

2 October 2012**Agenda Item: 9****REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR, POLICY, PLANNING AND CORPORATE
SERVICES****THE “I PLEDGE” PROGRAMME****Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek approval for additional funding for the “I Pledge” programme from the Community Safety budget.

Information and Advice

2. The “I Pledge” programme has been successfully delivered and evaluated, meeting all its targets over a two year period, and further funding is now required in order to ensure delivery continues from Sept 2012 onwards.
3. The ‘I Pledge’ scheme is unique as it gives children from across Nottinghamshire a taste of all aspects of the criminal justice system. The sessions are based at the Galleries of Justice Museum which was previously Nottingham’s old court house and gaol. The first sessions involve the children getting a tour of the cells and taking part in a role play session in the museum’s Police Station recreation. The foreboding courtroom is preserved and is the setting for the final session where the children carry out a mock trial where they play the role of criminals, victims, judges, lawyers and police officers. The sessions conclude with the participants making a pledge to help tackle crime in their community. The schools work with pupils on this agenda back in class, underlining the lessons learnt and the importance of the pledges undertaken. Pupil’s retention of the key facts given out in the visits to the museum is extremely high.
4. Nottinghamshire County Council has supported the project in the belief that it is a great way of putting children on the right track and showing them the serious consequences of committing a crime.
5. The “I Pledge” Youth Crime Prevention Programme was successfully delivered to 30 primary schools in priority areas across the county over a two year period. Approximately 1600 pupils in their last year of primary education have benefited from participating in the programme. Parents and carers have also accompanied many of the visits. Working alongside the National Centre for Citizenship & the Law, Galleries of Justice, Nottinghamshire County Council has also been supported by a wide range of partners including: Experian, Shine Media, Nottinghamshire Police, Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue and Nottinghamshire Neighbourhood Watch.

6. King Edward Primary School (Mansfield) participated in the programme and received a positive appraisal for this area of work in their recent Ofsted report.
7. Due to the success and positive outcomes demonstrated by the programme and evaluation, the National Centre for Citizenship & the Law are now exploring links with Northampton and three boroughs of London and have taken the model and resources developed for "I Pledge" to these areas.
8. The programme has also developed and launched a brand new set of safety story books. These are being actively used as part of the programme and in other targeted settings as well as schools across the county. Locally the books are being used as part of the recently nationally accredited Safety Zone as part of the emergency phone set. The books are also being taken into schools by Neighbourhood Watch volunteers for reading sessions. These books will shortly be available online and made free to download globally by the Experian "Values, Money and Me" web-site.

Other Options Considered

9. Not to provide further funding for the programme, in which case it will end in September 2012.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

10. The "Inspiring Learning for ALL" (ILFA) framework was used to analyse the evaluation results. Evidence shows that learning occurred in four out of five Generic Learning Outcome (GLO) categories: Knowledge and Understanding; Attitudes and Values; Activity, Behaviour and Progression.
11. Evidence also exists that the project met all three of the Generic Social Outcome Categories: Stronger and Safer Communities; Strengthening Public Life, Health and Well-being.
12. For example, to quote from the King Edward Ofsted Report 2012:

" Pupils' imaginative writing is sometimes held back by the limited opportunities they have to discuss their ideas. In the best lessons, these opportunities abound, and combine with strong promotion of pupils' spiritual, social and moral development. Year 6 pupils much enjoyed re-enacting a courtroom scene. Questions were posed by a group of pupil 'reporters', and this led to plenty of discussion, prior to starting a writing task, about the feelings of the different characters, and how the jury might be persuaded to convict or acquit the defendant."
13. The "I Pledge" Youth Crime Prevention programme has had a demonstrable impact on those pupils participating in the programme at a crucial age in their life, just prior to moving up to secondary school. It is therefore recommended that "I Pledge" be continued to be funded from Sept 2012 onwards.

Statutory and Policy Implications

14. 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

15. It is recommended that:
- i) the sum of £25,000 is allocated from the Community Safety Budget to fund the “I Pledge” Programme in targeted Partnership Plus Areas in 2012/13.
 - ii) this report be taken to Grant Aid Sub Committee for information.

Martin Done, Service Director Communications and Marketing

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Leah Sareen, Community Safety Officer, Safer and Engaged Communities x74427.

Constitutional Comments (SLB 13/09/2012)

13. Community Safety Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report; it is responsible for the Council’s statutory duties in relation to community safety.

Financial Comments (DD 10/9/12)

14. Adequate budget provision exists to fund this initiative.

Background Papers

15. 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.
16. Evaluation of the “I Pledge” Programme – NLCC 2011.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

17. All.