

 Executive Committee – 19th June 2013		Agenda Item No. 10
Title	SAFE Project in Brunswick and Willes Wards	
For further information about this report please contact	Andrew Jones Andrew.jones@warwickdc.gov.uk (01926) 456830	
Wards of the District directly affected	Brunswick & Willes	
Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?	No	
Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number	N/A	
Background Papers	N/A	

Contrary to the policy framework:	No
Contrary to the budgetary framework:	No
Key Decision?	No
Included within the Forward Plan?	Yes
Equality & Sustainability Impact Assessment Undertaken	N/A

Officer/Councillor Approval		
Officer Approval	Date	Name
Chief Executive	22 nd May 2013	Chris Elliott
Deputy Chief Executive & Monitoring Officer	7 th May 2013	Author
CMT	28 th May 2013	Chris Elliott Bill Hunt Andrew Jones
Section 151 Officer	28 th May 2013	Mike Snow
Head of Service	28 th May 2013	Susie Drummond
Portfolio Holder	28 th May 2013	CouncillorsDoody & Mrs Grainger
Consultation & Community Engagement		
Final Decision?		Yes
Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)		

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 The report seeks Executive support for a project being run by Warwickshire Association of Youth Clubs (WAYC) and a financial contribution for the current financial year.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Executive supports the SAFE project in Brunswick and Willes wards which is being managed by WAYC.
- 2.2 That Executive notes that WAYC has secured £196,980 Big Lottery funding towards the project and has to raise a further £45,000.
- 2.3 That subject to agreeing recommendation 2.1, Executive agrees up to £8,000 being made available from the Contingency Budget for the financial year 2013/14, with a review taking place at the end of 2013/14 to determine whether further contributions should be made.

3. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 In December of 2012, the Chief Executive of WAYC (Mr William Clemmey) approached this Council's Leader to ascertain whether Warwick District Council would be prepared to support the SAFE (Socialising - Activities - Fun - Entertaining) project which had secured funding from the Big Lottery of £196,980. Mr Clemmey advised the Leader that in order to deliver the project he needed to raise a further £45,000 and that already for year one of the project WAYC had secured the following match-funding:
- Leamington Spa Town Council - £1920 (specifically to mentor NEETS)
 - AlkoKober - £500
 - Warwickshire County Council - £1600 (towards a residential and summer activities)
 - The Holly Ball - £300
 - WAYC Dinner and Auction - £680
 - Always a Chance (local charitable trust) - £2000
- 3.2 The aforementioned contributions total £7,000 leaving an annual deficit of £8,000 to be raised from elsewhere, hence the request to Warwick District Council. WAYC is hopeful that for years two and three of the project similar contributions will be forthcoming from Town Council, Warwickshire County Council and Always a Chance. However, Mr Clemmey will also be approaching the following organisations:
- The Anthony Bourne Foundation
 - The Wright Hassell Charitable Trust
 - John Henderson McGregor Charitable Trust
 - Sport England Sportivate
 - SITA Trust
 - The Norton Foundation

3.3 In Mr Clemmey' s words:

"The SAFE youth project enables us to offer extended activities and support to young people in Brunswick and Willes wards through an integrated and holistic approach which gives us the time to work with them through their issues and support them to come up with solutions. It enables them to access training and development opportunities to improve their life skills, have better chances in life, and achieve positive destinations." (Full details of the project can be found at Section 7 to this report).

3.4 Councillor Doody advised Mr Clemmey that in principle he was very supportive of the scheme and proposed an approach to match funding that he considered might be acceptable to his Executive colleagues. Councillor Doody did advise, however, that it was ultimately a decision for the Council's Executive and not one he could make unilaterally.

3.5 Members will appreciate that the request from WAYC does not accord with the commissioning approach the Council has taken with regard to Voluntary and Community Sector services. This Council has tried to move away from large grants preferring to have in place more robust contractual arrangements. However, this should not mean that a one-size-fits-all approach should be doggedly adhered to. There will be circumstances when opportunities present themselves which merit Council support particularly where this helps to lever-in significant external financial contributions.

