

Southern Area Community Bus

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Proposal for 'Southern Area Community Bus'

This proposal outlines Partnership working to provide the Southern Area with a 'Community Bus'. In order to purchase this Community Bus a Partnership Bid will be submitted to the Southern Area Board as part of the 'Reward Performance Grant Scheme'

Purpose of the 'Community Bus'

The 'Southern Area Community Bus', known as the 'Community Bus' would be available to meet the needs of our local communities where there is social and economic isolation/deprivation and in some cases social exclusion.

The bus would be able to provide services that are not accessible elsewhere due to rural locations and would host services for all ages – from babies to the elderly.

The 'Community Bus' would provide the opportunity for many organisations to work in partnership to enable much needed services to be promoted and accessed.

1. The bus would be used by Shine as follows:

- during the mornings and early afternoons to provide parent/toddler sessions in partnership with Children's Centres in rurally isolated areas and Traveller sites
- during the mornings and early afternoons to provide community 'drop-ins'
- after – school programme as currently provided by the 'Shine Playbus'
- holiday programme as currently provided by the 'Shine Playbus'

'Shine' currently works with children and families on Traveller Sites in the Southern Area. The isolation of Travellers and their health and education needs are well documented and there are no play facilities for Traveller children on the sites in South Wiltshire.

2. The bus would be used by the Youth Service Youth Services in rural communities as follows

- evening youth activities
- holiday programmes and activities for youth

3. This bus could be used in partnership with other organisations to provide:

- health sessions with PCT staff healthy eating,
- a 'resource library' where information on many services would be available eg. housing, debt, money management, children's services, health etc. and anyone requiring specialist services could be signposted to other organisations.

4. The Community Bus would be available to Wiltshire Council departments for 'road shows', information sessions, events etc. eg. PCT, Police, and many other departments and would also be available to other organisations holding events, so that public awareness and access to services was highlighted.

Shine Community Playbus – current provision

- see attached info on the Shine Community Playbus

Partnership Management Committee

The 'Community Bus' would be managed by a Partnership Management Committee, comprising representatives of 'Shine', Youth Service, 'Action for Children' and any other organisations with an interest in being involved.

The Committee will work to prepare and submit a bid, project manage the purchase and refurbishment of the vehicle, then manage the Community Bus – establishing policies and procedures, budgets, costing allocation and operating etc.

This would not need to be onerous, but would serve to maximise the application, project management, use and smooth running of the bus.

A Constitution would be set up for this Partnership Committee.

Vehicle

It is proposed that a double – decker vehicle be purchased and refurbished/redesigned.

This would provide 2 good – size areas so that there is a lot of flexibility of use.

Upstairs would be carpeted and open space with some storage boxes round the side for storage, covered by soft cushions so that they could be used as seating.

Downstairs would have removable tables and stackable stools/tables for use with laptops

A kitchen would be installed downstairs at the rear of the bus

An example of the flexible work is that during the day upstairs could be used as a Toddler area, whilst mums could be taking part in a parenting programme downstairs .

Youth sessions would use both upstairs and downstairs for play stations, x – boxes, art work, music etc. Removable boards will allow the Youth to have their art work displayed when Youth Sessions operate so that they feel the bus is 'their place'.

(There are several vehicles that operate in this manner throughout the country)

Purchase Costs

Costs vary dependant on the age of the vehicle to be purchased and the budget for renovation.

Extensive research has shown that a suitable vehicle could be purchased for £50,000. Typical costs would be as follows:

<i>Purchase of double decker bus</i>	<i>50,000-00</i>
<i>*Conversion of bus to meet requirements of use</i>	<i>60,000-00</i>
<i>Contingency (15%)</i>	<i><u>9,000-00</u></i>
<i>Capital Total</i>	<i><u>119,000-00</u></i>

Revenue

3 years Revenue Funding: 36,427-00

What	Yr1	Yr2	Yr3
<i>Insurance</i>	<i>3,500</i>	<i>3,700</i>	<i>4,000</i>
<i>Maintenance</i>	<i>7,000</i>	<i>7,350</i>	<i>7,725</i>
<i>Garaging</i>	<i>500</i>	<i>525</i>	<i>551</i>
<i>Road Tax</i>	<i>500</i>	<i>525</i>	<i>551</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>11,500</i>	<i>12,100</i>	<i>12,827</i>

Total funding requested £155,427-00

Running Costs

Running costs of the vehicle would be divided into 'fixed' costs and 'variable costs'

Fixed costs would include Insurance (cost dependant on value, but +- £5k- £7k), garaging, road tax etc. Variable costs would include fuel, staffing, maintenance and the Partnership Committee would decide how best these would be met, raised.

