

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee Warwick Area Committee

Date of Committee 22 January 2008

Report Title Well-Being Fund 2007/8 – Funding Proposals

Summary The report outlines proposals, which it is recommended should receive financial support from the Well-Being Fund.

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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) Cllr. Browne re para. 2.3
Cllr. Boad re para. 2.2
Cllrs. Naylor and Haywood as members of the funding sub group
- Other Elected Members Cllr. Boad, Chair, Warwick Area Committee
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- Cabinet Member
- Chief Executive
- Legal Tony Maione, Solicitor
- Finance Nicola Cumberledge, Finance Officer
- 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

Agenda No

Warwick Area Committee – 22 January 2008.

Well-Being Fund 2007/8 – Funding Proposals.

Report of the Strategic Director of Performance and Development

Recommendation

That Warwick Area Committee approves the funding proposals set out in the report.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 £66,940 is allocated to the Well-being Fund for the Warwick Area in 2007/8. Of this, £27,790 has been committed at previous meetings of this committee. Additionally, £18,136.50 was carried forward from 2006/7, leaving an available balance of £45,926.50. Below are 4 proposals for the use of these funds that it is recommended should be supported.

2. Funding Proposal

2.1 CAB/local – Employment of additional outreach advice worker

a) Description of the Project

CAB/local has now been working successfully to give debt and benefits advice to some of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable residents in Warwick District since June 2006. Its purpose is to make advice accessible in terms of geographical location, venue and in its method of delivery. It commenced by targeting areas with the highest indices of deprivation, while acknowledging that there are pockets of deprivation in other seemingly more affluent areas.

Advice is provided through regular sessions (Lillington Community Centre, Sydni Centre, Brunswick Healthy Living Centre, Racing Club Warwick), through fixed term or series of one-off sessions (Bath Place Community Venture, MIND) and through home visits.

The original project plan was to have three full time outreach advice workers and a p/t administrator, but due to a funding shortfall, it has always operated with only two advice workers. This funding bid seeks monies for an additional half time advice worker and administrative support for that worker for the last year of the three-year project.

Despite having real success in providing support for the most disadvantaged members of the local community, because the staffing levels have not been as high as originally intended and because the local demand for debt and financial support (which is very time consuming) has taken up project time that was originally planned to be spent on benefits advice (which is what dominates the LPSA 2 targets) the project is behind on achieving those LPSA2 targets agreed with Government.

The additional half time advice worker would provide the project with a real opportunity to achieve its LPSA2 targets – which would then mean that LPSA2 reward money could be drawn down, potentially enabling the project to be self financing for a further two years.

As set out above, the majority of the work of the project has to date focussed on Leamington Spa. The additional worker would be largely focused on priority locations in Warwick.

b) Applicant

CABlocal

c) Amount of Funding sought

£23,655 – detailed breakdown of this expenditure is set out in appendix 1 to this report.

The main funding for *CABlocal* comes from LPSA2, which provides £150,000 over 3 years. The next largest funder is WCC Warwick Area Committee, which already contributes £20,000 per annum to the project, again for a three-year period ending next year. The funding sought now is over and above that existing commitment.

The funding of this post will not take effect until April 2008, however, the Area Committee has funds available this year that can be earmarked for the project and the commitment of the funds now will enable CAB local to commence the recruitment process to have a worker in post from April 1st.

d) Appraisal

The project is proving to be very successful in supporting the most disadvantaged members of the local community particularly in relation to benefits and debt/ financial advice. It makes a real contribution towards narrowing the gap between the most affluent and least well off in our community. The investment of these funds makes sense in its own right in relation to the social and economic benefits generated. The fact that the proposal also gives the project a far better chance of hitting its LPSA2 targets, thus achieving longer term financial sustainability is an added bonus.

e) Recommendation

Approve a grant of £23,655

2.2 The Chain Community Office, Lillington – Public Information Window

a) Description of Project

The CHAIN (Community Help Advice and Information Network) is located in the heart of Lillington as part of the Crown Way shopping complex. The CHAIN was established to provide community information and a focal point for community groups to meet and as a base for outreach services so residents can more easily access the local Police team, Neighbourhood Watch, Credit Union, housing officers etc. The main road, shop front location ensures information is disseminated into the community quickly and easily and the CHAIN makes best use of these display opportunities. The shop window at the premises is however now in a state of

disrepair. It has become impossible to read notices placed there and its appearance does not make the facility look attractive and inviting to local people. The CHAIN Management Committee has approached the Area Office for an award to replace the shop window at a cost of £2,690.00.

