

29 April 2014

Agenda Item: 6

REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR, ACCESS & PUBLIC PROTECTION

COMMUNITY SAFETY BUDGET - EXPENDITURE

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide information for Members on payments made from the Community Safety Budget for 2013/2014, (£18,300), and to seek approval of payments from the Community Safety Budget for 2014/2015, (£188,800).

Information and Advice

2. Community Safety Budget

2.1 Each year, a proportion of the Community Safety Budget is allocated to support initiatives and projects 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.

2.2 Funding proposals from the “initiatives” element of the Community Safety Budget are summarised in the following table. More detailed information on each of the individual projects is shown in sections 2.3 and 2.4 of this report.

Community Safety Budget	
Project	Amount (£)
2013/2014	
Best Bar None	15,000
Rural Crime Conference November 2013	3,300
TOTAL	18,300
2014/2015	
Contribution to the Safer Nottinghamshire Board	140,000
“In Our Hands”	15,000
Rural Crime - Building on Success	3,300
“I Pledge To Keep On Track”	25,000
Cannabis Awareness	2,000
Vehicle Nuisance at Junction 27 of the M1	3,500
TOTAL	188,800

2.3 The final allocations for initiatives funded from the Community Safety Budget for 2013/14 are detailed below. This, (£18,300), results in a full spend for this section of the Community Safety Budget for 2013/2014.

2.3.1 Best Bar None Project (£15,000 from 2013/2014)

Best Bar None is a national award scheme promoting responsible management and operation of alcohol licenced premises. The scheme is an excellent example of an “industry-led” campaign, reducing drunkenness, and in particular, reducing drunken violence. The scheme promotes targeted action by pubs and clubs as this is a proven method of effectively curbing irresponsible drinking. Since 2003 the scheme has been adopted by over 100 towns and cities across the UK. In those areas where the scheme has been operational, including the City of Nottingham, typically there has not only been a reduction in violence during the evening but also bars, pubs and clubs have been visited by many more people, because the area feels safer, less threatening and altogether more pleasant.

Licenced premises that apply to take part in the scheme are assessed to determine that they meet an agreed set of operational standards. If they do, they will become a Best Bar None accredited venue, receiving posters and window stickers to advertise this. This means that current and potential clients can be assured that the venue has taken proactive steps to provide a responsibly operated and safe environment for them to enjoy.

Each year all accredited venues then have the chance to win awards. Some of the winners are decided by a public vote and the rest are chosen by a panel of expert judges.

In Nottinghamshire it is intended to introduce a countywide scheme. This would ensure that the scheme would have a high impact across all areas of the County, minimising any degree of duplication, and ensuring the most efficient use of funding and resources. The scheme would initially be run over three years and be targeted at those areas experiencing alcohol related issues, during which time it will be consistently monitored and evaluated, giving detailed information on the levels of success and impact, so enabling a decision, at the appropriate time, if the scheme should be further extended. The cost of the scheme, after projected income generation, (*) is approximately £30,000 per annum. This would enable the introduction of the post of Co-ordinator, plus the provision of promotional events, website and marketing materials and travelling and training costs. It is proposed that the costs of the scheme in year 1 are met by Nottinghamshire County Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner (£15,000 each). In years 2 and 3, it is expected that the scheme will attract significant sponsorship from the retail industry and other partners benefitting from its impact. £7,000 sponsorship for year 1 has already been pledged, (*). To enable this scheme to be introduced, the County Council has contributed £15,000 from the Community Safety Budget (2013/2014), with a similar amount being provided by the Police and Crime Commissioner.

2.3.2 Rural Crime Conference – November 2013 (£3,300 from 2013/2014)

The cost of organised rural crime is high; an estimated £50 million to £70 million worth of plant and agricultural machinery is stolen nationally every year. Only five per cent of this stolen property is ever recovered. Rural buildings are often seen

as an easy target due to restricted street lighting and their isolated locations. Stealing valuable equipment may have a lasting effect on victims who may be unable to carry on their day to day work. To combat this, a Rural Crime Conference was held in November 2013. Over 100 delegates attended the event, which was targeted at communities within the north of the County. The conference provided a platform to engage with key stakeholders and gather their views in order to be as effective as possible in tackling the issues of plant and livestock theft from rural locations. The conference was supported by Crimestoppers, the National Farmers Union, Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire and Nottinghamshire Neighbourhood Watch (Farm Watch), the Police and Crime Commissioner and Notts Police. Since the conference an awareness raising campaign has been held, offering assistance and advice on what actions communities and individuals can take to prevent this type of crime. This type of activity provides the potential for a reduction not only in crime and anti-social behaviour but also the fear of crime, which can often have a disproportionately negative effect on the lives of victims, potential victims and their families. To support this work, the County Council has contributed £3,300 from the Community Safety Budget (2013/2014).

2.4 Proposals for funding from the Community Safety Budget for 2014/2015 are detailed below.

The funding proposed in this section of the report is £188,800. The total “initiatives” section of the Community Safety Budget for 2014/2015 is currently £442,000. The remaining balance of will be subject to future reports to this committee.

