

**Wiltshire Council**

**Warminster Area Board**

**10 November 2011**

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## **Request for Youth Funding from Warminster Villages and Community Partnership**

### **Purpose of the Report**

To ask the area board to approve the allocation of funds to support a pilot transport project proposed by Warminster & Villages Community Partnership.

### **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 Warminster 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 such as the Youth Development Centre and Warminster Skate Park. The findings of this research, carried out by CAYPIG members, has been previously presented to the Warminster & Villages Community Partnership

More recent research has involved Youth Development Workers 'riding the Kingdown school buses', through the support of Wiltshire Council Passenger Transport unit and Kingdown 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.

### **What is the project?**

Following consultation with the Warminster & Villages Community Partnership and council officers, a pilot transport scheme is being proposed that will enable young people to be transported into Warminster up to three times weekly.

This scheme which is being jointly co-ordinated by Sam Shore, Youth Development Co-ordinator for Warminster, and Chris March, Warminster & Villages Community Partnership. This will involve a minibuss taxi from a local provider, along with Codford's MPV people carrier, picking up young people from certain villages such as Codford, Chitterne, Sutton Veny and Heytesbury 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 have taken place to ensure set fares are given. Wiltshire Council approved companies used for its daily schools transport contracts have been approached, as it is essential that drivers are fully CRB checked.

Full Risk assessments will be in place and letters to parents informing them if they are using the scheme to attend the Youth Centre that we cannot guarantee that they will stay for the full evening as we cannot force young people to stay if they abuse the service and miss their transport back parents will be contacted. We will have a register of who will be in what taxis at what times and days; that way if there are any issues, such as Young People missing their transport home, we can contact parents if needed.

#### **What is the project's timescale?**

To start as soon as funding is approved and run for a period of one year

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

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

#### **Total Cost of the Project**

We are seeking £4,045 for a trial period of One Year. This will ensure the project is more sustainable and has a bigger outcome. We recommend that the area board request regular updates on the progress of this funding

**Have you had any other funding towards the project? If so from whom? (inc Wiltshire council) - None.**

**Does your organisation have a bank account? Yes**

#### **What are the benefits of the projects?**

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.

**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 one Year trial period, 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. This has been presented to the Warminster & Villages Community Partnership who is in full support of this project and hopes 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.

**What will happen to your project if your proposal is not supported?**

The project will not go ahead and Young people from rural villages will continue to feel isolated and will miss out on developmental opportunities within their community area.

**Report Author:**

Sam shore on behalf of CAYPIG and Chris March on behalf of Warminster & Villages Community Partnership