Ambitions/Objectives of the Local Agreement for Wiltshire

The aims and outcomes of the Community Bus used by more than one organisation will meet more of the Local Agreement for Wiltshire ambitions than one organisation alone, especially the 7th Law of 'working together'

These aims will be provided and met in a cohesive, planned and **cost effective** manner.

Ambitions/Aims achieved would be:

- Building Resilient Communities – Help young people to succeed at school and take part in positive activities.
- Lives not Services – Provide the strong foundations for children and young peoples development + enable people to improve their long term health and well being
- Safer Communities – Improve the street scene and reduce crime and anti- social behaviour



Performance Reward Grant Scheme

APPLICATION FORM

To be returned to:

Karen Spence, Performance Manager, Performance Team

Email: wiltshirelaa@wiltshire.gov.uk

Area Board	Southern Area Board
Form submitted by (contact for all queries)	Shine Community Project/Youth Development Coordinator
Name of initiative	'Southern Area Community Bus'
Brief Description of Initiative	<p>The 'Southern Area Community Bus', known as the 'Community Bus' would be available to meet the needs of the local communities where there is rural, social or economic isolation/deprivation or social exclusion and a need to improve and extend youth work provision.</p> <p>The bus would be able to provide services that are not accessible elsewhere due to the location of the community in question and would host services for all ages - babies, children, youth, parents and the elderly.</p> <p>The 'Community Bus' would provide the opportunity and necessity for many organisations to work in partnership to enable much needed services to be provided and accessed thus making a difference to the quality of lives in the Southern Area.</p> <p>'Shine' currently operates from an elderly ex Library Van and the Youth Service from a small urban van, neither of which are most suited to the needs of the communities in which they operate.</p> <p>By purchasing a double - decker bus - 'The Southern Area Community Bus', and working in partnership there would be so much more beneficial to the communities in which it would operate and would represent true partnership working to address real need and improve efficiency.</p>

Please put a cross against the ambition(s) that this initiative will support	Building resilient communities	x																									
	Improving affordable housing																										
	Lives not services	x																									
	Supporting economic growth																										
	Safer communities	x																									
	Protecting the environment																										
	Action for Wiltshire – combating the recession																										
Amount of funding sought	£ 155,427																										
What will this money be spent on? (please show split between capital and revenue. For capital expenditure guidance – see Appendix 1 in the Bid Pack)	Capital £ <i>Purchase of double decker bus</i> 50,000-00 <i>*Conversion of bus to meet requirements of use</i> 60,000-00 <i>Contingency (15%)</i> 9,000-00 <i>Capital Total</i> <u>119,000-00</u>																										
	Revenue 3 years Revenue Funding: <u>36,427-00</u>																										
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	Total funding requested £155,427-00																										
<i>This bid is intended to provide capital funding to purchase a newer 2nd hand double decker bus and refurbish it so it is fit for purpose, providing crucial services to children and families, young people and community groups.</i>																											
<i>Revenue funding will provide the vehicle running costs for 3 years.</i>																											
<i>Each partner organisation will provide its own funding to staff and resource the various activities/programmes.</i>																											
<i>*See appendix 1 for an example of refurbishment costs</i>																											

