes and outputs.

## CHANGE UP INTERIM FUNDING

Members will no doubt be aware that the government has set out a 10 year strategy for the reform of infrastructure services like those provided by CVS, WRCC and WYCVS. They also have identified a number of national 'hubs' two of which cover these aims that we are setting out to address ie. Governance and Performance Improvement. Some interim funding has been made available to the sub-region, and South Warwickshire ie the two CVS in Stratford and Warwick Districts were able to obtain funds for the period November 2005 to June 2006. We were not able to secure funding for governance beyond that period.

### HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

[All costings are based on the ACEVO Full Cost Recovery system]

<b>Trustee Co-ordinator</b>	
12 hrs pw NJC point 21	£ 9,980
(Includes, salary, NI, Pension and contribution to overheads/management)	
Travel	£ 350
Venue costs	£ 600
Catering/refreshment costs	£ 600
Postage, copying, mail outs etc	£ 1,000
Telephone/e-mail, software	£ 350
Training of staff	£ 300
Trainers & expenses 12 @ £350	£ 4,200
Expenses of Trustees (childcare/carer)	£ 250
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£17,630</b>

This cost would be shared with the Stratford Area Committee and therefore the full year cost would be for **Warwick Area Committee £ 8,815 pa.**

These are full year costs. However, as we had funds for the period 1.4.2006 to 30.6.2006 the total cost we are seeking for **2006-2007 would be £2,940.**

**The cost for 2007/2008 would be the full year @ £8,815.** The post should be funded for a minimum of 16 months.

Since these proposals will benefit both the County Council Area Committees and the two District Councils it is suggested that the level of funding required would be as follows:

Stratford Area Committee 2006/2007	£ 2,940
2007/2008	£ 8,815



## **WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE GRANT FINISHES?**

Much of this work is going to take some years to be able to accommodate the expected demand. Also as new Trustees are appointed, then the cycle will begin over again. There will be demand for refreshers, mentoring by experienced Trustees of inexperienced ones. Different ways of keeping Trustees updated will need to be explored eg Website/chat rooms etc. CVS will need to expand its current database in order to maintain information about Trustees/Chairs.

CVS expects that there will be some funding channelled by the Home Office Active Community Unit and GOWM for Change Up and the National Hubs against which we can bid for the future. Some short term funding was obtained that finished in June 2006. It will be very difficult to get follow on funding until the new Capacity Builders organisation is established nationally. This is expected to take at least eighteen months to two years before funds will be released. Hence the proposal to fund the two posts for 16 months at least in the first instance.

In addition, the costs could be reduced eventually by training some existing staff (both CVS and other Infrastructure Organisations) to deliver these courses, so that we would not have 'to buy in' trainers say after the first year. The Coventry & Warwickshire VCS Learning Consortium may also be able to develop funded events in the future.

The future sustainability of funding for Infrastructure Organisations is of paramount importance and is recognised within the proposed strategy for the VCS currently out for consultation.

## **HOW WILL WE KNOW WE ARE SUCCEEDING?**

We can measure outputs ie.

- No. of Trustees attending events
- No. of training events
- Trustee e-mail network traffic
- Evaluation reports of each event/workshop/learning experience – so that we can learn and be flexible in our approach.

We would also wish to work with the Area Committees to measure outcomes both soft and hard. Outcome indicators will arise from the outcomes described earlier

The staff will be managed by the Quality Development Manager (Stratford and Warwick CVS). Jane Holdsworth is a trained PQASSO mentor, who encourages organisations to develop Outcome measures as well as encouraging Action Learning Sets for managers. A small Steering group consisting of WCC Area Officers with CVS Chief Officers would agree an overall programme of work.

A six monthly progress report would be made to the funding partners.