

 <b>EXECUTIVE – 15<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2008</b>		<b>Agenda Item No.</b>
<b>Title: NARROWING THE GAP SPENDING PLAN FOR WARWICK DISTRICT 2008/09</b>		
<b>For further information about this report please contact</b>	Liz Young <a href="mailto:Liz.young@warwickdc.gov.uk">Liz.young@warwickdc.gov.uk</a> Tel: 01926 456019	
<b>Service Area</b>	Community Partnership Team	
<b>Wards of the District directly affected</b>	All	
<b>Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006</b>	No	
<b>Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number</b>	N/A	
<b>Background Papers</b>	None	

<b>Contrary to the policy framework:</b>	No
<b>Contrary to the budgetary framework:</b>	No
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No
<b>Included within the Forward Plan? (If yes include reference number)</b>	No

<b>Officer/Councillor Approval</b>		
With regard to officer approval all reports <u>must</u> be approved by the report authors relevant director, Finance, Legal Services and the relevant Portfolio Holder(s).		
<b>Officer Approval</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>
Relevant Director	24.09.08	Chris Elliott
Chief Executive		
CMT	25.09.08	
Section 151 Officer	24.09.08	Mary Hawkins
Legal	24.09.08	Simon Best
Finance	24.09.08	Mike Snow
Portfolio Holder(s)	29.09.08	Cllr Felicity Bunker
<b>Consultation Undertaken</b>		
Meetings with project lead agencies and WPEG		
<b>Final Decision?</b>		No
<b>Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)</b>		

## **1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1. The Public Service Board (PSB) at its meeting on 13th March, 2008 agreed that £100,000 be allocated to the Warwick Partnership Executive Group (WPEG), the core group for the Warwick LSP, for 2008/09 in respect of the Narrowing the Gap bid, subject to approval, by the PSB, of a spending plan.
- 1.2 The Community Partnership Team was tasked by WPEG with producing the spending plan in consultation with key partners including the voluntary and community sector.
- 1.3 Bids were invited which met 3 priority areas
  - Maximisation of income and skills development opportunities
  - Health inequalities
  - Affordable housing
- 1.4 WPEG approved the draft Spending Plan on 25<sup>th</sup> July 08 and it was subsequently passed by the Public Service Board on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 08.

## **2. RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 Members are asked to note the Narrowing the Gap Spending Plan and Summary (Appendices 1 & 2).

## **3. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 WPEG believe that the projects within the Spending Plan will provide the knowledge, skills, and desire to create sustainable communities within Warwick District's deprived communities.
- 3.2 The actual delivery of the Spending Plan will contribute to the following:
  - Improving the general health and wellbeing of those vulnerable communities.
  - Ensuring that resources for skills development, capacity building and community empowerment are made available and are in the medium and long term integrated into the core budgets and activities of all major programmes;
  - Raising the knowledge, awareness and understanding of the agenda across all sections of the population, but especially those vulnerable areas which will benefit from training and learning programmes;
  - Acting as champions to inspire and motivate others, both individuals and agencies to contribute through the professions and the community;
  - Encouraging collaborative working to ensure shared values and capabilities;
  - Ensuring our key areas of deprivation are provided with the dimensions for growth and to ensure that they move from being dependent on interventions and activities of agencies to being interdependent.

## **4. ALTERNATIVE OPTION CONSIDERED**

- 4.1 In the absence of the Narrowing the Gap funding it is unlikely that the projects would go ahead in this financial year.

## **5. BUDGETARY FRAMEWORK**

- 5.1 This is a one year allocation to be spent in line with the profile of the Spending Plan.

- 5.2 Following approval by the PSB on 22<sup>nd</sup> September, the £100,000 will be transferred in installments by WCC (as that is how they receive the grant from Government) and will sit within the Community Partnership Team's budget.
- 5.3 The Community Partnership Team will then be responsible for allocating and performance managing the grants to the various projects and for reporting progress on outcomes to both WPEG and the PSB.

## **6. POLICY FRAMEWORK**

- 6.1 The Narrowing the Gap agenda, which is one of three over-arching themes of the Warwickshire Local Area Agreement and has been defined as 'Reducing differences across the County in terms of achievement, opportunity and quality of life'.
- 6.2 Projects in the Spending Plan must demonstrate that they contribute to one or more of the 15 indicators in the new Local Area Agreement.
- 6.3 Projects should also support the strategic framework of the new Warwick District Sustainable Community Strategy.

## **7. BACKGROUND**

### **Narrowing the Gap Funding Arrangements 08/09 Process adopted in Warwick District**

'Narrowing the Gap' has been defined by the Public Service Board as 'reducing differences across the County in terms of achievement, opportunity and quality of life'.