<p>Please describe how your initiative will support the ambition(s) indicated above, and summarise the action that will be taken</p>	<p>The initiative will support three ambitions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building resilient communities • Lives not services • Safer Communities <p>See appendix 2 for further details</p>
<p>What makes this initiative a local priority (eg evidence from research and local support)</p>	<p>This initiative is a local priority as improved provision of youth work has been identified as a priority in the community plan since 2004. Furthermore, a number of traveller sites are also located in the areas which require mobile services to address need.</p> <p><i>Shine - Daytime</i></p> <p>There are 3 Traveller sites in the Southern Area – 2 permanent sites and 1 Transit Site. These sites do not have any play facilities for children. Oaktree Fields (Odstock) and Lode Hill (Downton) are permanent Traveller Sites in the Southern Area with no play facilities and children play in very unsafe and dangerous conditions.</p> <p>The 'Transit' Site situated on the Odstock Site enables 'Transient' Travellers to stay for up to 28 days - and again has no play facilities for children - most of whom are also not attending school and are living in very small caravans with many siblings. Children have very few toys or anything to occupy their days and even older children are very often not literate.</p> <p>Many of the Travellers at the Transit Site and Odstock Site are Irish Travellers.</p> <p>The health statistics of Irish Travellers are very different to those of the UK national population – 50% of Travellers die before the age of 39, and 70% fail to live past the age of 59.</p> <p>Many families come to the sites at Odstock because of the proximity to the hospital.</p> <p>Many of the children very rarely attend school and the Shine Bus is able to provide books children can have as well as having Educational input from the Traveller Education Service.</p>

Partridge Way is a Housing Estate (primarily social housing) at Old Sarum being 3 miles from the city centre, but it suffers from multiple factors of deprivation, including barriers to accessing services.

Many of the families are single parent families with multiple problems. There is no infrastructure other than housing and a small play area and public transport is limited and costly.

Whilst there are many children living on the estate there is no community centre or any activities for them at present. A community room could be provided shortly which would improve services in the area but the community bus visits will bring play facilities and games and a familiar alternative.

At present, the children are prevented from attending 'after school' activities and clubs at school as they have to use the school transport which leaves straight after school so facilities provided by the shine bus have proven to be a success.

The children and young people are bored and de-motivated and can get themselves into destructive behaviour as they have nothing to do and nowhere to go. There have been/are several 'school refusers' who have attended Shine Play Sessions.

More detail about Shine is offered in appendix 3.

Youth Service – Evening and holidays

Engaging with young people from across the community area.

The Southern Wiltshire Community Area is unique in that it does not have a designated service centre, unlike most other community area in Wiltshire. This therefore creates barriers to services for both young and old people. A mobile facility allows services to be taken to rural communities which will mean that young people from right across the community area will benefit from the services the community bus provides. There are very real issues of isolation for the young people who live in rural communities and whilst the Urbie (mobile youth provision) has begun to address these for a number of young people, a larger vehicle would enable these to be addressed more effectively and with a larger number of young people.

Therefore this initiative would greatly increase the numbers of young people accessing and benefitting for dedicated youth work

Parish Councils

Parish Councils will also be a crucial partner with the community

	bus, who prioritise activities for young people highly.
How will you know you have been successful?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of children and young people attending the activities on the Bus • Number of young people engaging in other activities organised by the Development Service for Young People • Number of young people achieving recorded outcomes • Number of young people achieving accredited outcomes • Number of parents attending activities on the Bus • Number of elderly attending activities on the Bus • Number of people accessing leaflets/being signposted to other services • Number of other organisations using the bus
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How will you measure the impact? (may have more than one measure) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surveys and questionnaires to the children and parents as to the enjoyment/fun experienced by the children • Evaluation of individual sessions and ongoing review and development of each project • Feedback from other agencies and organisations as to improved outcomes for children and young people engaging with the activities run from the bus • Feedback from Traveller Education Service as to the improved behaviour/educational status of the children • Improvement in children's behaviour • Increased attendance at school
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is your improvement target (s), and when do you expect to achieve this/these? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have 20 new parents attend pre -schoolers 'stay n' play sessions and be involved in their child's play so they can replicate this at home - (10 yr 1, 15 yr 2, 20 yr 3) • Have 20 parents accessing parenting skills (10 y r1, 15yr 2, 20yr 3) • 50 4 - 12 year old children regularly attending the after school activities (30 yr1, 40 yr2, 50 by yr 3) • 4 Additional 'Play Events'/Community events per year run in conjunction with Salisbury Festival, Play England etc • 280 young people in the Community Area aged 13 to 19 have contact with the Development Service for Young People each year • 100 young people in the Community Area aged 13 to 19 gain a recorded outcome each year

