

Area Board Project/Councillor Initiative

1. What is the project?

The Safari project was started out of a concern that some young people may not have many opportunities to participate in positive leisure time activities as well as not having 'safe' places to meet friends and socialise due to the location of where they live. It was also a concern that some young people do not attend 'traditional youth work provision' and are therefore not getting an opportunity to have their voices heard and their needs highlighted.

There have been four meetings of a group which includes representatives from local interested parties, including RAF Lyneham's Community Development Worker and Station Youth Worker, a Unitary Councillor, Wiltshire Council Youth Development staff and representatives from the Police and Extended Schools service. These adults share the concern about the lack of opportunities for certain young people; young people who would not otherwise be engaged through the more 'traditional youth work methods'.

The Safari projects aim is to develop provision, in whatever form, to provide young people with the opportunity to meet their friends safely and to encourage them to become active members of the communities in which they live and operate.

Funding is being asked for to enable the group to identify the needs of these young people and to engage young people in this project so that they are central to it. It will utilise the versatility of the Blue Bus - a double-decker bus that is fully equipped with a range of technology and equipment. The bus is a mobile community centre that provides a range of services not always available for isolated communities in north Wiltshire. They have the Internet, games consoles, an arts and crafts area as well as full kitchen facilities

The mobile community centre, with excellent youth resources, will be utilised to conduct a consultation exercise with young people in five different villages. The consultation will centre around youth activities and provision. Young people will be asked a range of questions to determine what provision they would like to see introduced within their specific geographical area and to ascertain if there is a need to provide transport links for young people to travel to leisure time activities in other locations or to provide young people with meeting spaces, such as local cafes.

2. Where is the project taking place?

The five locations which the project will take place in are:

- Lyneham
- Lydiard Millicent
- Purton
- Cricklade
- TBC

There will be an opportunity for young people living around these areas to attend the bus sessions by offering them transport to and from the location of the bus.

3. When will the project take place?

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With funding secured from the Area Board, the project will take place during September/October 2011 period to ensure that it is as widely advertised as possible so that as many young people as possible can be reached within each area.

4. Please outline:

- **Community benefits**
- **Evidence of need**
- **Links to Community Plan**
- **Community Issue**

Community Benefits:

The benefits of this project to the communities it operates in are numerous, and would include the opportunity to overcome the negative stereotypes about youth culture and to help create a new respect for young people. Through the use of consultation, it will enable young people to demonstrate their skills and commitment and put to rest some preconceptions and mistrust that can often cloud the relationships between young people and adult society. Involving young people in decision-making also assists with the inter-generational partnerships that benefit the whole community.

The consultation, and hopefully, the resulting projects, will strengthen community capacity and local democracy. Giving young people a stake in the decision-making process builds a broader base of citizen involvement and creates stronger, more inclusive communities.

Evidence of need:

There are a number of young people who, through choice or through rural isolation, have not been able to access the 'traditional youth provision', either due to transport issues or due to no youth provision being in place as the result of a lack of funding. Some young people self-exclude themselves from the more 'traditional forms of youth work' due to the fact that it is simply not attracting them for many reasons.

As a result of this, the only way to engage these young people is to go into their communities and to offer them something 'different' and to encourage their participation through consultation to gain a better understanding of their needs. Thus providing a provision/service that they will use and which is not a 'perceived need or requirement' from an adult perspective.

Links to Community Plan:

The project links directly to the issues concerning the lack of youth provision throughout the community area, detailed within the community plan on page 22 and page 24.

Community Issue:

The community issue is a lack of sufficient youth provision across the Community Area, in particular within rural areas of the locality. In addition, the lack of involvement of young people in the decision making regarding the services they are offered is also a community issue.

5. What is the desired outcome/s of this project?

Through undertaking a project of this nature, the organisations and interested adults can better meet the needs of young people living in rural areas. It is hoped that out of this consultation a proactive plan can be put forward to address the needs of young people and that as a result of the findings young people will have leisure time facilities/activities that they wish to participate in.

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6. Who will Project Manage this project?

The "Safari" Group - representatives from local interested parties, including RAF Lyneham's Community Development Worker and Station Youth Worker, a Unitary Councillor, Wiltshire Council Youth Development staff and representatives from the Police and Extended Schools services. The Group is Chaired by Councillor Allison Bucknell

7. Please confirm costs and provide quotes

- Total project costs up to and including £5,000 - 1 quote
- Total project costs over £5,000 - 3 quotes

The Blue Bus will cost £150.00 per hour, with a minimum 2 hour session being held.

There will be five locations visited, which gives a total of 10 hours = £1500.00

All resources will be paid for out of this fee.

Staffing will need to come from the local people such as unitary councillors, youth work staff etc.

8. Additional information in support of the project