b) Applicant

Lillington Community Help Advice and Information Network

c) Amount of Funding Sought

£2,690

d) Appraisal

The CHAIN plays an important role in the local community, both as an advice and information centre and as a hub for community activity. The proposal will enhance the appearance of the shop, will enable it to better fulfill its role as an information centre and will better enable the CHAIN to continue to play an important role at the heart of the local community.

e) Recommendation

Approve a grant of £2,690

2.3 The GAP Action Partnership – Percy and Emscote Area Plan Printing

a) Description of Project

The Gap Action Partnership (G.A.P.) is a group of local people working to improve the area of the Emscote and Percy Estates in North Warwick. The group was established in September 2005 with the aim of getting local people involved in decision-making processes in the neighbourhood and putting those decisions into action. The Group aims to make the local community better by; liaising with local community police officers, social workers, council representatives, small businesses and national companies to resolve local problems and issues, by initiating community projects and by encouraging awareness and use of the Gap Community Centre by local people. The G.A.P is a mixed group from a wide range of backgrounds, spanning a wide age range from teenagers to senior citizens. 8 members of the group have gained Open College Network qualifications in Community Development to help people in the local area.

A key element of the work of the G.A.P. has been the research, analysis and production of an Area Plan - rather like a Parish or Village plan - but for an urban area. The research with local people has identified 9 Key Issues for the area

- Improvement of the Millbank Area
- Improvement in the Policing of the area
- The need to bridge the gap between older and younger residents
- Improvement in the range and quality of leisure activities available
- More activities for young people
- More activities for older people
- The impact of high house prices on the community
- Improvement to Bus Services
- Improvement of access to Warwick Cemetery

As with Parish Plans, the Percy and Emscote Area Plan will be presented to committee for consideration in due course. Committee is asked today to allocate £3,164.00 to print 5,000 copies to enable every resident in the area to receive a copy of the plan.

b) Applicant

The Gap Action Partnership

c) Amount of Funding Sought

£3,164

- d) **Appraisal**
Area Plans such as this provide a vehicle to enable local people to make a real contribution towards influencing the future of their area. The process such as that adopted here, with local people producing the plan themselves has the added benefit of developing the capacity of local people to play a more active role in their community in the future. The printing of the plan and distribution throughout the area is important in ensuring that the whole community can benefit from the work undertaken.
- e) **Recommendation**
Approve a grant of £3,164

2.4 **South Warwickshire Village Liaison Officer Project – Village Welcome Packs, Cubbington and Bishops Tachbrook**

- a) **Description of Project**
The Village Liaison Officer (VLO) project in South Warwickshire helps local people in rural areas find out about local services. This is a free and confidential service from a local volunteer Village Liaison Officer (VLO) in their villages/communities. Whatever the enquiry, the local volunteer will be able to signpost local people in rural areas to access information. The local volunteers may also help identify what the particular needs are in their communities, and work towards helping to set up new initiatives/projects.

For example, David Clarke, the VLO in Cubbington has been awarded the accolade of being VLO of the Year for the project and he has been instrumental in the success of Safer Neighbourhoods Policing in the Rural East area, has secured and distributed emergency winter packs for older residents from EON and is in the process of establishing a Silver Surfers group in the village.

One key element of the project is the distribution of a Welcome Pack from the project to households in the Village and this contains a wealth of information leaflets about local services in a handy folder. However, the South Warwickshire-wide project has no funds left to produce further folders and packs. This current proposal seeks funds for 1000 folders for Cubbington and 1000 folders for Bishops Tachbrook, at a cost of £600.

- b) **Applicant**
South Warwickshire Village Liaison Officer Project
- c) **Amount of Funding Sought**
£600
- d) **Appraisal**
The Village Liaison Officer project is now well established in both Cubbington and Bishops Tachbrook and the folders would be of real benefit in providing information to residents.
- e) **Recommendation**
Approve a grant of £600

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18 December 2007

Appendix 1.

CAB/local – Employment of additional outreach advice worker – costed proposal

This project runs from April 2008 to March 2009

Budget head	Hours per week	Scale (point)	2008/09 £	Comments
Salaries**				**Salaries: pay award 2007 onwards pending; 3% per year uprating has been applied
Adviser	18.5	SO1 (29)	12293	
On-costs			2459	
Administrator	5	3 (14)	2120	
On-costs			424	
Sub-total			17296	
Management costs @20%*			3459	* this includes managerial support and supervision, telephone, stationery, IT charges (CA private network connection), workstation at base.
Publicity			500	
Travel			200	
Training			200	
Interpreting				
Setting up costs Recruitment and IT			2000	
total			23655	