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50 young people in the Community Area aged 13 to 19 gain an accredited outcome each year • Establish community drop-ins for the elderly and isolated in areas identified by research, so that by the end of the 3 years 20 people throughout the Southern Area would be accessing and regularly attending • Variable number of people attending special events as organised by PCT, Wiltshire Council etc.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How will you ensure that the improvement continues after the end of the initiative? 	<p>Funding is primarily for the purchase of the vehicle with some revenue funding for 3 years.</p> <p>Revenue funding will be bid for towards the end of the 3 years so that the programmes will continue as long as needs are identified.</p>
Who will benefit from this initiative?	<p>The whole community can potentially benefit from this project as it will be a recognised facility accessible to all settlements in the area.</p> <p>This initiative will reach the local communities where there is rural, social or economic isolation/deprivation or social exclusion and a need for youth work provision.</p> <p>See target figures above for numbers - these figures are intended to be minimums and we expect these numbers to be exceeded throughout the project.</p> <p>Vulnerable disadvantaged groups of people are often hard to engage. It is also the quality of the provision and not pure numbers that is important- it is about making a real difference rather than meeting numbers.</p> <p>Travellers are by very nature transient and are a difficult group to quantify.</p> <p>The children, young people and parents that do attend will really benefit from the quality of provision and will have had quality time given to them.</p> <p>It is also anticipated that through the work of the bus, people will be able to access and engage with other agencies and organisations appropriate to their needs. This will either be because of information available on the bus, or because the organisations/agencies are able to offer services directly into the communities alongside the provision being delivered by the Community Bus Partners.</p>

	See appendix 2 for more details.
Confirm no unfunded commitments from this initiative	<p>Please delete the statement that does not apply: There may be on-going commitments of £ 13,000 per year which is for the running costs of the Community Bus.</p> <p>It is intended that these will be funded by future grants/funding bids from other sources on an ongoing basis. Each Partner Organisation will have achieved funding to run their own programme of events.</p>
What are the key risks to success and how will these be managed?	<p>Partner organisations don't achieve the funding required to run their programmes</p> <p>The Bus is 'off the road for maintenance' -hence the need for the maintenance budget and regular servicing</p> <p>Very rarely not being able to run an activity due to inclement weather.</p> <p>These risks will be managed by the Southern Area Community Bus Committee through Partnership working and Partnership applications for funding to various bodies.</p> <p>As this is a partnership between the voluntary and the statutory sector, each individual partner may make applications on behalf of the partnership, or the partnership may make a bid as a whole, depending on the terms of the funding body to which an application is being made.</p>
Who will manage the initiative	' Southern Area Community Bus Committee'

Signed:

Chairman of Area Board

Dated:

Ref SSE 4311 Salisbury Play bus

As requested please find attached a drawing detailing a conceptual layout of the proposed Play bus Layout. Please have a look at the drawing and let us know your feedback regarding it layout.

Estimated figure for the entire conversion;

Price.....£76,500.00 + VAT

(Seventy Six Thousand Five Hundred Pounds)

This cost includes;

- All seating and furniture purposed built by Spectra
- Full Split System Air-Conditioning to both levels
- On-board Generator & Generator radiator
- Kitchen with all plumbing
- Electrical system and data socket and lighting
- On-board ducted Heater to both levels
- Toilet and wash area with plumbing
- Fresh water tanks with grey waste tank
- Vehicle internal Finishing to customers choice, i.e. walls ceiling and flooring.

I hope this helps you progress with the project, if we can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact Andrew Peace or myself.

Look forward to your response.