4. **POLICY FRAMEOWRK**

4.1 This Council has endorsed the Sustainable Community Strategy for Warwick District within which a key objective is to support targeted geographic areas which includes Brunswick.

5. **BUDGETARY FRAMEWORK**

5.1 Should Executive agree to match fund the projectfor the first year, then £8,000could be drawn down from the Contingency Budget for which the detailed balance is shown within Appendix N of the Final Accounts report to this meeting.

6. **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

6.1 Executive could decide not to support the SAFE project.

7. **BACKGROUND**

7.1 The SAFE project is an acronym from the words, "Socialising - Activities - Fun – Entertaining" and was named by the young people who are hoping to be part of the project. On-going consultation with young people demonstrated they want to get involved with more activities in their locality estate. A focus group with NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) young people revealed a desire to take part in activities during the daytime rather than sitting at home, a need for help with English and Maths so that they can get a job, and careers guidance and practical help with finding a job.

- 7.2 A focal point for the local community is Westbury youth club which is now open on Monday and Tuesday nights. Over the past eighteen months, membership has risen from 20 to 119 young people. 86 of these are aged 11-14, and 33 aged 15-19. 29 have already been involved in some form of criminal activity and two have anti-social behaviour orders. Five have been homeless, 'bed hopping' between friends' houses. One of the young people was hospitalised due to poor diet and excessive alcohol consumption.
- 7.3 WAYC youth workers have identified three groups of young people who need the extra support the SAFE project is offering:
- 11-14 year olds who socialise with older young people and so are exposed to inappropriate and risky behaviours. There is a need for regular, targeted activities for this group to build up relationships with them and distract them from getting into trouble.
 - Young people who can be identified as 'at risk'. WAYC workers have identified 21 young people who are showing early signs of failing, such as reduced educational timetables, anti-social behaviour, drugs and alcohol use and minor infringements with local police. They are in need of targeted and individual support to help them address the issues they are facing.
 - 16-21 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET). A significant amount of unstructured time has resulted in extreme apathy, habitual drug and alcohol use and an inability to see any positive future. There are also issues regarding mental well-being, sexual health and housing. A year ago Connexions stated that there were 36 young people in the Brunswick ward recorded as being NEET. Of these 26 (72.2%) were young men and 10 (27.8%) young women. WAYC is aware that many of the young people we work with don't go to Connexions for advice and support.
- 7.4 The aims of SAFE are to:
- provide a holistic, person-centred youth support service for 10-20 year olds on the Brunswick estate so they can overcome disadvantage and alleviate social exclusion;
 - provide a range of training and development opportunities which allow young people to achieve positive outcomes;
 - provide targeted support for young people who are NEET so they can improve their skills and self-esteem, and have a better chance of achieving in life;
 - strengthen and develop relationships with young people on the estate to help them to make positive choices, thus reducing anti-social behaviour incidents and reducing the risk of them getting involved in criminal activities;
 - provide young people with a safe place to go in the daytime, evenings and during the school holidays, of which they have true ownership;
 - support and encourage young and adult volunteers to help with the youth club;
 - provide young people with a 'mentor' who can support them through their difficulties and help them make a positive transition into adulthood;
 - give young people a sense of responsibility within their local community;
 - develop a network of agencies who would offer services from the centre to support the young people directly with some of the issues they face.

7.5 SAFE has the following outcomes:

Outcome 1	100 young people a year will access professional youth worker support and opportunities for development in order to build up skills, confidence and self-esteem so that they can achieve in life
Outcome 2	25 young people a year will achieve accreditation and will have increased qualifications which will help them gain jobs or further training or education
Outcome 3	20 young people a year who are NEET or 'at risk' will receive targeted support with their issues and be moved towards a positive destination, such as a job, training, education or volunteering
Outcome 4	40 young people a year will participate in targeted activities which will reduce risky behaviours, and increase health and well-being.