£100,000 has been allocated by the Public Service Board to each LSP (£400,000 for Nuneaton and Bedworth) as a one year one off (at this stage) contribution to support Narrowing the Gap activity. District Councils will be responsible for administering this funding, and it must be allocated by the end of the financial year.

Based on analysis of the State of Warwick report commissioned by Warwick District Council in 2007, Index of Multiple Deprivation statistics and recent PCT health research, the following key gaps have been identified as the most significant in the Warwick District:

- Average weekly incomes are high and the gap between high and low is increasing
- The district has one of the most skilled populations in the country, so for those that have no skills, the gap is wide
- The average house price in the district is almost £250k – more than the national, regional and sub-regional average by some considerable margin
- The district has one of the most healthy populations in the country, so for those who suffer ill health, the gap is wide

The priority areas for Narrowing the Gap funding have therefore been identified as:

1. Initiatives to offer people with no skills opportunities to develop them via access to training, and initiatives to help maximise the income of those whose incomes are the lowest
2. Initiatives to support the provision of affordable housing for people on low incomes
3. Initiatives to tackle health inequalities

It is proposed that the following lead officers should be asked to bring together task and finish groups to develop funding proposals, based preferably on extending existing initiatives either in the statutory or voluntary sectors:

- a) Ray Smith, WDC - economy/income
- b) Alison Simmons, Head of Housing Strategy, WDC – affordable housing
- c) Deb Saunders, PCT/CAVA – health inequalities

These task and finish groups should include current members of LSP theme groups as appropriate, and also other key contributors, including those voluntary and community sector organisations who currently receive grant funding from the District or County Councils that relate to projects linked to the above 3 priorities. In addition, these groups should include 'front line' community development worker input.

### **Criteria for funding proposals:**

- proposals must demonstrate how projects will narrow the gap within the three priority areas stated above
- funding proposals should ideally be based on extending or improving the reach of existing initiatives either in the statutory or voluntary sectors
- proposals should demonstrate a partnership approach, and show how other sources of funding will support the projects/how the funding can be used to lever in additional resources
- spending proposals can be for 12 months to 3 years duration (but funding is only currently available for 08/09 only)
- proposed projects must demonstrate how they will help to achieve Community Strategy/LAA outcomes
- proposed projects must demonstrate how they will either:
  - address gaps/issues affecting geographical communities, and/or
  - address gaps/issues affecting communities of interest no matter where people may live
- proposals must demonstrate a satisfactory exit strategy, highlighting how the project may influence the 'bending' of mainstream resources to continue to 'narrow the gap' in future years
- There should be a balance in the spending plan between meeting the needs of urban and rural areas
- Reporting arrangements will be quarterly to WPEG, in line with existing LAA arrangements

- within the £100k available, there should be no restriction on the amount of funding available for each priority area - WPEG will make recommendations on the funding proposals it considers appropriate

**Timescale:**

- a) Identify and brief lead officers by 23rd May
- b) Lead officers to convene task and finish groups by 16th June
- c) Funding proposals to be submitted to Community Partnership Team by 7th July
- d) Funding proposals to be submitted for advance consideration to WPEG members by 14th July
- e) WPEG meets to consider draft spending plan on 25<sup>th</sup> July
- f) WPEG submits final spending plan to PSB by 12<sup>th</sup> September
- g) PSB considers spending plan on 22<sup>nd</sup> September

**Warwick Local Strategic Partnership – Narrowing the Gap Spending Plan  
September 2008**

Project Priority Order	£	Process	Targets Set	Lead Org. & Person	Est. Start and finish	Associated Risks	Links to PSB 16 indicators and other key areas	Outcomes
<b>COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE OFFICER MATCH FUNDING</b>	£33,059 over two years	Appointment of a 0.5 FTE Community Enterprise Officer for Warwick District. Match funding already secured from Advantage West Midlands for a two-year post for Brunswick / Old Town	Annual figures (no. people): Accessing Business Link training modules: 10 Attending events focused on enterprise creation: 50 Attending events designed to promote and improve understanding of social enterprise: 20 Young people accessing the project: 15 Women: 15 BME: 15	Warwick District Council; Ray Smith Business Development Co-ordinator and WDC Enterprise Team	Jan 2009 – Dec 2010	Risk that the additional post does not secure funding for Years 3 and 4; while WDC have confirmed that the Brunswick post will be funded for this period, additional external funding would have to be sought for the second post in Years 3 & 4	Warwickshire LAA Economic Development & Enterprise Theme. Integrated employment & skills support. NI152 Working age people on out of work benefits; NI166 Average earnings of employees in the area	Creation of an “enterprise culture” among targeted communities – in Leamington, Brunswick and Lillington wards, also Warwick North and West wards. Take up of business training; increased awareness of social enterprise as a business model; creation of social enterprises within the targeted communities