Best regards

RICH HAYES

TECHNICAL SALES MANAGER

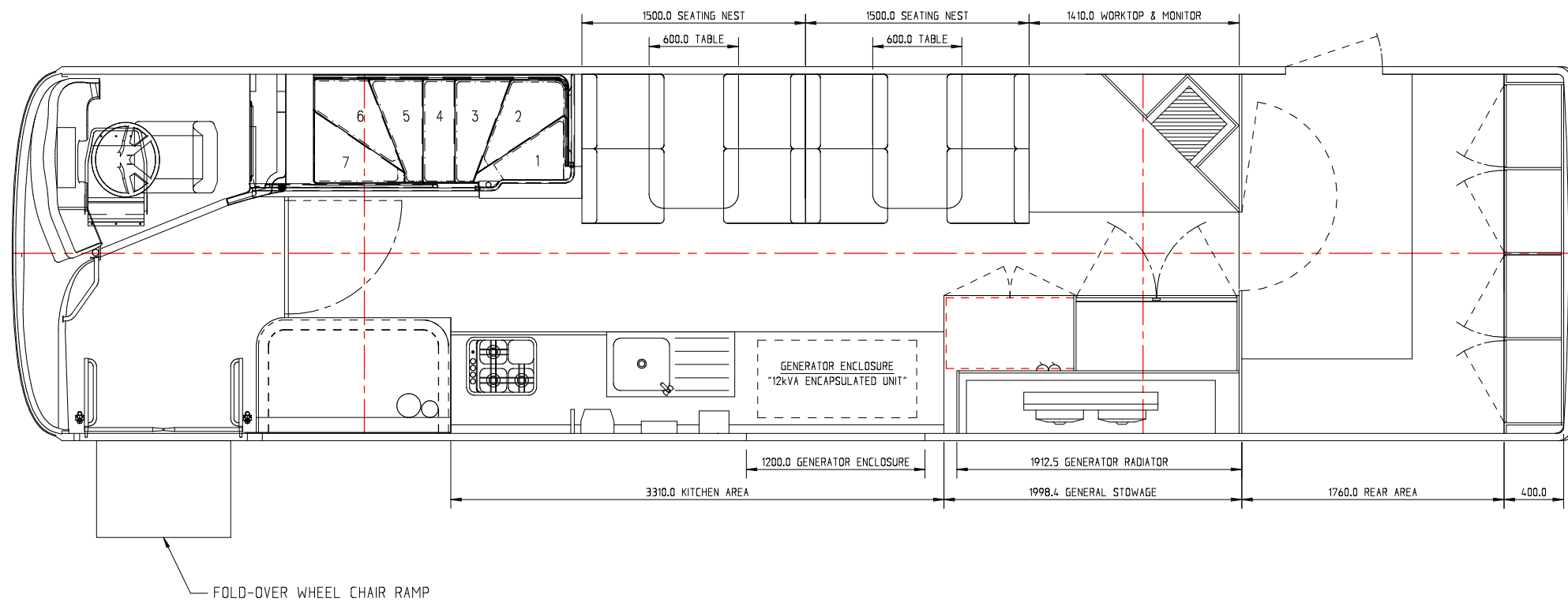
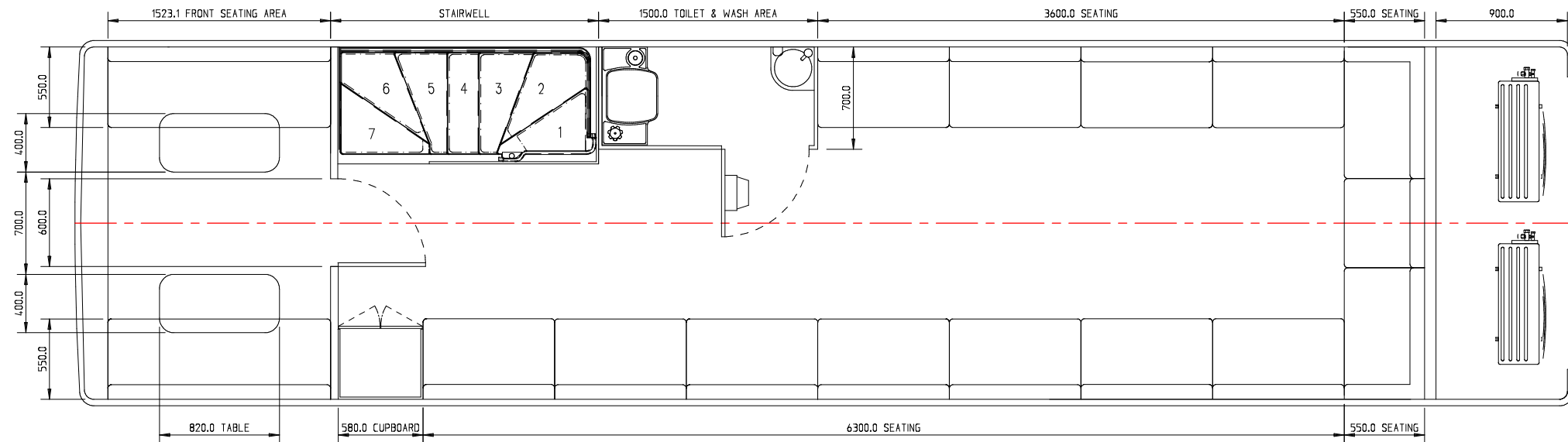
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**DO NOT SCALE
IF IN DOUBT ASK**

