

ITEM 13

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Our ref : jhh/com10b

Your ref :

14 June 05

Dear Tim

Re: Bid for Year 2 Health Scrutiny Support Programme Action Learning Funding

Please find enclosed the Wiltshire Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee's bid for Year 2 Health Scrutiny Support Programme Action Learning funding. As requested, the Wiltshire bid is centred on a project with a 'Choosing Health – Making Healthier Choices Easier' theme.

In 2004, following extensive public consultation, which has been recognised nationally with a Beacon award, the Wiltshire Strategic Board (WiSB – the Local Strategic Partnership for Wiltshire) produced its community strategy called 'A County Fit For Our Children'. This document outlined WiSB's vision for the County and describes what will be done to improve the social, economic and environmental well being for the whole community.

WiSB took four key themes from the community strategy; waste management, adult learning, street scene improvement and health, and sponsored four project groups to deliver targets in each area that would contribute to the overarching aim to make Wiltshire 'a county fit for our children'. The target for the health project is to make Wiltshire the healthiest county to live in by 2014.

The Healthier Wiltshire steering group was formed and the project is now the recognised vehicle for delivery of the community strategy health aims, and is supported by all key public sector organisations in the county. The steering group has set up sub-groups to tackle the issues of smoking, physical activity and drug and alcohol misuse. However, a similar planned sub-project to look into the promotion of healthy diets and to facilitate understanding of nutritional information has been slow to get off the ground due to time constraints and capacity issues.

The Wiltshire Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee was very keen to bid for the Year 2 HSSP Action Learning funding, but was also aware of, and committed to a scrutiny of the Healthier Wiltshire project.

County Hall, Trowbridge, Wiltshire. BA14 8JN.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

With this in mind the committee members felt this was a wonderful opportunity for them to continue their intended scrutiny of the existing Wiltshire project, and to expand the scrutiny and allow for truly proactive involvement. This approach will enable the health scrutiny committee to add real value to the Healthier Wiltshire project by committing to a thorough investigation of the constraints surrounding the diet and nutrition element of their project, and by forming a set of principles and recommendations that the steering group can take forward into the delivery stage.

In putting the bid together the health scrutiny committee worked closely with the Healthier Wiltshire steering group, in particular the project manager, to ensure that the focus of the bid was in line with the stated aims and objectives of the overall WiSB sponsored project. There was widespread agreement that to bid for a project unrelated to the Healthier Wiltshire project would be to miss a golden opportunity to combine scrutiny and the aims of the community strategy. The resulting bid is one that the Wiltshire Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee, the Healthier Wiltshire project and the Wiltshire Strategic Board fully support.

There is a great commitment to carry the project forward among all the partners involved and, as the overarching aim is one that the people of Wiltshire prioritised through the community strategy, it is reasonable to believe that support of this project will be far reaching and enthusiastic.

Yours sincerely

Jane Scott
Leader
Wiltshire County Council

John Thomson
Ex-Chair
Wiltshire Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee