

<b>Report to</b>	<b>Salisbury Area Board</b>
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>22 July, 2010</b>
<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>Performance Reward Grant Scheme</b>
<b>Purpose of Report</b> To ask Councillors to consider the details of 3 applications for funding from the Performance Reward Grant Scheme:  <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) The Bemerton Scout Community Hall Project is seeking £34,000, a capital expenditure project which will lengthen the life of a building that has served the Scouts and the local community for 75+ years.</li><li>2) Wessex Community Action are seeking £47,832 (£15,944 to be spent per year over a 3 year project) for a Trustee &amp; Leadership Network which aims to improve the efficiency of frontline voluntary and community sector organisations through better leadership and recruiting experienced trustees. <i>(Please see page 2 Additional Information relating to this application).</i></li><li>3) Action for Children are seeking £15,000 as revenue costs for the continuation of a Play Ranger service for vulnerable children in the most deprived areas of Salisbury.</li></ol> <p><i>nb As the Play Rangers provide services at the Friary, Bemerton Heath, Bishopdown and Old Sarum, this application was considered at the South Wiltshire Area Board meeting on the 17 June, 2010 where Members endorsed the proposal.</i></p>	

## 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](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/.../localagreementforwiltshire/performanceawardgrantscheme.htm)

## 2. Additional Information

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
2.2	Wessex Community Action	To improve the efficiency of frontline voluntary and community sector organisations through better leadership and recruiting experienced trustees.	£47,832

2.2.1 The Community Area Manager sought advice from the Head of Strategy, Community and Voluntary Sector Support to establish if the activities WCA are seeking to fund through their PRG application are covered by GROW who have been funded by Wiltshire Council. The following response has been received:

‘The activities that WCA are looking to fund through their PRG application are covered by the VCS Infrastructure service specification and are services that we would expect Grow to provide.

The VCS Service Specification, under Section One, Development Support has the following 2 outcomes:

*Outcome 3:* Relevant training courses and seminars will be developed and provided for VCS organisations.

*Outcome 5:* A well managed VCS with strong governance arrangements better equipped to function effectively and deliver quality services to their users/members/constituents.

There are also three outputs that together with the above outcomes cover the activities that WCA are proposing:

*Output III:* Training needs of VCS organisations identified and a relevant training programme delivered county-wide. Sub-contracting to specialist providers is permitted.

*Output IV:* Provision of advice, information and a range of paper and web based materials to support strong governance and effective service delivery by VCO’s.

*Output VII:* The provision of services that support Organisational Development e.g. Business Planning, Strategic Reviews, Health and Safety, Management Practice, Quality Assurance.

Additionally, it is anticipated that bespoke services for Chief Officers and Chairs of Trustees will feature as part of Grow’s activities.

Grow has offered in-house expertise as part of the External Support WCA can call on and the Council funds Wiltshire Charities Information Bureau to advise VCS organisations on issues relating to funding and governance.

The reference made to the link between this PRG application and WCA's Community Area Grant application to build up a Volunteer Pool was challenged as being in direct competition to the single county-wide nationally accredited volunteering service that Grow are funded by Wiltshire Council to provide.

<b>Appendices – only available online</b>	<b>Appendix 1 Grant application – Bemerton Scout Community Hall Project</b> <b>Appendix 2 Grant application – Wessex Community Action</b> <b>Appendix 3 Grant application – Action for Children</b>
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No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report.

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