THIRD ANGLE PROJECTION

This drawing contains confidential information of a proprietary nature to SPECTRA SPECIALIST ENGINEERING LIMITED. Reproduction, transmission or use for any purpose without the express written consent of SPECTRA SPECIALIST ENGINEERING LIMITED is prohibited.

MATERIAL

FINISH

SIGNATURE	DATE
DRAWN BY RICHARD HAYES	13.11.09
CHECKED BY	
SITE LINK ROAD	
MODIFIED	13.11.09
MOD.	ISSUE

SPECTRA SPECIALIST ENGINEERING		LINK ROAD WEST WILTS TRADING ESTATE WESTBURY, WILTS. BA13 4JB
SALISBURY PLAYBUS DOUBLE DECKER PLAY BUS PLAN CONCEPTUAL VIEWS		
SIZE A1	DRG.No. SSE431100A	
SCALE 1 : 20	SHEET 1 OF 1	

Appendix 2 – Achieving Ambitions

A. Building resilient communities

- **Improve the way Wiltshire organisations work together to plan and deliver services in the local community**

The 'Community Bus' would bring together partnership working with Shine, Development Service for Young People, Children's Centres, and other Wiltshire Council organisations/departments to provide a comprehensive service from baby to the elderly. These would include PCT, Parish Councils, Action for Children etc.

A 'Community Bus Partnership Committee' would oversee the planning and day to day running of the bus, with the different organisations providing the services in conjunction with each other.

1. The bus would be used by 'Shine' as follows:

- during the mornings and early afternoons to provide parent/toddler sessions in conjunction with Children's Centres
- during the mornings and early afternoons to provide Community 'drop-ins' (rurally isolated and elderly who are not near a village hall)
- after – school programme as currently provided by the 'Shine Playbus'
- holiday programme as currently provided by the 'Shine Playbus'

('Shine' currently works with children and families on Traveller Sites and other rurally isolated areas in the Southern area (Partridge Way at Old Sarum). The isolation of Travellers and their health and education needs are well documented and there are no play facilities for Traveller children on the sites in South Wiltshire – see Appendix 1 for details of Shine current activities)

2. The bus would be used by the Development Service for Young People as follows

- evening and weekend youth activities
- holiday programmes and activities for young people

(The Development Service for Young People is currently delivering weekly provision in Old Sarum, Alderbury, Woodfalls and Downton)

3. This bus could be used in partnership with other organisations to provide:

- health sessions with PCT staff, including healthy eating, and various other activities to promote public services.
- a 'resource library' where information on many services would be available eg. housing, debt, money management, children's services, health etc. and anyone requiring specialist services could be signposted to other organisations.

4. The Community Bus would be available to Wiltshire Council departments for 'road shows', information sessions, events etc. and would also be available to other organisations holding events, so that public awareness and access to services was highlighted eg Police, PCT, Parish Councils, Southern Area Board etc.

Overall, due to the unique nature of the community area, a mobile provision would be very effective in reducing barriers to services the community.

- **Help young people to succeed at school and take part in positive activities**

- games and activities are planned which develop skills such as decision making, team building, leadership and problem solving

- young people are encouraged and enabled to take responsibility for planning and developing the programme of activities which develops their self esteem

- young people are encouraged to participate more in school , college and other local activities, encouraging independence and achievement.