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<b>HYBRID ARTS – ACCESS TO TRAINING AND INCOME MAXIMISATION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE</b>	£30, 000	<p>The project targets excluded young people, some in danger of receiving ASBOs. It seeks to divert these youngsters away from offending due to boredom through creative musical activities and training.</p> <p>It will provide a daytime drop in and structured evening sessions. It will deliver structured and accredited training to young people with artists working in creative industries. Trainees will undertake NVQs in music, interactive media and enterprise development. Participants will be drawn from a district wide area with the focus on the more deprived wards.</p>	<p>Short term aim – to give young people a safe, constructive environment in which to develop</p> <p>Medium term aim – to give young people the opportunity of progressing into enterprise activity, peer support and volunteering involving inter-generational community projects</p> <p>Specific targets:  Numbers of young people attending over the course of the project  50 aged 11 – 16 yrs  10 aged 17 – 18 yrs  5 aged 19 – 25 yrs</p>	Stella Carr, Hybrid Arts	Oct 08 – Mar 09	<p>Continuation funding – aiming to build up local charity relationships e.g. Higgs Charity where enterprise and young people is an area of specialism</p> <p>Link in with Early Intervention Teams as possible source of ongoing funding basing it on success of project</p> <p>Other possible risks identified are –</p>	<p>School leaver destinations</p> <p>Lack of qualifications</p> <p>NVQ4 or above</p> <p>Job seekers allowance claimants</p> <p>Dealing with concerns regarding anti social behaviour</p>	<p>People from different backgrounds getting on well together... breaking down territorial barriers and building respect</p> <p>Work towards Continuous Assessment Framework principles for the most extreme cases e.g. self harm</p> <p>Stronger links and collaboration with police and health</p> <p>Increased number of young people and adults volunteering</p> <p>Improved access to training, skills enhancement</p>

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			<p>5 aged 9 – 11 yrs</p> <p>15 young people to gain nationally recognised accredited unit in events management, financial literacy, marketing music or web design</p> <p>Engage 3 peer mentors and an additional 3 young people go on to set up their own activities.</p> <p>15 adults continue to remain involved in project</p> <p>Audiences attending the community celebration events up to 160 people of all ages x 4 events per year</p>			<p>young people don't attend</p> <p>Parents don't engage in project</p> <p>Young people attend but don't obtain qualifications and don't progress</p> <p>Failure to buy in enough specialist staff to deal with numbers attending</p>		<p>through technology and therefore increase in employment opportunities</p> <p>Mutually beneficial joint working arrangements with Community Enterprise Worker Programme</p>



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<b>SWIMMING LESSONS FOR ASIAN LADIES</b>	<p>£1902 per term</p> <p>Breakdown Lessons £688.00 per term</p> <p>Teachers £164.00 per term</p> <p>Transport £300.00</p> <p>Management of project £750.00</p>	Programme for 10 participants initially to be run by WDC but managed and developed by Brunswick Healthy Living centre as part of a new physical activity post	<p>To re-establish a 'learn to swim' scheme for women from the BME community.</p> <p>To encourage regular physical activity in a sector of the community that has been identified as at greater risk of Type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular problems and obesity.</p>	<p><b>Mark Croston</b> <b>Cultural development and Strategy Manager WDC</b></p> <p><b>Brunswick Healthy Living Centre</b></p>	Oct 2008 – April 2009	<p>To address underlying issues for Type 2 Diabetes in this population</p>	<p>Reducing Health Inequalities (priority 1)</p> <p>Creating opportunities for everyone to enjoy and participate in sport the arts and cultural activities</p> <p>PSA target to halt the year on year increase in obesity by 2010</p> <p>Half and hour of physical activity five times a week LAA target</p>	This scheme is based on a successful project which ran in the district and enabled women from the BME community to access physical activity in a culturally sensitive way.
<b>PARISH PLANNING AND RURAL ENABLING</b>	<p>£10, 275</p> <p>for 1 – 3 years</p> <p>Funding would allow a full and comprehensive service</p>	Provide support, advice and information to parishes across the district to assist in addressing local issues including the implementation of their action plans dealing with	<p>3 housing needs surveys undertaken</p> <p>3 parish plans commenced</p>	<p>WRCC</p> <p>Kay Wilson</p>	Sept 08-aug 09	<p>Main risk no continuation funding is secured.</p> <p>Additional risks are - Lack of volunteers willing to</p>	<p>Empowerment</p> <p>Helps to achieve NI 155, 141, 4</p>	Parish plans allow communities to take the lead in determining what their needs and aspirations are and how they would

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	for WDC for a period of 12 months which would allow Warwicks hire Rural Commun ity Council further time to identify funding to keep the services going after this period	anything from highways to housing.  Identifying housing need via parish planning and housing needs surveys and facilitate the provision of housing through Rural Exception Policy, identification of potential sites and aid in the identification of a Registered Social Landlord who can then bid for funding to develop the scheme				undertake parish plans; Lack of support for housing needs surveys from parish councils  Inability to identify appropriate site where a need is identified.		like to see them delivered. This results in them feeling they are influencing decisions in their locality. Identification of local housing needs allows affordable development on exception sites which will contribute to the housing targets and provide opportunities for families to live together in the same village and build community cohesion.

