

Community Initiatives
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Report

Subject : Home-Start South Wiltshire
Report to : The Cabinet
Date : Wednesday 05 September 2007
Author : Robin Townsend, Head of Community Initiatives
Leader of the Cabinet: Councillor Paul Sample

1. Purpose of Report:

1.1 To consider putting forward a motion to the Cabinet requesting that it makes representation to the Wiltshire Primary Care Trust to review its decision to cancel its core funding to Home-Start South Wiltshire.

2. Report Summary:

- 2.1. Home-Start South Wiltshire provides a home visiting service across the district for any parent with children aged 5 or under, the support is free, confidential and non-judgemental. Statistics gained from Home-start's national website show that almost 25% of families refer themselves which speaks for itself.
- 2.2. The organisation helps to increase the confidence and independence of some very vulnerable families by:
- Visiting families in their own homes to offer support, friendship and practical assistance
 - Reassuring parents that their childcare problems are not unusual or unique
 - Encouraging parents; strengths and emotional well-being for the ultimate benefit of their children
 - Trying to get fun back into family life
- 2.3. Home-start South Wiltshire has a proven, lasting and positive impact on the development of children and the health and welfare of their associated families. There are currently 21 volunteers who support 34 families with a further 20 families on the waiting list who also need support.
- 2.4. The organisation has recently brought to the attention of the Leader of the Council that it is now facing an uncertain future. In recent years Home-Start has received core funding from the NHS via the South Wiltshire PCT, however it has been informed that the new Wiltshire PCT is not going to continue to allocate funding. The impact of this decision is that Home-start only has funds to continue until the Autumn and unless the decision can be reversed or additional funding is secured from other sources then it will be forced to close and vulnerable families will have no means of support.



Awarded in:
Housing Services
Waste and Recycling Services



2.5. The Council's External Funding Officer has been supporting the organisation in its quest to seek additional funding from other sources. Support has included developing a funding strategy, advice on how to apply for funds and identifying suitable organisations to submit applications to. There is no guarantee however that funding will be forthcoming within the required timescales

2.6. The District Council is also not in a position to financially support Home-Start with a revenue grant as it no longer has a relevant grant scheme to which Home-Start could apply.

3. **Proposal:**

3.1. It is proposed that Cabinet pass a resolution to support Home-Start with its endeavours to get the Wiltshire PCT to reverse its decision and for the Leader of the Council to write to Wiltshire PCT accordingly.

4. **Recommendation:** that the Leader of the Council makes representation to Wiltshire PCT regarding its decision to stop funding Home-start South Wiltshire and seeks assurance that funding will be maintained to ensure that the vital services provided in South Wiltshire continue.

5. **Background papers:**

Letter from Home-Start South Wiltshire

6. **Implications:**

6.1. Financial: None at this stage

6.2. Legal: None at this stage

6.3. Personnel: None at this stage

6.4. Community Safety: None at this stage

6.5. Environmental: None at this stage

6.6. Human Rights: None at this stage

6.7. Equality and Diversity: Reduction / cancellation of service will have a significant impact on the most vulnerable families in the district

6.8. Ward(s) Affected: Potentially all within the SDC area.

6.9. Core Values - Fairness & Equality, Open Learning Council & Willing Partner, Communicating with the Public, Supporting the Disadvantaged, Excellent Service,

6.10. Consultation – None at this Stage

Appendix A

Project Initiation Document

Project Title	Salisbury Fairtrade City
Strategic Purpose	Working in Partnership with keystakeholders to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Raise awareness of trade issues and Fairtrade• Increase the number of local retailers, businesses,, schools, and other outlets who sell, supply or use Fairtrade products• Gain national recognition for Salisbury's activities• Strengthen and develop local Fairtrade groups and partnerships so that they are self financing
Sponsor	Salisbury District council
Strategic Owners	City Centre Management; Salisbury Fairtrade Group; Salisbury District council; Wiltshire Fairtrade Partnership; Wiltshire Agenda 21; Faith groups; local charities
Project Owner	Salisbury City Management; Salisbury Fairtrade Steering Group
Project Team	To be determined, potentially could include: City Centre Manager; local Fairtrade activists; Trade Justice Movement; Wiltshire; Churches together; representative from Oxfam; School rep.
Project Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support the aims of local Fairtrade groups and Wiltshire A21 activities• Work on the 5 goals for Fairtrade City:<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Salisbury District council passes a resolution supporting2. A range of (at least 2) Fairtrade products are readily available in local shops and Fairtrade products are served in local cafes /catering establishments.3. Fairtrade products are used by a number of local work places and community organisations (churches, schools etc including the Council)4. Attract media coverage and popular support for the campaign5. Establish a local Fairtrade steering group
Fairtrade	
Desired Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Achieve Fairtrade City status• Gain support from retailers, businesses and schools• Gather information that will help retailers, businesses and schools to start selling /providing Fairtrade products• Increase numbers of retailers selling Fairtrade products.• Formalise local interesting Fairtrade and trade issues by setting up a strong, formal Fairtrade network that has ownership of the City bid, and hold regular, well attended meetings• Encourage better networking amongst interested stakeholders, to support and enable more Fairtrade projects across the district• Disseminate better information on becoming a Fairtrade City• Raise the profile of Fairtrade issues across the district and with member organisations

Milestones 3 months	<p>Goal 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present paper to Cabinet and get a resolution passed supporting Fairtrade • Get agreement that Fairtrade tea and coffee are provided at all formal council meetings, and serviced in all the facilities and increase visibility thereof. • SDC Cabinet to provide a financial resource to support the work • Salisbury City Management to be approached to take the lead role to take forward the Fairtrade City bid <p>Goal 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish Fairtrade City Steering group • Ensure the group is well supported and meets regularly <p>Goal 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake an audit of all retailers currently selling Fairtrade projects • Establish a Fairtrade Directory and form a basis to measure change • Collate existing information from Fairtrade Foundation and local wholesalers for businesses to help them switch to fairtrade products • Increase information available to retailers who may wish to switch to Fairtrade. <p>Goal 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase information available to employers and non-retail businesses on how they can contribute to the City bid • Establish a 'flagship' employer <p>Goal 5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attract media and popular support for the campaign • Develop website and other mechanisms to promote Fairtrade such as information packs and publicity material <p>Goal 6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-ignite support for Fairtrade Fortnight
6 months	<p>Goal 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gain support from MED&T and Salisbury Tourism Partnership and explore possible sources of long term Fairtrade promotion • Work with schools to promote Fairtrade products • Incorporate Fairtrade into Schools environment day for 2008 • Increase information available to schools <p>Goal 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application for Fairtrade City submitted • Fairtrade Steering group established to developing a sustainable long term action plan • Signs are erected declaring Salisbury as a Fairtrade City
Potential costs	<p>£10,000 for part time officer resource in City Centre Management Team £10,000 for a working budget</p>