



Lichfield District Board

25th June 2012

Progress Report – Voluntary & Community Sector Projects

INTRODUCTION

In November 2011, the District Board distributed funds totalling £153,500 to local voluntary and community sector organisations delivering against the following priorities:

- Support parenting
- Enable people to live safe, healthy and independent lives in their own homes
- Support carers, both young people and adults
- Reduce the harm caused by alcohol misuse
- Increase learning, training, employment and volunteering opportunities

Applicants were also required to show how their work would benefit the areas of greatest health inequality in the District, these being the wards of:

- Chasetown
- Chadsmead
- Fazeley
- Curborough

A total of twelve grants were awarded, ranging in value from £2,500 to £22,000, and a progress report now follows on the achievements funded.

Note: None of the awards made were for activity to reduce the harm caused by alcohol misuse. The sum of £13,500 has been retained for this priority.

PROJECTS – SMALL GRANTS (UP TO £10,000)

Drop-in Centre for local residents, especially older people and carers

St John's Community Church, Burntwood

This new drop in is now well established, attracting an average attendance of at least 20 people each week, including carers and the cared for. Volunteers have increased from four to ten, and all have received training. A welcome pack containing local information is in production.

Allocated: £2,500
Spent to date: £900
Still to spend: £1,600

Walk for health programme for older people Age UK, South Staffordshire

A total of 723 walk attendances were recorded at the 41 walks provided in the Burntwood/Chasetown area

since the beginning of December 2011. Six local volunteer walk leaders lead walks in the area, including two new recruits, and the programme of walks offered has been extended.

Allocated: £4,000
Spent to date: £2,000
Still to spend: £2,000

Work club at Jigsaw Community Hub North Lichfield Initiative (NLI)

A total of 56 individuals have accessed the work club with 21 of these accessing a range of training; 10 to 14 people attended each training session. Six work club members have gone on into volunteering and three are now in employment.

Allocated: £3,000
Spent to date: £1,934
Still to spend: £1,066

**Support for families with children under five years old (Chadsmead, Chasetown, Curborough)
HomeStart (Lichfield & District)**

The project has supported 26 families through one to one support in their own homes and 36 families through group support.

Allocated: £8,000

Spent to date: £5,020

Still to spend: £2,980

**One to one support to bereaved people of all ages
Cruse Bereavement Care**

Following improved promotion of the services Cruse offers, referrals for one to one support have increased year on year from 14 for April/May 2011 to 50 for the

same period this year – an increase of 254%. Cruse has also successfully recruited and trained 16 new volunteers, bringing the total volunteer team to 40. Volunteers access accredited training in bereavement support. The organisation has increased its stock of literature given out free of charge to the bereaved and has also expanded its library of specialist guidance materials to support volunteers. Cruse is working with St Giles Hospice to develop the services it offers to bereaved young people and a programme of school visits is in preparation.

Allocated: £3,000

Spent/committed to date: £1,950

Still to spend: £1,050

PROJECTS – LARGE GRANTS (OVER £10,000)

**Gardening service for the elderly, provided by learning disabled adults, trained as gardeners
Cherry Orchard Garden Services (COGS)**

A new member of staff has been recruited, selected by the learning disabled gardeners. The number of gardens serviced has increased by 25. One new gardener has been recruited, and four more join shortly. Gardeners are supported through a new, complementary COGS project: Friends2Friends.

Allocated: £20,000

Spent to date: £5,000

Still to spend: £15,000

**Family Support Worker
Pathway Project**

A member of staff was recruited in January, but left the organisation in April; Pathway is now re-recruiting to the post. While the person was in post, ten children and five mothers received intensive support, relationships with local high schools were developed and two healthy eating focused parenting groups were established.

Allocated: £22,000

Spent to date: £6,427

Still to spend: £15,573

**Lichfield Family Justice Centre: establishment of a new “one stop shop” for victims of domestic abuse
Pathway Project**

A lease was secured on the premises and building works completed; it was then fully furnished, with support from Bromford Living and the County Council. The Centre is now operating and will be officially launched in July. A thirty strong partnership in support of the Centre has been established; volunteers are in place and further volunteer recruitment is underway.

A board of trustees has been set up and an application for charitable company status is in progress. The Centre has already attracted media interest at regional and national level.

Allocated: £12,000

Spent to date: £4,000

Still to spend: £8,000

**Support for older people and their carers
Lichfield District & Burntwood Live At Home
Schemes**

Fourteen new volunteers have been recruited and trained and 39 new Live At Home members have been assessed using the “Let’s Work Together” framework and signposted to services accordingly. A new Assistant Manager has been recruited and appointment to a second post is imminent. Activity has focused on Fazeley, Curborough and Hammerwich.

Allocated: £20,000

Spent to date: £9,000

Still to spend: £11,000

Support for families with children under five years old (Fazeley)

HomeStart (Tamworth)

A family group established at Mill Lane Link Community Hub has proved so successful that it has increased to twice weekly sessions. Two local volunteers assist a member of staff to deliver these sessions. The parents attending the family group are being supported to become a self-constituted group so that they can apply for future funding to sustain the activity. Two new home visitor volunteers have been recruited from the Fazeley area, and eight

families are being supported in their own homes, in addition to those attending the group. Fazeley families are also accessing HomeStart's complementary services and activities, including debt and homeless prevention advice. One Fazeley home visitor has achieved NVQ accreditation.

Allocated: £20,000

Spent to date: £4,974

Still to spend: £15,026

Debt advice and prevention, including welfare benefits take up

South East Staffordshire Citizens Advice Bureau

A new project worker was recruited and took up post on 1st April 2012, with a remit to focus on the Fazeley and Chasetown areas; a new volunteer has also been recruited to work alongside this member of staff. One welfare benefits uptake campaign has been conducted to date, through which 60 individuals were contacted and four people received intensive support (including through home visits).

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Allocated: £20,000

Spent to date: £2,200

Still to spend: £17,800

Promoting and developing volunteering; supporting and training volunteers and volunteer involving organisations

Lichfield & District Community & Voluntary Sector Support

New volunteering opportunities have been developed in nine thematic areas (10 different roles). A highly successful Supporting Volunteer Management Training session (12 attendances) resulted in the delivery of four follow up focus sessions on topics raised (26 attendances, from 14 organisations). The project is working closely with local work clubs, to ensure access to volunteering as a route to paid employment.

Allocated: £19,000

Spent to date: £8,432

Still to spend: £10,568