- positive role models of the Playworkers and Youth Workers encourages children and young people to have aspirations for their future.

- access to computers and the internet (which most children do not have available to them at home) helps expand their knowledge and enables the children and young people to research other facilities and programmes available.

Adults

Adults/parents would be able to ask for advice on a range of children's issues aimed at encouraging their children.

B.Lives not services -

- **Provide strong foundations for children and young people's development**

- children and young people are encouraged to have fun in everything they do.

- the range of activities enables children and young people to have a wider choice and more control over the activities they engage with. This encourages independence and their sense of self esteem.

- children and young people are encouraged to try new activities and be creative which encourages social development, self esteem and increases confidence in their ability when they achieve something they didn't think they could do. The creative aspects to their play/activities helps to improve their thinking skills and capacity to learn.

- children are encouraged to take part in active story telling which will encourage their active play and imagination. This leads to confidence to feel they can achieve things they might otherwise think they can't.

- young people are encouraged and enabled to take an active part in decision making, both in terms of what goes on during a youth work session and also at a wider level through participating in the CAYPIG (Community Area Young People's Issues Group) WAY (Wiltshire Assembly of Youth) and engaging where appropriate in public meetings such as Parish Councils and the Area Board.

- the 'on board library' encourages children to read and take books home, which improves their ability to read and encourages achievement, again improving their capacity to enjoy, learn and achieve

- through playing board games, taking part in team games and socially interacting in a (light handed) supervised environment the children acquire greater social skills and respect for others
- the children and young people are told about other recreation facilities and programmes which are accessible to them and they are encouraged to take up sports.
- the workers on the bus provide positive role models for the children and young people and they feel able to talk to them during play and activities which will promote knowledge and understanding.
- 'messy play' is encouraged (outside in the gazebo) which will allow children to test boundaries, and develop as well as being enjoyable as they are not generally allowed to have 'messy play' at home.
- parents see happier children and are also able to benefit from their children playing together with other children

- **Enabling people to improve their long term health and wellbeing**

Children and Young People

- the range of indoor and outdoor activities contributes to the physical, mental and emotional health of the children and young people which improves and develops their general well-being.
- children and young people are encouraged to make healthy choices in their lives which includes making available details of clubs and organisations which can offer positive activities and ensuring that information is available on the bus covering a wide range of issues which can affect well being
- activities include promoting a healthy lifestyle eg. healthy cooking which children and young people get to take home
- at holiday club fresh fruit, fruit juice and water are provided, with water provided at the after- school activities.

Adults

- Shine works with parents and families on Adult Learners Week in partnership with the Traveller Education Service using the bus to provide a range of activities/information on healthy eating, budgeting, health services etc.
- 'Social Wellbeing' would be greatly enhanced for parents attending stay'n'play as a social network and advice about parenting
- Elderly/lonely 'drop-in's would add to the vital socialising for this group, as families are fragmented nowadays. A great deal of information and help/signposting would be able to take place, with links to Social Services/Age Concern if necessary
- PCT could use the bus to run health awareness days/campaigns and could also visit the parent/toddler sessions and discuss a variety of topics eg. breastfeeding, parenting etc.
- The 'signposting' and resource aspect of the community bus would have a variety of leaflets re health matters and healthy eating

C.Safer Communities

- **To improve the street scene and reduce crime and anti-social behaviour**

Children and Young People

The Community Bus will enable children and young people to have somewhere to play, engage in positive activities and socialise in a supervised and organised way which will reduce the risk of anti-social behaviour which can result from them having nothing to do and nowhere to go.

As appropriate to need, the programmes being delivered through the community bus will give children and young people the opportunity to think about anti-social behaviour and crime, the effect that it has on them and others (both as possible victims and as possible perpetrators) and how they can choose to respond to this.

Again, as appropriate to need, children and young people will be encouraged to think about how the community in which they live looks, and explore how they can contribute to making appropriate improvements.

The programmes offered by the community bus will ensure that the children and young people have the opportunity to engage with positive activities and develop hobbies and interests which they can continue with outside of the provision of the community bus.

Adults working on the Community Bus will be positive role models to the children and young people.

In the Holiday Programme children are encouraged to play in their natural outdoor environment but in a constructive way, instead of destructive - learning about their environment and others who live there.

