

---

## **Stourbridge Area Committee – 02 September 2009**

### **Report of the Area Liaison Officer**

#### **Capital Allocations**

##### **Purpose of Report**

1. To consider an application for a capital allocation.

##### **Background**

2. The Area Committee has an unallocated capital budget of £50,987.17 for 2009/10, after deducting a £10,000 contribution towards Mary Steven's gates. The unallocated amount also includes the new allocation for 2009/10 of £50,000.
3. The Area Committee has previously agreed that contributions from the budget will be limited to £5,000 unless exceptional circumstances can be demonstrated. Spending proposals are invited from members of the Area Committee, the public, representative organisations and Council directorates, and each proposal is assessed against the following criteria:-
  - (a) The allocation is to be spent on "capital" schemes as defined by legislation, i.e. "one-off" type expenditure on acquisition, construction, enhancement of land, roads, buildings, equipment or vehicles, which may also include the making of grants or loans for capital expenditure by others;
  - (b) For projects with a value of £1,000 or more applications will only be approved if:-
    1. the applicant can demonstrate that they will secure at least 50% of the cost of the project either from their own resources or from some other funding; and
    2. the applicant has not been awarded a capital allocation by the Committee or a grant from the Stevens Trust within the preceding three years.

Except, in either case, in the opinion of the Area Committee, there are special circumstances which would warrant the approval of the application in the public interest.

- (c) Schemes should contribute to the Community Plan and should not conflict with existing Council policy;
  - (d) Schemes should be for the general benefit of the wider community, i.e. not just for the benefit of individuals or specific groups, and should make a difference in the local area;
  - (e) Schemes should not result in any ongoing revenue cost to the Council;
  - (f) Consideration should be given to schemes which might generate external funding (i.e. using the allocation as match-funding);
  - (g) Spending must be in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders and Financial Regulations, and demonstrate Best Value; and
  - (h) Approved allocations must normally be claimed within six months.
4. Application forms and supporting documents can be viewed by Members on request to the Area Liaison Officer.

#### **Application by Barnardo's Time for Me Project**

- 5. The application has been carried forward from the meeting dated Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2009 while more detailed information was requested.
- 6. The application received from Barnardo's Time for Me Project is for a capital allocation of £900 towards a project costing £12,000 as per letter from Barnardo's dated 14<sup>th</sup> January 2009 (the application form quotes a total project cost of £11,500). The Project has applied to each of the 5 Area Committees for an allocation of £900. The applicant has secured funding of £7,500 from Home Serve via a community project competition. The funding is to be used to create a fire escape from the part of the building that the group occupies and to purchase a sink, table and chairs to be used by the groups using the Youth Centre.
- 7. The aim of the organisation is to help and support children and young people of the Borough who are affected by substance misuse in their homes. The project provides one to one support in schools and run weekly group sessions at the Source Youth Centre. This enables the children and young people to have fun and participate in activities that they may not otherwise have the opportunity to do.
- 8. Over half of the children and young people who are supported by the time for me project come from the Stourbridge Area, specifically the Hob Green area.
- 9. The group has submitted a copy of their Income & Expenditure statement for the period ended December 2008. This shows a surplus of income over expenditure of £542.

10. Barnardo's Time for Me Project has not received any allocations from the Committee in the preceding 3 years.
11. Also see Barnardo's Time for Me project briefing document attached as an appendix.

### **Application by Lye & Wollescote Partnership**

12. The application was carried forward from the meeting dated Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June to allow a site visit to be undertaken to the Butterfly Children's Centre at Lye. A site visit subsequently took place on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June.
13. An application has been received from Lye & Wollescote Partnership for a capital allocation of £1,500 to install a "story telling chair" piece of community art to be located on the grounds of the Butterfly Children's Centre. The total cost of the project is identified as £4,500 on the application. Lye & Wollescote Partnership are also submitting an application to Halesowen Area Committee for £850. The balance of the funding for the project has been identified from other sources.
14. The Partnership aims to promote opportunities to the inhabitants of Lye & Wollescote, who may be in hardship due to their social and economic circumstances, through the provision of access to education, training and development opportunities.
15. The statement of accounts provided by the organisation for the period to 12.03.09 shows a balance of £8,395.83.
16. The Group has not received any funding from the Area Committee within the last 3 years.