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<b>HOUSING MEDIATION SERVICE</b>	£13,400	<p>The project will provide a constructive conflict resolution service to those in dispute, including neighbours, parents and their teenagers, parents and schools and between colleagues at work.</p> <p>Referrals will be received for young people facing immediate or future homelessness because of family disputes. Through the provision of a trained, impartial, skilled mediator who understands the issues facing both the parents and the young people, the project will offer a process which helps all involved listen to and understand each others points of view, feelings and needs,</p>	<p>100 cases of young people between the ages of 13 – 25 and their families to access the service annually.</p> <p><b>BASELINES</b>  <b>Over a pilot period of one year, 53 cases were received, 33 % had positive outcomes</b>  Of the people accessing help for parent /teenager disputes, 71% were female.  Significantly, 67% of cases were from female single parent households, 11% male single parents and only 22% were dual parent households.</p>	<p>Alison Simmons, Warwick DC</p> <p>Judith Halliday, Mediation &amp; Community Support Ltd</p>	Jan 2009 – Dec 2009	<p>Continuation funding for future years as awareness of the service grows, which could significantly increase the number of referrals. The nature of some families may mean that longer term support is necessary. Both of the above points will overstretch the planned capacity of the project</p>	<p>NI 1, 4, 6, 21, 50, 69, 71, 87, 110,141 155</p> <p>Access to services</p> <p>Cohesive Communities</p>	<p>Reduction in number of applications for temporary accommodation due to family breakdown in Warwick District. Of the families supported more than half will be single parent families .</p>

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		<p>giving them the opportunity to identify problems and work on them together, finding realistic and workable ways forward.</p> <p>The objectives of mediation in these cases are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reduce conflict within the family and improve mutual understanding and communication;</li> <li>• prevent homelessness by enabling young people to stay within the family home or return home where safe to do so;</li> <li>• allow time and planning for a more supported move out to</li> </ul>						

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		<p>the most appropriate accommodation for young people unable to remain at home;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>maintain or rebuild longer term support networks.</li> </ul>						
<b>TACKLING OBESITY</b>  <b>A solution focused programme involving families with overweight and obese children and young people to help them gain knowledge and skills to embed healthy lifestyle habits and</b>	£11,650	<p>Facilitated 9 week healthy lifestyle sessions involving the whole family.</p> <p>Toolbox of materials to be used on the programme £500.00</p> <p>Venue hire £900.00</p> <p>Food and refreshments £1,350.00</p> <p>Staff costs £7,400.00</p> <p>Monitoring and evaluation £1,500.00</p>	<p>Long-term aim to encourage healthier lifestyle choices and reduce prevalence of obesity in the local population and cardiovascular risk. To help change attitudes to food and food choices in families.</p> <p>To address the underlying issues for Type 2 Diabetes in young people</p> <p>Total number of families benefiting in the first instance - 15</p>	<b>Warks PCT</b> Dr Gordana Djuric (Consultant in Public Health) Deb Saunders (Health Development Manager School Sports Partnership CSW Sport	Feb 2009 – April 2009	<p>Long-term aim to encourage healthier lifestyle choices and reduce prevalence of obesity in the local population and cardiovascular risk. To address the underlying issues for Type 2 Diabetes in young people.</p>	<p>Reducing Health Inequalities (priority 1)</p> <p>PSA target to halt the year on year increase in obesity by 2010</p> <p>Half and hour of physical activity five times a week LAA target</p> <p>5 a day [portions of fruit and veg]</p>	<p>Reduction in overweight &amp; obesity in children and young people</p> <p>Improved general health &amp; emotional wellbeing.</p> <p>Successful families will be recruited and trained with the intention of peer mentoring future cohorts and delivering further</p>

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messages							LAA target	programmes

**WARWICK LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP****Narrowing the Gap Spending Plan – September 2008****Summary**

<b>Project</b>	<b>£</b>
1. Community Enterprise Worker – match funding	33,059
2. Hybrid Arts – Access to training and income maximisation for young people	30,000
3. Swimming lessons for Asian ladies	1,902
4. Parish Planning and Rural Enabling	10,275
5. Housing Mediation Service	13,400
6. Tackling Obesity	11, 650
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100,286</b>



