

24th February 2015**Agenda Item: 4****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR FOR ACCESS AND PUBLIC
PROTECTION****COMMUNITY SAFETY BUDGET UPDATE – REQUEST FOR FUNDING****Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek approval for committing funding from the Community Safety Initiatives Budget for 2014/2015 to:
 - a) Contribute to funding a multi-agency Crimestoppers campaign to raise awareness of the dangers of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) and to increase intelligence relating to their supply and usage within the county. (£2,000);
 - b) Support the development of the “Stepping Stones” national pilot using mindful resilience practice to build community capacity and confidence. (£3,850);
 - c) Support an Alcohol Concern project to improve practice with treatment resistant drinkers in the context of domestic violence, to reduce the risk of the harm that they present. (£1,750);
 - d) Encourage new volunteers to set up and run Neighbourhood Watch schemes in the county by providing the county organisation Notts Watch with funding for starter packs, plus a small financial contribution for over-heads such as travelling expenses, stationery etc. (£10,500)
 - e) Contribute to funding of further targeted Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) provision in the County to reduce crime and road casualties. (£25,000 and a further £25,000 from the 2015/2016 Community Safety Initiatives Budget)
 - f) Support the development and delivery of a comprehensive range of professional training packages to support continuing professional development for staff within public agencies to promote community cohesion. (£10,000)

Information and Advice**Community Safety Budget**

2. Each year, a proportion of the Community Safety Budget is allocated to initiatives across the County that are designed to reduce crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour, reduce the fear of crime, and increase levels of community safety within our communities. Initiatives are targeted at vulnerable communities, and are designed to tackle the issues that are causing the most harm to communities and individuals.

3. Funding proposals approved to date from the “initiatives” element of the Community Safety Budget for 2014-15 are summarised in the following table:

Total Community Safety “Initiatives” budget for 2014/15:	£262,379
Total committed so far:	
Contribution to the work of the Safer Nottinghamshire Board (SNB)	£140,000
Victims Support’s Young Witness Service	£7,500
Vehicle Nuisance at Junction 27 – Preparing for injunctive action	£3,500
Gating Orders contingency	£2,000
“In our Hands” (Holocaust education)	£15,000
“I Pledge to Keep on Track” (Youth Crime Prevention Programme)	£25,000
Contribution to Crime-stoppers Cannabis Awareness campaign	£2,000
Rural Crime project	£3,300
Equalities Work (expansion of Show Racism the Red Card etc)	£6,000
Fly Grazing	£1,500
Domestic Homicide Reviews	£5,000
National Scams Hub List: Joint work with Nottinghamshire Police	£20,000
Promoting Community Cohesion	£7,000
Bicycle Safety Project	£3,000
Mobility Scooters safety training	£3,000
Remaining balance for other initiatives	£18,579

4. This year the £262,379 initiatives budget will be supplemented by a forecasted £61k underspends from the Community Safety staffing budget (£54k from vacant Team Manager role and £7k supplies and services savings) which have been re-allocated to initiatives in 2014/2015. (Proposed net budget reductions for the Community Safety budget for 2015/2016 are £54k staff savings and £12k supplies and services savings.)

New Psychoactive Substances (“Legal Highs”) Campaign (£2,000)

5. New Psychoactive Substances (NPS), commonly known as ‘Legal Highs’, are synthetic substances designed by chemists to mimic the effects of illegal drugs, but which are often not yet covered by current drugs laws. The products have also regularly been found to contain drugs covered by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.
6. Within the county Trading Standards Officers have targeted enforcement action against high street retail outlets known as “Head Shops” which have been found to be supplying the products in contravention of product safety and other consumer protection legislation. Investigations are ongoing. The Government recognises that the current legal framework to tackle the issue is inadequate and is currently looking into the feasibility of a general prohibition. In the interim period they encourage Trading Standards Services to continue making use of consumer protection legislation for enforcement purposes and to work with other partner agencies to raise awareness of the dangers of the products, particularly to inexperienced recreational drugs users misled into believing the products are safe by the misnomer “Legal Highs”.
7. This proposal is for a contribution of £2,000 to support an education campaign, involving the County Council’s Trading Standards, Community Safety and Public Health (substance misuse) teams working with Nottingham City Trading Standards, Crimestoppers and Nottinghamshire Police, to raise awareness of the dangers of NPS and to encourage reporting of intelligence about their supply and usage. The effects of these drugs are

unpredictable, with a growing number of 'legal high' users needing hospital treatment; furthermore the number of deaths linked to 'legal highs' has increased in recent years.

