

Area Board Project

1. What is the Initiative?

Funding to enable several Crosspoint volunteers to be trained by Community Money Advice so that they can then offer money/debt advice in the Westbury area. Also the purchase of a laptop and Microsoft programme for use by Crosspoint volunteers, with the primary purpose of entering the data directly into a spread sheet for analysis rather than manually as at present.

2. Where is the initiative taking place?

Crosspoint in Market Place, Westbury

3. When will the initiative take place?

As soon as possible

4. What are the Community benefits/evidence of need/links to Community Plan/Community Issue?

From the statistics of the number of food parcels distributed at the Crosspoint Welcome Centre in the financial year 2012/13, which was 232, equating to helping between 4 and 5 families or individuals per week, the inference is that these individuals or families are in some form of financial crisis, and may be helped significantly if they were offered and took up money/debt advice counselling.

The Westbury Community area plan lists

Children and Families priorities:

- Encourage more volunteers to support learning and reach a wider proportion of the community,
- Intensive work with families to encourage family learning, move out of poverty etc.

5. What is the desired outcome of this initiative?

Crosspoint aims to empower people to improve their lives, and if possible to break the cycle of deprivation and dependency. Providing the opportunity for people to receive money/debt advice, together with the other services offered, could significantly remove some of the stress associated with money worries and improve their overall quality of life.

6. Who will Project Manage this initiative?

Crosspoint

7. Costs/quotes/ match funding? (total cost £5k require 1 quote, total cost £5k-25k require 3 quotes)

Training costs £150 per person and Crosspoint are looking to train six people thus a total cost of £900. Computer costs £300 for laptop; £100 for Microsoft Office and £5 for mouse thus total cost of £405.

Total requested: £1305

8. Additional information

Crosspoint Welcome centre opened in September 2011 – its declared aim is “Seeking to support and serve our community of Westbury and the surrounding area”.

Staffed by volunteers, it provides a wide range of services from counselling and advice to a job club.