

Report to	Amesbury Area Board
Date of Meeting	29 April 2010
Title of Report	Performance Reward Grant Scheme
Purpose of Report To ask Councillors to consider the details of three applications for funding from the Performance Reward Grant Scheme: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Great Wishford CoE Primary School are requesting a grant of £4,456 to assist with the capital costs of building a shelter to facilitate an outdoor learning initiative for Reception and Year 1 pupils.2. Skilled for Health (MOD project) is requesting a grant of £25,000 to assist with costs in 2010/11 to further continue this collaborative project between NHS Wiltshire, MOD and others, which seeks to reduce health inequalities by improving literacy, language and numeracy skills of adults in Tidworth, Bulford, Larkhill and Warminster.3. Community Payback – the Area Board’s project is seeking £73,000 from the Performance Reward Grant to extend the Community Payback scheme in terms of the range of services offered and also the reach of the scheme into more rural parts of the county.	

1. Background

1.1 Wiltshire agreed a Local Public Service Agreement with government that ended in March 2008. This contained 12 ‘stretch’ (difficult) targets that required a number of organisations to work together to achieve the improvement. Our performance against these targets earned Performance Reward Grant (PRG) of £5.4m. This is paid by government over two years; half in 2009 and half in 2010.

This presents a unique opportunity for us to put additional resources into our Local Agreement for Wiltshire (LAW) and to combat the recession in Wiltshire through the Action for Wiltshire programme. £1.6m of this grant will be reinvested in the target areas that earned the grant, to take forward Wiltshire’s ambitions. Another £1m will support some countywide initiatives under Action for Wiltshire. The balance of £2.8m is available over two to three years for bids supported by Area Boards that propose initiatives that take forward those things in the LAW and Action for Wiltshire that are important to local people.

Ideally all community areas of Wiltshire will benefit from this scheme, and there will be a spread of initiatives across LAW ambitions and Action for Wiltshire. We understand that not all bids will be made at the same time, and that proposals will take time to develop. The timing of local initiatives will also vary.

To help ensure that projects in all community areas have the opportunity to bid, the funding will be released in 3 month tranches of £250,000. We will keep this under review and if appropriate will vary the timing and amount of funding in each tranche. At the end of the tranche any unallocated money will go back into the pool for future bids. Any bids pending when all the money in that tranche has been allocated will be carried forward to the next tranche.

The government imposes a grant condition that the grant must be used half for capital and half for revenue expenditure. Guidance on what counts as 'capital' is given in the funding pack on the Wiltshire Council website. Experience so far is that bids tend towards revenue expenditure, so it may be easier to get funding for 'capital' type initiatives.

Bids will initially be submitted as 'Expressions of Interest' to the local appropriate Area Board. The Area Board will make a decision as to which bids it supports. Lack of support from the Area Board does not rule out the bid going forward to the grant scheme.

Full details of the Scheme and a Funding Pack are available from the Wiltshire council website:

www.wiltshire.gov.uk/.../localagreementforwiltshire/performanceawardgrantscheme.htm

2. Criteria for the Grant Scheme

2.1 Points to consider are:

- Funding under this scheme is for initiatives that have local support and will take forward ambitions in the Local Agreement for Wiltshire, or help combat the recession as part of the Action for Wiltshire programme. Information on this is provided in the grant pack.
- It is one-off funding, so should not be used for things that will result in an unfunded financial commitment after the end of the project. As part of the bid you will be asked to confirm that no unfunded commitments will result from your proposal.
- In total, Performance Reward Grant must be spent half on revenue and half on capital expenditure (guidance is given in the pack). Experience is that many initiatives are 'revenue', so there may be more money left available for 'capital' bids. We will need to account to government on the use of the grant, so will ask you for information on what the money will be used for.
- It is important that these initiatives have a positive local impact, and that we are able to show success. So you will be asked how you will measure that success – and we will ask you to let us know how well it worked.

The use of the grant will fall within the Area Board's usual good governance arrangements.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
3.1	Great Wishford CoE Primary School	To promote Outdoor Learning for Reception and Year 1 children by providing a covered, sheltered area from the sun, wind, rain and cold. The shelter will facilitate greater flexibility in class time, e.g. a quiet area for reading, or water and sand play. The shelter will also allow children to gather to talk at playtimes and provide cover for parents while waiting to collect children at the end of the day.	£4,456

3.1.1 It is recommended that the Area Board supports this application, particularly as it is a part of a broader Outdoor Learning Initiative which includes an area for children to learn about nature and the environment and an all weather surface to improve the space available for outdoor recreation.

3.1.2 Great Wishford Primary School is keen to encourage outdoor learning as it stimulates children who now spend much more time indoors (on computers and watching TV), and due to parental concerns for their children's security which can restrict their freedom to explore outdoors. The School believes that outdoor environments offer children freedom to explore, use their senses and be physically active and exuberant. Outdoor learning can have a positive impact on children's sense of well-being and help all aspects of children's development.