8. The campaign will involve the development and circulation of two posters, one aimed at educating the public about the dangers of NPS and the other at raising awareness of the issue amongst agency organisations. We will also look to ensure that the issue of NPS is included in wider resilience training delivered into the county's schools by Public Health and partner agencies.
9. This proposal involves the re-allocation of £2,000 of Community Safety initiatives funding, originally intended as a contribution to the Crimestoppers Cannabis Awareness Campaign, which was not needed as sufficient funding was found from other sources.

“Stepping Stones” (£3,850)

10. “Stepping Stones” (Take Five in the Community) is phase 3 of a nationally ground breaking pilot using mindful resilience practice to build community capacity and confidence. Building on the success within North Nottinghamshire of the Home Office funded phase 1 “Take Five at School” and phase 2 “Take Five at Home” the “Take Five in the Community”/“Stepping Stones” project will aim to increase confidence and resilience via local recruitment to bespoke mindful resilience training.
11. A partnership steering group including residents will work together to explore other potential opportunities for rippling training and practices to families, particularly to the home of students who access Deep Support within the Academies as identified by the Supporting Families Teams.
12. As well as the link with the Supporting Families team the project is also working in partnership with Public Health to maximise opportunities for sign posting and links to the Health Work Place Champion programme. The County Council's Community Safety and Community and Voluntary Sector teams will also be involved in the sustained outcomes and future roll out showcasing and evaluation.
13. Feedback from the Supporting Families Team has identified that several families are ready to move on, but there is currently a gap in the type of provision they would be ready and confident to engage with. The Take Five in the Community course acts as the precursor and “stepping stone”.
14. Parents and carers will also be recruited by the local Community Organiser and local parent volunteers to promote a model of local residents organising and recruiting other local residents based on a real and positive experience. The intention is that the course will improve confidence, build capacity and resilience for the participants, resulting in motivation to engage with other courses, such as the work Ready and Able course and to get involved in community volunteering activities.
15. The proposal is that £3,850 funding from the Community Safety initiatives budget will be matched by a £3,850 contribution from the Bassetlaw, Newark and Sherwood community safety partnership for delivery of the project in the Bassetlaw area.

Alcohol Concern Domestic Homicide Review Project (£1,750)

16. Alcohol Concern is an independent charity whose aim is to “reduce harm from alcohol related problems”. The purpose of the project would be to improve practice with treatment resistant drinkers in the context of domestic violence to reduce the risk of the harm that they present, with a special focus on links from this area to Domestic Homicide Reviews. Typically, 75% of Domestic Homicide Reviews involve alcohol and the majority of these will involve perpetrators who are high risk treatment resistant drinkers.
17. The project (pan city and county) would provide two multi-agency workshops, two multi agency training events and one “train the trainer” event, plus attendance at two strategic meetings. The workshops would explore how practice could be improved using case studies provided by Domestic Homicide Reviews from other parts of the country. The material gathered from the workshops is used to develop guidance on the better management of this client group, which is subsequently disseminated through the training and the train the trainer approaches.
18. Domestic Homicide Reviews can be lengthy, time consuming and expensive exercises, typically costing between £6k and £10k each. Once completed DHR’s are “owned” by the relevant Community Safety Partnership who hold responsibility for ensuring that any actions are implemented. Anything that increases the potential learning and effectiveness of Domestic Homicide Reviews would be well received.
19. The total cost of the project is £3,500. Nottingham City Crime and Drugs Partnership have contributed £1,750 and the Police and Crime Commissioner is seeking the same contribution from the County Council. If agreed, the project in the County would be routed through the Safer Nottinghamshire Board (SNB), led by the SNB Champion for Domestic Violence.