2.4.1 Contribution to the work of the Safer Nottinghamshire Board (£140,000 from 2014/2015)

The work programme of the Safer Nottinghamshire Board is a mix of locality based actions, in the 18 Partnership Plus Areas of the County, and a range of thematic county-wide projects, covering such issues as hate crime, domestic abuse, substance misuse, youth issues and anti-social behaviour. To fund this work in 2014/2015 the Police and Crime Commissioner has pledged £1.3 million. It is proposed that a contribution from the Council of £140,000 is made to support this work.

2.4.2 “In Our Hands” (£15,000 from 2014/2015)

The “In Our Hands” initiative is an innovative and ground breaking multi agency project that aims to tackle areas with high levels of hate crime and low levels of community engagement through Holocaust education and the development of personal responsibility to inspire and support children and adults. This is achieved by working through the Holocaust Centre with schools and the wider community to change attitudes and behaviours; raise awareness of hate crime and to promote ways for the community to work together and to support each other. Specifically the project will build on the pilot work already underway in three local communities in the County (Ravensdale, Worksop and Eastwood) to inspire and support adults and families to take action to prevent hate crime. The project will engage parents in learning around aspects of difference through initial visits to the Holocaust Centre and learning with their children about aspects of difference. These will be drawn from the communities experiencing high levels of hate crime

with the intention of making meaningful connections between the lessons of the Holocaust and the day to day lives of families in those communities.

The success of the pilot scheme has been measured by an independent evaluation undertaken by a nationally recognised organisation: Icarus. Future evaluation will include measures of participation in learning programmes; before and after attitudinal studies; numbers of local people engaging via roadshows; surveys of communities to assess levels of feelings of safety. To support this project it is proposed that the County Council makes a contribution of £15,000 from the budget allocated for Community Safety in 2014/15

2.4.3 Rural Crime – building on the success of the Rural Crime Conference in 2014/2015 (£3,300 from 2014/2015)

The Rural Crime Conference, and associated campaign, held in the north of the County in November 2013, (see above) reassured our rural communities that agencies are taking this issue seriously and that they are keen to work with local people to prevent this type of criminal activity. The conference provided the opportunity to offer assistance and advice to isolated rural communities and the individuals that live and work in them. It is proposed to hold a similar event for the rest of the County, focussing on a conference with a complementary awareness campaign, building on the positive impact and the good practice gained at the event in the north. The management of this work will be undertaken by a Community Safety Officer from within the County Council. This conference and campaign will again be a multi-agency partnership initiative, combining, as before, the efforts and expertise of Crimestoppers, the National Farmers Union, Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire, Nottinghamshire Neighbourhood Watch (Farm Watch), the Police and Crime Commissioner and Notts Police. To support this activity it is proposed that the County Council make a contribution of £3,300 from the budget allocated for Community Safety in 2014/15.

2.4.4 “I Pledge To Keep On Track” Youth Crime Prevention Programme 2014/2015 (£25,000 from 2014/2015)

The “I Pledge to Keep On Track” Programme is funded by the County Council, working in partnership with Notts Police and Experian. It is also supported by a wide range of community safety providers. From 2012-2014 approximately 3000 pupils from within the Partnership Plus Areas (PPAs) across the County, have attended the National Centre for Citizenship and the Law, Galleries of Justice, and successfully participated in the youth crime prevention programme. The “I Pledge to Keep On Track” Programme, which includes the new Keep On Track Safety Books series, is nationally accredited via the LASER Alliance. A full evaluation of the 2013 programme is now available and has illustrated some very positive outcomes for the third year of delivery.

“I Pledge” Youth Crime Prevention Programme has had a demonstrated impact on those pupils participating in the programme at a crucial age in their life just prior to moving up to secondary school. Nationally it has been recognised as a model of best practice.

In 2013 the programme was recognised nationally as a high quality educational initiative, meeting the 10 principles for best practice safety education and awarded

National Accreditation via the LASER Alliance. The programme received a commendation in the National Youth Crime Beat Awards 2013,

“for their outstanding contribution to helping reduce crime and creating a safer community”.

The programme was also awarded Joint Winner for Best Educational Initiative in the National Museum and Heritage awards 2013. A sample of some of the headline results for the programme is shown below:

a. How much do you know about the law and how it affects people your age?

Before participating in the programme the majority 60% felt they knew ‘nothing’ or ‘a little about how the law affects people of their age. Only 2% felt they knew ‘lots’. After the programme 70% felt they knew ‘lots’ about the law.

b. How much do you know about how committing a crime can affect your whole life?

Prior to visit two 17% of participants felt they knew ‘lots’ about the affects committing a crime could have on their lives. After the 2nd visit this increased to 61% with only 2% feeling they knew ‘nothing’ suggesting that their understanding of the varied ways committing a crime can affect your life had increased significantly.

c. How much do you feel that you are able to help make where you live or your school a safer place?