### **Finance**

17. The Area Committee's delegated budget allocation is funded by the Council's mainstream capital resources. The current position with regard to available resources for 2009/10 is set out in paragraph 2 of this report.

### **Law**

18. Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000, enables the Council to do any thing which it considers is likely to achieve the promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental well being of the Borough or any part of it.

### **Equality Impact**

19. This report complies fully with the Council's policies on equality and diversity.

**Recommendation**

20. It is recommended that the Area Committee consider the applications submitted by Barnardo's Time for Me Project and The Lye & Wollescote Partnership.



.....  
**Mark Wyatt**  
**Area Liaison Officer**

Contact Officer: Mark Wyatt  
Telephone: 01384 814200  
Email: [mark.wyatt@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:mark.wyatt@dudley.gov.uk)

**List of Background Papers:**

1. Barnardo's Time for Me Project briefing document.

## Appendix

### **Barnardo's 'Time for Me' Project The Source Youth Centre (meeting place) Barnett Lane Wordsley**

- £4,500 has been requested as a contribution towards a £12,000 project to convert the disused large attic at The Source Youth Centre into an arts and crafts room.
- Specifically, the capital allocation grant would pay for a fire door/escape from the attic and for a sink, tables and chairs.
- The 'Time for Me' project provides group work, activities and one to one support for currently 45 children and young people (with 13 on the waiting list) aged 8 to 13 years who live in the Borough and who are affected by someone they live with who misuse drugs or alcohol. It allows them to talk about any worries or concerns that they may have, spend some time away from their home lives to have fun and try activities that they would not otherwise have the opportunity to do.
- Concerning the application for consideration by Stourbridge Area Committee, over half of the children and young people who are supported by the Time for Me project live in wards within the Stourbridge area.
- Approximately 419 people meet at The Source each week. These are made up of groups of young people, some with disabilities, who are involved in various groups including Duke of Edinburgh Award groups, a social inclusion project, youth club, Princess Trust, Pathfinders, Round Oak Robins, Rangers Group and Early Interventions.
- Currently, there is no room available where individuals can do arts and crafts and many of the children and young people have said that this is what they would like to do. Some of the children and young people who are from disadvantaged backgrounds express their emotions and problems through art.
- Barnardo's secured £7,500 from Home Serve that will be spent on converting the attic and installing electricity and putting down a new floor and installing a stairway to access the attic.
- The Source is a Council owned building and the refurbishment project has the involvement of Dudley Property Consultancy, Planning and the Youth and Community Team within Children's Services.
- Members' attention was drawn to the awarding criteria against which applications are considered:
- The organisation must be based within or work within any or all of the wards that make up the area of the Brierley Hill Area Committee, so that the beneficiaries are the citizens of those wards. However, where an organisation provides a service to the local community that extends beyond the defined Brierley Hill Area Committee wards, it may apply to other Area Committees for capital allocation.

- The children and young people who benefit from this project live borough wide and, as with similar requests in the past, consideration for funding was made to the other four Area Committees.
- The total amount requested is £4,500 and therefore each Area Committee was asked to consider a £900 contribution, responding as follows:
  - Brierley Hill            Approved
  - North Dudley            Approved
  - Halesowen                Approved
  - Central Dudley            Refused, on the basis that although the project may bring in young people from all over the borough, the 419 children and young people who use the centre are largely from within the boundaries of the Brierley Hill Area Committee.
  - Stourbridge                Deferred, as more information has been requested.

The request was reconsidered by Brierley Hill Area Committee during its meeting held on the 2nd July. The outcome of which has been minuted as follows:

That in respect of a previously approved application received from Barnardo's 'Time for Me' Project, further approval be given to the sum of £1,800 for this project being the sums of £900 to meet the shortfall from Central Dudley Area Committee and the sum of £900 not due to be considered by Stourbridge Area Committee until September 2009 and that should Stourbridge Area Committee be minded to approve their request for £900 in September this would be paid back to Brierley Hill Area Committee accordingly as this approach by Brierley Hill Area Committee would allow Barnardo's to progress the project now rather than wait until September.

Nick Ford  
16th July