Notts Watch (£10,500)

20. Neighbourhood Watch is a voluntary network of schemes where neighbours come together, along with the police and local partners, to build safe and friendly communities. Scheme members agree together to take responsibility for keeping an eye on each other's property, as a way of preventing crime.
21. As previously reported to the committee, Nottinghamshire County Council's Community Safety team is leading a multi-agency review looking into the effectiveness and future sustainability of the Nottinghamshire Neighbourhood Watch Scheme “Notts Watch”. The findings and recommendations of the review are currently being considered by the partner agencies involved and will be reported at a future Community Safety committee meeting. Initial findings from the review are that Neighbourhood Watch activities are widely considered to be an effective means of promoting crime prevention and community engagement.
22. One key issue highlighted by the review is the shortage of volunteers willing to set up and run new schemes within the county. To help address this issue a contribution of £10,500 is requested to fund starter packs and travelling expenses for district appointed volunteers to launch and support new NHW schemes. The starter pack will include NHW signs, stickers and crime prevention information, plus a small financial contribution towards start up overheads such as stationery etc.

Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) “Shields” (£25,000 in 2014/2015 and £25,000 in 2015/2016)

23. A Nottinghamshire Police report entitled “Bassetlaw/Broxtowe ANPR Shield”, which provides supporting information to DC Andy Gowan’s presentation to the committee today, is attached as Appendix A to this report. This report seeks match funding for further targeted ANPR provision in the Nottinghamshire to provide a long term tactical plan for the reduction and detection of dwelling house burglary in the county and to increase public confidence in reducing crime and reducing casualties on the county’s roads.
24. The proposal involves a co-ordinated match funding bid for £25,000 (2014/2015) and £25,000 (2015/2016) from the Police and Crime Commissioner. The Road Safety Camera Partnership has pledged £50,000 match funding for 2014/2015 and £50,000 for 2015/2016. There is agreement to review the situation for 2016/2017 with the potential for a further contribution of £25,000 match funding from the Community Safety Initiatives budget for 2016/2017 for further expansion of the ANPR provision if needed.

Continuing Professional Development in support of Community Cohesion (£10,000)

25. A range of increasingly challenging issues are emerging which are threatening to undermine community cohesion in Nottinghamshire and placing growing pressure on a number of public agencies.
26. It is proposed to develop and deliver a comprehensive range of professional training packages to support continuing professional development for staff within these agencies to promote community cohesion. The range of professional training packages will be developed and delivered by an experienced range of partners including the County Council’s Achievement and Equality Team, Nottinghamshire Police’s Equality and Diversity Team and the National Holocaust Centre. The training will be carried out through workshops and short courses aimed at equipping practitioners to develop the necessary knowledge and skills needed to address the issues involved.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

27. Community Safety remains one of the key concerns for the residents of Nottinghamshire. The recommendations contained within this report will enable funding to action a range of targeted projects specifically designed to combat the issues of, crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour, whilst at the same time combatting the fear of crime. Any reductions in these issues encourages the development of strong, healthy and vibrant communities, reducing the risks to those deemed as vulnerable within those communities

Statutory and Policy Implications

28. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

29. The requests totalling £53,100 in 2014/15 can all be met from within the Community Safety budget.

30. There is sufficient budget in 2015/16 to fund the £25,000 requested.

RECOMMENDATION/S

31. It is recommended that Members approve the above proposed contributions totalling £53,100 from the Community Safety Initiatives Budget for 2014/2015, namely:

- i. New Psychoactive Substances Campaign (£2,000)
- ii. Stepping Stones initiative (£3,850)
- iii. Alcohol Concern Domestic Homicide Review Project (£1,750)
- iv. Notts Watch (£10,500)
- v. Further targeted ANPR provision (£25,000)
- vi. Continuing Professional Development in support of Community Cohesion (£10,000)

32. It is recommended that Members approve a contribution of £25,000 from the Community Safety Initiatives Budget for 2015/2016 to fund further targeted ANPR provision.

PAUL MCKAY

Service Director Access and Public Protection

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Sarah Houlton, Team Manager Trading Standards & Community Safety x 72460
Yvette Armstrong – Community Safety Officer x 73058

Constitutional Comments

The proposals in this report fall within the remit of this Community Safety Committee.

Financial Comments (KAS 12/02/15)

The financial implications are contained within paragraphs 29 and 30 of the report.

Background Papers

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected: All.