The question was asked before and after both visits in order to chart the change in participants’ opinion to this over the duration of the programme. Before taking part in the I Pledge programme 27% of participants felt they could do ‘lots’ to make their area a safer place. 38% of participants felt there was ‘nothing’ or ‘a little’ that they could do. After completing the project 99% of participants felt that there was something that they could do to help make their area a safer place with the majority 65% of participants feeling they could do ‘lots’.

d. Knowledge Retention Evaluation

All participants took part in the knowledge retention evaluation at the beginning of their second visit. Students were scored on how many of the questions, which related to information learnt on visit one, they got correct. All participants got 60% or more of the answers correct, showing that all participants retained a good level of knowledge from their first visit. The majority 43% of participants got between 85% and 89% of the answers correct. While almost a third of participants 29% answered 100% of the questions correctly.

2.4.4.1.Based on the success of the “I Pledge to Keep On Track” Programme it is proposed that the County Council, with its partners, continues to build on the successful outcomes already achieved, in 2014/2015. The Safer Nottinghamshire

Board has now identified 18 PPAs for 2014/2015. As in previous years, these areas of the County will be a particular focus of action from all agencies in the local partnerships. As a part of this process, it is proposed that schools within the 18 PPAs are given the opportunity to participate in an “I Pledge” programme in 2014/2015. To support this activity it is proposed that the County Council make a contribution of £25,000 from the budget allocated for Community Safety in 2014/15. This would enable delivery to 10 primary schools in year 5&6 for pupils in the PPAs across the County.

2.4.5 Crime-stoppers Campaign Cannabis Awareness (£2,000 from 2014/2015)

A UK Problem Profile report on Cannabis Cultivation (2012) identified that commercial or industrial properties are being used to grow cannabis plants. This brings the issue of organised crime into our communities. There has been an increase in property crime, violence and the use of firearms linked to cannabis farms, alongside the knock on effects of organised criminals using income generated from cannabis trafficking to fund a range of other criminal activities. As a class B drug, supplying cannabis in the UK can lead to a 14 year prison sentence.

2.4.5.1 In 2013 a campaign was launched by Crimestoppers and Notts Police involving the distribution of “scratch and sniff” cards to the public to educate and inform them about the signs to spot and detect cannabis farms by recognising the specific smell of growing cannabis. The cards contain an element that replicates the smell of cannabis in its growing state.

The evaluation of this campaign showed an increase to the Crimestoppers anonymous phone line resulting in an increase in intelligence and arrests together with the disposal of cannabis farms.

2.4.5.2. In Nottinghamshire, there has been a steady increase in the number of cannabis farms. Often these are in suburban houses, in otherwise “quiet” areas of the County. Apart from the potential escalation of crime, the cannabis farms are often tended by forced labourers. In order to combat this growing problem, it is proposed to repeat the campaign run in 2013. This time the campaign would be targeted at the 18 Partnership Plus Areas of the County, together with those areas experiencing an increase in violent crime. A total of 4,000 “scratch and sniff” cards would be distributed as part of this campaign.

2.4.5.2. To support this activity it is proposed that the County Council make a contribution of £2,000 from the budget allocated for Community Safety in 2014/15. A similar amount of funding will be provided by Notts Police

2.4.6 Vehicle Nuisance at Junction 27 of M1 – Preparing for an Injunction (£3,500 from 2014/2015)

Over the last 9 months there has been a significant increase in the number of complaints from residents and motorists regarding the gatherings and noise problems caused by car enthusiasts using the Hucknall and Annesley bypass (Junction 27) as a racing circuit, as well as lay-bys in the area for meet ups. The area has been subject to increased police activity, and more recently a Dispersal Order, giving the police temporary authority to move individuals away from the area. This is very similar to the problem that was prevalent in Netherfield,

(Gedling), in 2012. Similar efforts were made to solve the problem there, but these only worked for as long as the police were in situ. Finally a High Court Injunction was sought and obtained for Netherfield. Since that time there have been no further problems with vehicle nuisance in Netherfield. It is proposed to replicate this approach for the area surrounding Junction 27 of the M1. To support this it is proposed that the County Council make a contribution of £3,500 from the budget allocated for Community safety in 2014/2015. This will fund the preparatory work for the application, including the gathering of evidence, through to the granting of the injunction and its implementation. This work will be undertaken in partnership with the Mansfield and Ashfield Community Safety Partnership and Notts Police.

Other Options Considered

3. The County Council Community Safety Budget enables a targeted and effective method of tackling community safety issues within the County, tailoring these to a very local, or broader county-wide remit as need dictates. Another option would have been to channel this work via the 18 Partnership Plus Areas. However this would have restricted activity to those areas rather than a county-wide approach, as required by some of the projects.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

4. 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

5. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That Members note the final spend of £18,300 from the Community Safety Budget for 2013/2014
- 2) That Members approve the proposed spending of £188,800 from the initiatives element of the Community Safety Budget for 2014/2015

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For any enquiries about this report please contact: Tony Shardlow, Community Safety Officer, x 73846

Constitutional Comments (SLB 17/4/14)

6. Community Safety Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report providing proposed spending is within approved budgets.

Financial Comments (SEM 14/4/14)

7. The financial implications are set out in 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.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All