

8 January 2013

Agenda Item:12

**REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR,
POLICY, PLANNING AND CORPORATE SERVICES**

KEEP ON TRACK SAFETY BOOKS

Purpose of the Report

1. The existing Keep On Track Safety books are an extension of the award winning On Track Partnership Resource and include 9 real life story lines. These tackle issues of anti-social behaviour, cyber-bullying, arson, domestic violence, road safety, hate crime, theft and vandalism.
2. The books have recently been used as a case study example by the national lead on safety education LASER to promote the new LASER online resource profiler. The books have also been successfully evaluated as part of the "I Pledge" Youth Crime Prevention programme. Funding is now sought to extend the existing series of books to look at three other key areas which affect young people: alcohol, safe travel to school and one looking at issues relating to child poverty themes. The intention is to provide additional free hard copies of the books to local schools as well as making them available to down load for free.

Information and Advice

3. The books have been successfully used to educate year 5 & 6 primary aged pupils as part of the successfully evaluated "I Pledge" Youth Crime Prevention programme. This has been delivered to 30 primary schools in priority areas across the county over a two year period. Approximately 1600 pupils in their last years of primary have benefited from participating in the programme.
4. King Edward Primary School, in Mansfield, participated in the programme and received a positive appraisal for this area of work in their recent Ofsted report 2012. Using the cyber-bullying story line "Tom's Dilemma" to inspire their ideas, they have since gone on to develop a cyber-bullying project and showcased an example of this work during anti-bullying week in Nov 2012 at the Mansfield Palace Theatre.
5. The books have also been adopted across a number of other targeted youth settings including Targeted Youth Support as part of supported educational sessions. Sets of the books have also been distributed and are being used by seven domestic violence refuges across the county. All residential children's homes have sets of books. The books are also being taken into primary schools and used by neighbourhood watch officers to promote

neighbourhood watch schemes. The book focusing on hate crime has been adopted by the Equality and Achievement team and is used as a key resource to support their work with primary schools. The book focusing on arson is currently being used as part of the nationally accredited Safety Zone project to support the fire safety set.

6. The Strategic Assessment published by the Safer Nottinghamshire Board in January 2011 identified 15 areas in the County, which would be prioritised by all agencies in the local partnerships. As a part of this process, it is proposed that schools and other targeted youth settings within the 15 areas are given the opportunity to access the proposed additional themed Keep On Track Safety books.

Other Options Considered

7. The books have also been adopted as part of the "I Pledge" programme by schools across three boroughs of London.
8. Through the success of the On Track partnership between Nottinghamshire County Council, Nottinghamshire Police and Experian, these books will shortly be available online and made free to download globally and linked to the Experian Values, Money and Me PFEG accredited web-site.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

9. Based on the evidence and positive feedback from a wide range of services working with young people and a range of practitioners including teachers, pupils and parents there is a clear demand for these books. Other areas which the books could effectively tackle have been identified.

Statutory and Policy Implications

10. 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.

Implications for Service Users

11. **Pupils** have clearly benefited from the real life storylines and are able to identify with the characters to explore their own dilemmas regarding risky situations in a safe way.
12. **Parents/carers** Through reading the stories with their children, parents and carers have increased confidence to discuss the issues raised in the home setting, again reinforcing key learning outcomes.
13. **Teachers and other teaching practitioners** are enabled to draw on the storylines to enrich wider safety education messages, whilst still meeting key targets relating to literacy and the wider curriculum.

14. **Other partners** including: Police, Fire & Rescue Officers, Road Safety Officers, Neighbourhood Watch Officers, Domestic Violence Support Workers, Social Workers and Targeted Support Workers, have been given the opportunity to use a credible locally developed resource to tackle current crime prevention and community safety issues across a range of youth settings.

Financial Implications/Costs

15. To date the On Track Partnership has developed the Keep On Track Safety Books with funding from Nottinghamshire Police, Experian and in kind consultancy time from Nottinghamshire County Council. Break down of costs per book:
- Print £500 (200 copies)
 - Illustrations £800
 - Consultancy and writing £1000
 - **Total Cost per book** £2,300.

Equalities Implications

16. Due to limited numbers of hard copies the Keep On Track books are currently allocated to primary schools and other targeted youth settings across the priority areas and those areas of most deprivation. There is no reason other than funding that would prevent the books being allocated to all primary schools across the county. The existing Keep On Track Safety books will soon be made available for all schools to download for free via the On Track Partnership web-site, which Experian are developing. It is very likely that the books will be officially launched nationally in 2013 as part of the wider On Track Partnership and Experian's Values, Money and Me resource at a series of regional seminars.

Crime and Disorder Implications

17. The Keep On Track Story Books deliver clear crime prevention messages by presenting real life scenarios, which enable children to discuss and raise key issues in a safe way. The use of the Keep On Track Books across targeted youth settings enables those young people who may have been excluded from more formal education to receive key educational messages relating to safety and crime prevention.

RECOMMENDATION/S

18. It is recommended that:
- 1) the County Council, with its partners, continues to build on the successful outcomes already achieved by the On Track Partnership.
 - 2) the County Council agrees to fund the additional Keep On Track Safety Books to the sum of £6,900 for three new safety books.

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Constitutional Comments

19. The 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

20. Adequate budget provision exists within the Community safety budget to fund this initiative. (DD 20/12/12)

Background Papers

21. 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

22. All.