

## 2 December 2010 Westbury Area Board Youth Funding Proposal from Westbury CAYPIG

### **Purpose of the Report**

To ask the area board to approve the allocation of funds to support a pilot transport project proposed by Westbury CAYPIG.

### **Background to funding allocation**

At full council on 23 February 2010, the Leader, Jane Scott, announced that it was intended to allocate approximately £100,000 across the 18 area boards to allow for additional grant by each area board, specifically for children and young person's projects or activities.

Councillor Scott identified that the budget consultation carried out via Area Boards and Peoples Voice, had in each case, placed youth activities at the top of their priorities. Within that consultation and also following discussion with youth representatives, the need for transport for this group had consistently appeared at the top of their concerns.

The Westbury Area Board has been allocated £4,045 for young people's activities in the community area. How this money is allocated is at the discretion of the area board.

### **Background to proposed pilot youth transport project**

Surveys of young people have shown a need for transport to enable them to access facilities in Westbury such as the Youth Development Centre, Leighton Sports centre, Westbury Skate Park. The findings of this research, carried out by CAYPIG members, has been previously presented to the Westbury Area Board.

More recent research has involved Youth Development Workers 'riding the Matravers school buses', through the support of Wiltshire Council Passenger Transport unit and Matravers School. Different outlying areas and villages have been targeted on a weekly basis, so that a wider range of young people could be engaged with. This research has confirmed the need for improved transport.

Following consultation with the Westbury Area Board, the Community Area Partnership and council officers, a pilot transport scheme is being proposed that will enable young people to be transported into Westbury up to twice weekly. This scheme which is being co-ordinated by Sally Willox, Youth Development Co-ordinator for Westbury, will involve a minibus taxi from a local provider, along with the Youth Development Centre's MPV people carrier, picking up young people from certain villages and outlying areas at pre-set times and days during the week, which will be rotated to ensure as equitable as possible accessibility. Local taxi companies have been consulted with and negotiations are taking place to secure a six month contract, within the funding that is available for this scheme. Wiltshire Council approved companies used for its daily schools transport contracts have been approached, as it is essential that drivers are fully CRB checked.

**What is the project's timescale**

To start as soon as funding is approved and run for six months

**How many young people will benefit from this project?**

All young people within the Westbury community area and rural parishes will benefit.

**How will you know if your project has been successful?**

The pilot scheme will ascertain the use and need for this service to young people and on completion of a 6 month pilot, plans will be developed to ensure this can be a sustainable project to benefit young people into the future. This will of course require substantial funding and community support. The CAYPIG has already spoke with the BA13 Community Area Partnership who are supporting this project and hope to help with the development of a community based transport scheme in the future.

This overall success of this pilot will be determined by the numbers of young people using the transport; numbers attending the youth centre events; feedback from the young people about the success of the scheme; media coverage of the project.

**Environmental Impact of the Proposals**

There are no environmental implications.

**Financial Implications**

£4,004 has already been allocated to the area board and is ring fenced for funding youth activities in the Westbury Community Area.

**Legal Implications**

There are no legal implications

**HR Implications**

There are no HR implications.

**Equality and Diversity Implications**

The proposal promotes the participation and involvement of young people in local decision making process. This initiative aims to promote equality of opportunity to encourage young people to voice needs and express views so that the area board can strengthen its work to promote equal life chances for all. Additionally, the proposal supports the Council's commitment to provide customer focused services.

**Recommendation**

It is recommended that the area board agrees to allocate £4,045 to the pilot youth transport project and requests regular updates on the progress of this project.

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No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report