Police Community Safety Officers (PCSO's) are encouraged to visit the Shine Play Activites and get to know the children, so that the children will begin to trust them in the good times, and will hopefully talk to them for help in any bad times.

Shine Community Playbus



Introduction

'Shine' in the Community is the Community Initiative of Salisbury Baptist Church and has been providing a Childrens Play and After- School Programme since 20005 in the Southern Area.

Since 1996 we have had our own 'Shine' Community PlayBus – (an ex Wiltshire Library Van) which provides activities in several locations in the Southern Area to children living in communities which are socially and economically excluded and who are most disadvantaged as a result. The focus of this work are 'disadvantaged' children and families in the area with the the local Gypsy and Traveller Sites being specifically targeted for provision as the children on these sites suffer from many facets of exclusion and deprivation, including play facilities.

The Playbus activities are provided through After-School and Holiday Programmes. 'After - School' sessions run each week each week in the various locations, providing play and activities in a safe and friendly environment where children are encouraged to have fun, play and be creative. A varied range of play and craft activites are available including indoor and outdoor games, puzzles, arts and crafts, toys, a library and a computers with internet access. The bus is staffed by experienced play workers and volunteers who oversee and encourage free play, and children are encouraged to play outside as well as using the inside of the bus – most of all the children are encouraged to have fun! Holiday Programmes also take place in the same locations in August each year.

The main age range of children currently attending is 4 -13, although activities are available for all ages - with younger children being accompanied by a parent or elder brothers and sisters. The programme and activities are extremely flexible and responsive to need, as required by the Travelling Population.

The Playbus is free to use, children can come and go as they please and they have free choice of what play and activities they participate in. Children and their families are regularly consulted on the programme provision and activities.

Children, young people and their families and other members of the communities benefit from the project.

Parents are encouraged to be involved with activities on the Playbus and if needs arise they can be signposted to childrens services, health services, housing advices etc. where appropriate.

Locations

The Shine Bus currently operates on 4 afternoons weekly providing 6 sessions as follows:

Mondays – Tisbury 3.15pm – 6pm – 2 session for different age groups

Tuesdays – Oak Tree Fields/ Transit Site and/or Dairy House Bridge 2pm – 5pm

Wednesdays – Lode Hill – 3.00pm – 5pm

Thursdays – Partridge Way 3.15pm – 6pm - 2 sessions for different age groups

Oaktree Fields (Odstock), Lode Hill (Downton) and Dairy House Bridge(Salisbury) are permanent Traveller Sites around Salisbury with no play facilities and children play in very unsafe and dangerous conditions.

The 'Transit' Site situated on the Odstock Site enables 'Transient' Travellers to stay for up to 28 days - and has no play facilities for children- most of whom are also not attending school and are living in very small caravans with many siblings. Children have very few toys or anything to occupy their days and even older children are very often not literate.

Partridge Way is a Social Housing Estate in close proximity to Salisbury City, being 3 miles from the city centre, but is one of the poorest areas and suffers from multiple factors of deprivation. Many of the families are single parent families with problems. There is no infrastructure other than housing and a small play area and public transport is limited and costly.

Whilst there are many children living on the estate there is no community centre or any activities for them. There are several 'settled' Traveller families living here, some suffering from various aspects of discrimination.

Tisbury is a rural area that particularly suffers from social and economic isolation and has several indices of deprivation.

We currently have an average attendance of 45 – 50 children attending weekly.

Partnership working

The Shine Community Bus currently works in Partnership with the Traveller Education Service, Action for Children/Childrens Centres and The Bridge to provide the activities.

Way Forward

The 'Shine' Community Bus is limited as to the activities we can offer due to the size and the age of the vehicle. Ideally a newer 2nd hand double decker bus would allow activities for young children and parents at the same time – tots upstairs and mums downstairs covering parenting, healthy eating etc.

A partnership approach makes sense, as the vehicle could be used to its maximum – used in mornings for pre-schoolers and the elderly, afternoons for younger school children at the after- school activities and the evenings for youth. Other partner organisations and Wiltshire departments would be able to use the vehicle for a variety of uses at any other time.