3.1.3 The shelter will be 4m x 5m and attached to the classroom wall, covering an existing patio area.

3.1.4 The three main Local Agreement for Wiltshire ambitions that this initiative will support is 'Building Resilient Communities', 'Lives not Services' and 'Protecting the Environment'.

3.1.5 The school is a fundamental part of the village and has close ties with the church. The project is supported by the Friends of Wishford School, parents, the church and the parish council. Reception and Year 1 is already identified as "good" by Ofsted, which also supports this initiative.

3.1.6 The benefits of the Outdoor Learning Initiative will be reflected in improvements to the children's enjoyment of learning. Experience of this initiative has already shown improvements in enthusiasm, behaviour and social skills.

3.1.7 There will be no unfunded commitments arising from this project.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
3.2	Skilled for Health (SfH)	This partnership led SfH programme, between NHS Wiltshire, the MOD and other partners is seeking funding assistance to continue the programme in 2010/11. The programme integrates the goals of reducing health inequalities with those of improving the literacy, language and numeracy skills of adults in Tidworth, Bulford, Larkhill and Warminster. The aim is to support the families of service men and women (and now civilian families) through a series of short courses, i.e. healthy eating, how to stop smoking and responsible drinking.	£25,000

3.2.1 It is recommended that the Area Board supports this application which has also been put to the Tidworth and Warminster Area Boards for consideration. This is an innovative partnership led project which has a number of objectives, including that of military and civilian integration.

3.2.2 The total cost of this project for 2010/11 is £151,000. £100,000 of this is funded by NHS Wiltshire, £25,000 by Plain Action, and £1,000 (to be confirmed) by the Allington Trust. SfH are seeking the outstanding £25,000 from the Performance Reward Grant Scheme.

3.2.3 With an increase in knowledge of health issues, improved educational attainment through basic skills courses, and the integration of civilian and army families, the SfH project will be working towards building a resilient community, which is able to confidently take care of itself and all who live in it. Those who progress to either new employment, or obtain better paid work will contribute to the economic growth of the area. The practical sessions (including dealing with safety in the home, first aid and resuscitation) will provide learners with skills to keep their homes and community safe. The project also provides employment for local people as tutors, and as crèche workers.

3.2.4 The benefits of the project have been evaluated since 2008/09, helping the programme to secure funding from NHS Wiltshire in 2009/10 and 2010/11. Data to measure the success of the project is collected locally and as part of the national project (provided by the Tavistock Institute). This data demonstrates a good uptake of further education, employment and voluntary work, and a good response to making healthier lifestyle choices.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
3.3	Area Board's Team	To extend the Community Payback scheme in terms of the range of services offered and also the reach of the scheme into more rural parts of the county	£73,000

3.3.1 Community Payback enables offenders to repay their debt to society through the contribution of time and labour to help local communities tackle a wide range of issues from graffiti and chewing gum removal to litter picking, ground clearance and other environmental improvement projects. Offenders work in the community as part of a fully supervised team. In Wiltshire over 72,000 hours of community payback time are completed every year by offenders, this equates to £378,500 of free labour to local communities.

3.3.2 This scheme can be of major benefit to Area Boards - offering fast and effective responses to issues of concern to local people. A wide range of works can be undertaken including litter, gum and graffiti removal, footpath clearance and repair, river clearing, decorating and maintenance of community facilities. Ideas for projects will be sought from the public, councillors and parishes through the issues system. These will be prioritised by Area Boards and the Community Payback team will develop programmes of work in response.

3.3.3 An investment of £73,000 is now sought from the LPSA fund to extend the scheme in terms of the range of services offered and also the reach of the scheme into more rural parts of the County. This latter will be achieved through the provision of 3 utilities trailers allowing teams access to hot water, toilets and refreshments during the day - enabling teams to be more self sufficient and able to undertake work in isolated rural areas. Investment will be used to purchase of high pressure cleaners for removal of graffiti and gum and additional equipment. This investment will be of direct and immediate benefit to the Area Boards and the local communities they serve.

3.3.4 The objectives of the project are

- To increase resources directed at key street scene issues that affect community wellbeing such as vandalism, graffiti, gum and littering
- To involve the public, parishes and area boards more directly in the criminal justice system building public awareness and service responsiveness and linking the scheme with the Area Boards' Community Issues system
- To target resources at projects and priorities identified by local communities
- To extend the reach of Wiltshire Community Payback into rural communities

3.3.5 The scheme supports objectives in the Local Agreement for Wiltshire around building more resilient and safer communities, protecting the environment, improving the way in which organisations in Wiltshire work together and supporting elected members in their community leadership roles. There are additional benefits for offenders, particularly young offenders, including the development of work skills and experience which increases future employability and contributes to reducing re-offending.

3.3.6 The support of the Area Board is now sought for this bid.

Appendices:	2 grant application forms
Report Author	Karen Linaker, Community Area Manager Tel: 01722 434697 E-mail: karen.linaker@wiltshire.gov.uk