



**OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE  
SPELTHORNE**

**SELF RELIANCE IN STANWELL**

**24<sup>th</sup> November 2008**

**KEY ISSUE**

To update Members on the progress of the SCC Self Reliance project in Stanwell and to seek approval to spend the remaining monies of the Stanwell self reliance programme.

**SUMMARY**

At the 25<sup>th</sup> September 2006 meeting of the Local Committee it was noted that SCC had designated Stanwell as a SCC Self Reliance area and that £150,000 had been allocated to spend during the years 2006/07, 2007/08 and 2008/09. The Committee agreed that the funding should be used to bolster SCC services working in Stanwell to support children, young people, families and for improving educational attainment. Four main projects were identified and this is the second annual progress report to Members.

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS**

**The Local Committee Spelthorne is asked to agree that:**

- (i) To date the progress of the programme is achieving the desired outcomes.
- (ii) The bid for £24,000 as set out in paragraph be approved.

## 1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 At the 25<sup>th</sup> September 2006 meeting the Local Committee agreed that the Area Director should determine the specific allocation of self reliance funds. Four projects were identified namely (i) Stanwell Neighbourhood Youth Worker £96,000 over three years (ii) Stanwell Mini Bridge Project £14,500 in years 1 and 2 (iii) Seven Up Project £24,000 over three years and (iv) Early Years Intervention Project £14,940 over three years.
- 1.2 An officer Steering Group, chaired by the Local Partnerships Team and comprising the families and children's service, the youth justice service and the youth service monitors the projects and meets approximately three times a year. It was agreed that the Local Committee should receive an annual update on the progress of the projects and last October Members received the first such update. This is the second annual update on progress which briefly covers the information presented to the informal meeting of the Local Committee on 3<sup>rd</sup> November by officers responsible for the different projects.
- 1.3 **Early years Project** - Members may recall that the Local Committee agreed that the Surrey Care Trust could receive the funding of £14, 940 for the Early Years project as this could not in the event be managed by the County's Early Years Service. Staff from Stanwell Fields and Town Farm Schools, Homestart and Stanwell Children's Centre have now received the training by PEEP which covered how to improve language development, and behaviour and self esteem for children and parents. Each service has since introduced the principles in their work and in this early stage there is so far some very positive evidence of how children and parents/carers are benefitting in terms of building self esteem, literacy and numeracy skills and developing parenting skills. The Surrey Care Trust are hopeful in seeing some positive outcomes. A further update report will be made to the Local Committee next year.
- 1.4 **Stanwell Family and Youth Support Worker** – At the informal meeting of the Local Committee Gill Phillips the Community Youth and Neighbourhood Worker gave a presentation on her work citing an anonymised case history of the types of support she is currently giving to Stanwell families. Her caseload is currently 12 families and she works with the youth service, youth justice service, children and families, connexions and housing in particular but other agencies too when seeking support for her clients. To date there is evidence that this work is being successful in supporting families and young people and a proposal below (Para 1.7) suggests that this element of the self reliance programme be expanded.
- 1.5 **Mini Bridge Project** – This has been highly successful in reducing fixed term exclusions and permanent exclusions and in developing parenting

skills and helping children's transition into reception. Owing to the success of the project consideration is now being given corporately to this model being developed across the county.

- 1.6 **Seven Up Project** - The Seven Up project intended to be preventative work to target young people in years 7, 8 and 9 in consistently failing families who regularly appear as non-attenders or child protection issues was set to commence in October 2008 but due to the inability to recruit appropriate staff has not commenced. Despite efforts to alter how this project might be delivered it has not proved possible thus leaving the £24,000 allocated for this unspent.
- 1.7 **Bid – Extension of support to Stanwell Families** - Given the Seven Up Project has not been possible further consideration has been given to how the £24,000 allocated for that project can be used to bolster SCC services to support Stanwell's families and young people. At the informal Local Committee meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> November it was clear that the work undertaken by the Stanwell Family and Youth Support worker was being highly successful in supporting people. It was agreed that consideration be given to how this work might be expanded and a bid has now been received to extend this work through the appointment of a post (or two part time posts) which could work alongside the Worker. The bid is attached for Member' information. It is recommended that this be approved.

## 2 OPTIONS

- 2.1 Two other possible projects were considered for the use of the Stanwell self reliance monies remaining. One was an Art Project based in Stanwell Youth Centre and another was to make a contribution to the Stanwell Fields School Library refurbishment for the purchase of books to help literacy. The bid being proposed for approval in paragraph 1.7 above is being recommended because it will increase the resources to build on what is already being achieved to impact positively on outcomes for Stanwell families.

## 3 CONSULTATIONS

- 3.1 These took place with the Children's and Families service, youth service and youth justice service whilst in the process of devising these projects.

## 4 FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

The Area Director will ensure that the projects achieve value for money and if targets and objectives are not achieved it may be necessary to alter how the self reliance programme is delivered.

## 5 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The projects are aimed at supporting vulnerable people who need support from our services to be able to engage with education and improve opportunities for future employment.

**6 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Whilst not specifically addressed as specific targets for each of the projects there is evidence that some young people who are not able to engage with school etc may become involved in anti-social behaviour.

**7 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 7.1 The progress so far is reasonable.

**8 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.1 To hold the services to account for the use of the self reliance funding for Stanwell.

**9 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT**

- 9.1 The officer Steering Group will meet again in December to review progress and the Local Committee will receive a formal report at their meeting in September/October 2008. If Members agree a presentation to an informal Local Committee meeting in Spring 2008 could be arranged.

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**BACKGROUND PAPERS:** Report to Local Committee 25<sup>th</sup> September 2006